



## GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

*Regional business leaders creating a better tomorrow...today.*



January 23, 2017

## State House Update

### FOLLOW THE GBC



### GBC'S 2017 AGENDA

GBC's 2017 Legislative  
Agenda

### GBC'S LEGISLATIVE TRACKER

To read testimony and get more information about bills the GBC tracked this year, visit our legislative tracking website.

### MD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly Website

Committee Schedule

### GBC EVENTS

**February 27, 2017**  
Newsmaker Breakfast: The  
Future of the Preakness and  
Pimlico Race Track

**March 16, 2017**

## Message to Members



This week, the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) held a Baltimore Business Day in Annapolis. GBC Board members and leaders from the local business community visited Annapolis and met with influential lawmakers and members of Governor Hogan's staff.

These interactions not only put faces and stories to the tremendous impact that the business community has, but also emphasizes that Baltimore is an economic driver in the state.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Newsmaker Breakfast:  
Al Hutchinson, President and  
CEO, Visit Baltimore

**April 19, 2017**

Newsmaker Breakfast:  
Bernard C. (Jack) Young,  
President,  
Baltimore City Council

**May 15, 2017**

Save the Date:  
GBC Annual Meeting

**May 17, 2017**

Newsmaker Breakfast:  
Scott Burger, Pandora,  
President of the Americas

Event and sponsorship  
information:  
Lisa Byrd at 410-727-2820

#### STAFF CONTACTS

**Donald C. Fry,**  
President & CEO  
410-727-2820 ext. 12

**Brian Levine,**  
Vice President and Special  
Assistant to the President  
410-727-2820 ext. 44

**Shaina Hernandez,**  
Director of Local Government  
Affairs and Strategic Initiatives  
410-727-2820 ext. 38

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Donald C. Fry  
President and CEO

## State Budget Outline Unveiled

This week marked an important milestone for the 2017 session - the release of the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. Maryland does not allow legislators to add or move money around in the budget. This gives the governor tremendous power to control the budget and its priorities. Governor Larry Hogan's Fiscal Year 2018 budget, which will become effective July 1, 2017, is balanced as required by law. The \$43.5 billion budget dips into the Revenue Stabilization Account, better known as the Rainy Day Fund, but maintains the minimum balance preferred by ratings agencies to maintain the state's AAA bond rating.

The governor announced that the proposed budget does not increase taxes or cut services while closing budget deficits of \$209 million for the current fiscal year and \$544 million for Fiscal Year 2018. As always there will be debate with legislative leaders over the governor's budget priorities, the level of program appropriations, and whether the legislature would be willing to consider legislation relaxing mandated spending controls that the governor has proposed. Also, the most controversial budget debate will likely occur after the release of the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act, a separate budget mechanism sometimes used to tweak the budget and spending mandates. Look for additional details in future *State House Updates*.

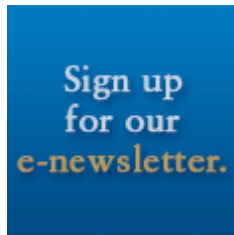
## More Changes to Maryland General Assembly Lineup

Since we reported several changes to the Maryland General Assembly's roster and leadership, more unexpected changes occurred. First, Delegate Michael Vaughn (D-24) resigned his seat last week, citing health issues. His seat is now vacant and should be filled shortly.

This week, Delegate Sheila Hixson resigned her chairmanship of the House Ways and Means Committee after 24 years at the helm. Her new title will be Chairman Emeritus. The Ways and Means Committee, one of six in the House, is responsible for taxation as well as other issues including education, elections and horseracing. Delegate Hixson will be replaced as chair by former Majority Leader Anne Kaiser (D-14). Delegate Bill Frick (D-16) takes over for Delegate Kaiser as the House Majority Leader.

In Baltimore, the vacancy created by Delegate Barbara Robinson's (D-40) appointment to the Senate to replace Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh's seat has been filled by former Baltimore City Councilman Nick Mosby. Additionally, former Delegate Jill Carter's District 41 seat has been filled by Bilal Ali. Two vacancies remain to be filled - Baltimore's Senate

seat in District 41 and Prince George's County's House seat in District 20.



## GBC 2017 Legislative Priorities

If you have not already done so, please take a look at the [GBC's 2017 Legislative Priorities](#), which serve as the foundation of our efforts in Annapolis and throughout the year. These priorities communicate to policymakers specific actions or recommendations that policymakers can undertake to create jobs and improve the business climate.

## Upcoming Dates of Interest

On **February 27**, join us for the GBC's [Newsmaker Breakfast: The Future of the Preakness and Pimlico Race Track](#) with Maryland Delegate Samuel I. (Sandy) Rosenberg and Thomas E. Kelso, Chairman, Maryland Stadium Authority. The event begins at 7:30 a.m.

Hear from Al Hutchinson, President and CEO of Visit Baltimore, at the GBC's [March 16 Newsmaker Breakfast](#) and Baltimore City Council President Bernard C. (Jack) Young at the GBC's [April 19 Newsmaker Breakfast](#).