

Executive Order 2010 – 12

Establishing the Arizona Commerce Authority

WHEREAS, Arizona seeks to align the diverse assets and opportunities within the State with private-sector leadership and innovation necessary to compete economically at the highest level in both domestic and international markets; and

WHEREAS, the competitive nature of these markets requires the State's absolute resolve, focus and collaboration with private sector partners if it is to achieve substantial growth in and diversification of its economy, and ultimately advance the quality of life for all Arizonans; and

WHEREAS, Arizona's fiscal crisis has magnified the need for a more directed, credible and effective economic development delivery system; and

WHEREAS, private sector leadership, ingenuity, innovation and engagement should be fundamental components of the State's economic development strategy and overall objectives; and

WHEREAS, a healthy economy relies on skilled workers, and Arizona's higher education system is essential to ensuring the State has a skilled workforce and to the development of the State's future business leaders.

WHEREAS, it is critical for a state economic development organization to operate with limited political influence, but maintain accountability for results; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Department of Commerce (Department) is statutorily charged with leading the State's business development efforts, but its focus on economic progress has been diluted through numerous other statutory and executive mandates and limited funding; and

WHEREAS, Governor Brewer created the Governor's Commerce Advisory Council (Council) to recommend a new statewide economic development delivery structure to advance Arizona's global competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the Council recommended numerous changes to strengthen the Department's flexibility and leadership capacity, including the establishment of a quasi-public state authority to serve as a focused and accountable 21st century economic development; and

WHEREAS, Governor Brewer is working with Legislative leadership to advance these recommendations through a complete reinvention of the Department designed to effect key economic advancements with the understanding that immediate changes are critical to heighten the Department's ability to prioritize job creation and new investment at this crucial point in our State's history.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janice K. Brewer, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of this State do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. The Department shall prioritize the following responsibilities:
 - a) Job creation and expansion of capital investment through business attraction, expansion and retention, including business incubation and entrepreneurship; and
 - b) Create, monitor and execute a comprehensive economic development and workforce strategy; and
 - c) Manage and administer economic development and workforce programs; and
 - d) Provide statewide marketing leadership; and
 - e) Utilize all means necessary, prudent and practical to integrate private sector-based innovation, flexibility, focus and responsiveness; and
 - f) Advance public policy to meet these objectives.
2. The Arizona Commerce Authority Board of Directors is established to provide private-sector leadership and support for the role of the Department in growing and diversifying Arizona's economy, creating quality jobs, and supporting and attracting businesses in targeted, high growth clusters, with a focus on base industries throughout Arizona.
3. The Board shall advise the Department on implementation of strategies for the economic development priorities listed above.
4. Board members shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Board members shall serve without compensation.
5. The Governor shall be the chairperson of the Board.
6. The Governor shall establish an Executive Committee and may form other subcommittees as necessary. The Governor shall serve as the chairperson of the Executive Committee.
7. The remaining members of the Board shall be comprised of business and community leaders who shall be geographically representative of the State and shall include representation from the following areas:
 - a) Science/Technology; Aerospace/Defense; Renewable Energy
 - b) Global Investment, Finance, and Private Equity
 - c) Entrepreneurship
 - d) Growth, Development and Infrastructure
 - e) The Arizona Aerospace and Defense Commission
 - f) The Governor's Council on Small Business

8. Ex-officio members of the Board shall include:
 - a) The President of the Arizona State Senate
 - b) The Speaker of the Arizona State House of Representatives
 - c) The President of Arizona State University
 - d) The President of Northern Arizona University
 - e) The President of the University of Arizona
 - f) The President of the Arizona Board of Regents
 - g) One President from the Arizona Community College Presidents' Council
 - h) The Chairperson of the Governor's Council on Workforce Policy

9. The following individuals shall serve as technical advisors to the Board to enhance collaboration among state agencies to meet infrastructure needs and facilitate growth opportunities statewide:
 - a) Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
 - b) Arizona State Land Commissioner
 - c) Director of the Arizona Department of Revenue
 - d) Director of the Arizona Office of Tourism
 - e) Director of the Arizona Department of Transportation
 - f) Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources

10. Representatives from other state agencies may be utilized as key partners to maximize economic development opportunities by leveraging their access to key strategic assets and planning processes.

11. Board member terms shall be staggered. After the members' first term, the Board of Directors will provide to the Governor a list of at least three recommended names to fill any vacant position. The Governor shall select from the list of recommended names.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

Janice K. Brewer
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix this 29th day of June in the Year Two Thousand Ten and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-Fourth.

ATTEST:

Ken Blumett

SECRETARY OF STATE