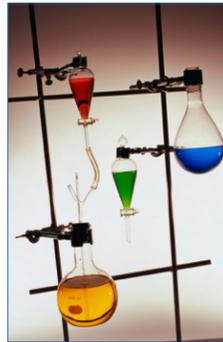


GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

2010 Sine Die Report

Bioscience

• Prior to the beginning of the legislative session, the Greater Baltimore Committee prioritized advocating for the continued funding of the biotechnology tax credit in the Governor's 2011 fiscal year budget. Early in the session we kicked off an Advocacy Day to stress the importance of the tax credit to the bioscience business community. This year the bioscience tax credit received \$8 million in the 2011 fiscal year budget, an increase of \$2 million over the 2010 fiscal year budget.



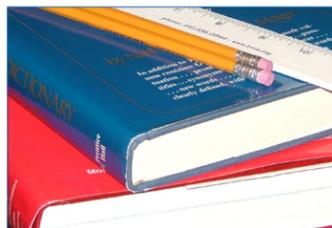
• In the promotion of bioscience, research, and medical communities of Maryland, the Greater Baltimore Committee successfully advocated for the passage of SB 64 – *Maryland Research and Development Tax Credit- Sunset Extension*, which will extend this important economic tool until 2021.

• Consistent in its efforts to bring funding to the sciences, the GBC supported the passage of *Senate Bill 793- State Retirement and Pension System – Investments – Qualified Information Technology, Green Technology, Medical Device Technology, or Bioscience Businesses*, which requires the retirement and pension system board of trustees to submit a report on investments made in venture capital funds focused on the above fields. Additionally, it requires an aggregate statement of invested assets into companies headquartered in Maryland by the venture capital funds.

• The GBC fully supported the passage of *House Bill 795- Task Force to Study Nanobiotechnology*, which includes members of the legislature, officials from key state departments, business leaders and industry experts in order to promote the development of the nanobiotechnology industry within Maryland.

Building a Worldclass Workforce

• The Greater Baltimore Committee continues its commitment to improving the region's educational system, and supported Governor O'Malley's *Education Reform Act of 2010*, which extends the teacher probationary period from 2 to 3 years, adjusts the teacher



and principal evaluation criteria, and creates additional teacher incentives, amongst other changes.

• The GBC also supported *Senate Bill 412 – Teacher Certification – Career Professionals*. The legislation provides alternative pathways for teacher certification for motivated career professionals in specialized fields to become educators, thus strengthening the quality of education and the quantity of expert instructors in our State's classrooms.

• *Higher Education Budgetary Allocations*: State Colleges and Universities- \$1.2 billion; Community Colleges- \$256 million; Private Colleges and Universities- \$38.4 million.

Preserving the Competitive Business Climate

• Tax credits have proven to be a sound investment tool to spur economic growth and create jobs. This year the Greater Baltimore Committee supported *HB92/SB106 – Labor and Employment – Job Creation and Recovery Tax Credit*, providing a \$5,000 tax credit to businesses hiring unemployed persons into a full time position. The tax credit, enacted on March 25th, will create an estimated 4,000 jobs.

• The GBC successfully supported *HB 475/SB 285 – Smart, Green, and Growing – The Sustainable Communities Act of 2010*, which will extend funding for what was previously known as the Heritage Structure tax credit and expands the program to include non-historic rehabilitation in BRAC, transit-oriented development zones, and main streets to develop and revitalize sustainable communities. According to an Abell Foundation report, every dollar of tax credits under this legislation generates \$8.53 in returns through economic activity, and each million dollars of rehabilitation tax credits generates 72.5 jobs.

• The Greater Baltimore Committee was dedicated in its opposition to measures which were unfriendly to the business community as well. We opposed and successfully defeated *HB 10 - Teacher and Employee Pension Sustainability and Solvency Trust Fund*, *HB 584 – Corporate Income Tax – Combined Reporting* and *SB 354 – Corporate Income – Combined Reporting – Pension Sustainability Trust Fund* which sought to impose combined reporting on businesses before the Business Tax Reform Commission made its recommendations later this year.

• Additionally, the GBC opposed legislation to repeal the sunset on the temporary tax imposed on millionaires that was enacted during the 2008 session to supplement the revenues lost from the repeal of the computer sales tax. *HB 1177*, which would have made the increase

permanent, and *SB 913*, which would have extended it until tax year 2014, both died in committee.

• *Includes*: Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority Fund- \$17.4 million; Biotechnology Tax Credit \$8 million; Maryland Tourism Board \$5 million.

Public Safety

• The Greater Baltimore Committee maintained its support of policies that toughen the consequences for repeat gun-crime offenders. Although *HB 157/SB 44 Criminal Law- Use of Firearm in the Commission of a Crime of Violence or a Felony* did not receive the full attention of the legislature we remain committed to promoting gun laws that keep repeat offenders off the streets.

Small and Minority Businesses

• The GBC successfully supported the passage of *HB 222/ SB 2 – Task Force on the Minority Business Enterprise Program and Equity Investment Capital*, which will establish a taskforce comprised of legislators, business leaders, and State government officials to evaluate and make recommendations on how to make investment capital more obtainable by minority-owned businesses in Maryland.

• Furthering the Greater Baltimore Committee's efforts to secure the availability of working capital for small businesses, it supported the successful passage of *Senate Bill 54 – Business and Economic Development- Maryland Economic Adjustment Fund*. The GBC also supported *Senate Bill 71- Procurement- Small Business Reserve Program – Sunset Extension*, ensuring this vital small business program was extended until 2016.

• Dedicated to the promotion of minority business enterprises (MBE), the Greater Baltimore Committee was an advocate in the full passage of *HB 250/SB 130 Procurement – Minority Business Enterprises – Certification Process* and *HB 251/SB 131 – State Procurement – Minority Business Enterprises- Electronic Certification Process*, both of which facilitate a more streamlined and accurate process for a business in its efforts to obtain certification as a state certified MBE.

• The passage of *House Bill 68 – Department of the Environment – Grants – Small Business and Certified Minority Business Enterprises* scored another victory for the GBC's advocacy agenda. The bill will increase capital and opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses as grantees of the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Nonpoint Source Fund will have to demonstrate steps were taken to

include these businesses in its projects in order to retain funding.

Transportation

• This legislative session the GBC continued to take the lead in efforts fighting to ensure the Red Line remains a top priority for the State by resisting restrictive budgetary language which would have stymied its development.

• Continuing our commitment to the development and sustainability of Maryland's transportation infrastructure, the GBC supported *House Bill 383 – Transportation Trust Fund Protection Act*, which would have created a firewall protecting the Transportation Trust Fund from future raids.



• In an effort to increase funding to the Transportation Trust Fund, the GBC supported bills that would increase revenues to the Transportation Trust Fund. Although funding increases for transportation were not successful, the GBC recognizes the General Assembly needs to conduct a comprehensive study to ensure proper funding and the long-term solvency of the Transportation Trust Fund. That comprehensive study became reality in the passage of *Senate Bill 229/ HB710 – Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation Funding*, a measure strongly supported by the GBC. The legislation establishes a panel of legislators, interested advocates, and government officials to review, evaluate and make recommendations including on short and long-term transportation funding sources, public and private partnerships, and sustainable options for transportation.

• The GBC successfully opposed a proposal to divert sales tax from the Transportation Trust Fund to the General Fund. The GBC maintains that legislative efforts to take monies from the Transportation Trust Fund undermine the public faith in a dedicated fund for transportation. It's time to restore the "trust" in the Transportation Trust Fund.

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