



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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



February 10, 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 17, 2017
GBC Member Appreciation
Breakfast

February 27, 2017
Newsmaker Breakfast:

Message to Members

During the legislative session, the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is sharing weekly updates with its members about the most important issues in Annapolis affecting the business community. The State House Update is designed to keep GBC's members informed about what is important to your business or organization.

The actions that policymakers take in Annapolis can have a wide-ranging impact on businesses whether it is through legislation, budgetary action or new regulations. The GBC has a team on the ground in Annapolis to ensure that the business community's voice is heard and our members are well represented.

Please read the State House Update to find out the latest information in Annapolis. In addition, the GBC tracks priority legislation on our website. By [clicking here](#), you can see what action the GBC is taking on specific legislation and subject areas. The site also allows GBC members to weigh in or find out more information about legislation through direct contact with the GBC's policy staff.

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

Sincerely,

The Future of the Preakness
and Pimlico Race Track

March 9, 2017

From Boom to Z: Your Guide to
Generational Differences in the
Workplace with
McDaniel College President
Dr. Roger N. Casey

March 16, 2017

NewsMaker Breakfast:
AI Hutchinson. President and
CEO. Visit Baltimore

April 3, 2017

Save the Date:
GBC Members-Only
Orioles Opening Day
Pre-Game Bash

April 19, 2017

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

May 15, 2017

GBC Annual Meeting

May 17, 2017

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

June 21, 2017

Save the Date:
NewsMaker Breakfast:
Paul Comfort,
Administrator and CEO, MTA

July 12, 2017

Save the Date:
GBC Golf Classic

August 9, 2017

NewsMaker Breakfast:
Ricky Smith, CEO of Baltimore
Washington International
Thurgood Marshall Airport

September 20, 2017

Save the Date:
NewsMaker Breakfast:
Rod. J. Rosenstein,
United States Attorney,
District of Maryland

October 18, 2017

Save the Date:
NewsMaker Breakfast:
Dr. Thomas M. Scalea,
Physician-In-Chief,
R Adams Cowley
Shock Trauma Center

November 15, 2017

Save the Date:
NewsMaker Breakfast:



Donald C. Fry
President and CEO

GBC supports preemption legislation

GBC President and CEO Don Fry testified this week in support of HB 317 – Labor and Employment - Wages and Benefits - Preemption of Local Authority. The bill, sponsored by Delegate Dereck Davis, Chairman of the House Economic Matters Committee, prohibits a county or municipality from enacting a law that regulates wages or benefits provided by an employer other than the county or municipality.

The GBC testified that it is problematic for the business climate if local jurisdictions have the ability to set their own pay and benefits standards. The business community has a widely held belief that the best venue for establishing hourly wage legislation is at the federal level. By instituting wage laws nationally, issues regarding economic development, competition for jobs and business growth between the states are mitigated as it is ensured that every jurisdiction begins on a level playing field. However, over the past several years, inertia and a lack of will in Congress to raise wages has prompted states and local governments to increase the minimum wage.

While some wage and benefit standards would preferably be set at the federal level, a statewide approach would give employers a single venue to debate a wage increase, ample time to take into account budget considerations and plan for pay raises by allowing for small increases over a number of years. A statewide standard would also eliminate competition between local jurisdictions.

GBC priority legislation this week

In addition to HB 317, the GBC weighed in directly on several pieces of legislation that received hearings this week in the Maryland General Assembly:

SB 166 – Baltimore City - Civilian Review Board

This bill alters the procedures for filing a complaint with the Baltimore City Civilian Review Board. The Baltimore City Department of Justice Consent Decree points out that an effective relationship between the police department and the community is essential to rebuilding trust. This bill is a step in the right direction in reestablishing trust between the police and the community.

SB 200/HB240 – Income Tax Credit - Qualified Research and Development Expenses - Credit Amounts

This bill increases the cap for the Maryland Research and Development Tax Credit from \$9 million to \$20 million over three years. The GBC recognizes that investment in research and development is a significant driver of economic development and job growth in every region of the state and the

Dr. Redonda Miller, President,
The Johns Hopkins Hospital,
and Dr. Mohan Suntha,
President and CEO,
University of Maryland Medical
Center University Campus

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

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current cap is too low and not competitive with a number of surrounding and competitor states.

SB 226 – Biotechnology Investment Tax Credit - Qualified Maryland Biotechnology Company - Definition

This bill extends the time in active business eligibility for a bioscience company from 10 years to 12 years in order to qualify for the Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit (BIITC). The BIITC program is vital for early-stage bioscience companies. The GBC also offered an amendment that allows new technologies that have commercialization potential to be eligible for the BIITC, which could spur development of new companies and jobs.

SB 243 – Correctional Services - Inmates - Financial Literacy Training

This bill requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to offer financial literacy training to inmates within one year of being released from a correctional facility. Last year, the GBC released Opening Doors to a Second Chance, a report that seeks to remove barriers and cultivate opportunities for returning citizens. This bill helps empower returning citizens by offering training in needed skills after incarceration.

SB 319 – Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) School Act of 2017

This bill improves the existing Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) School program, including the addition of more P-TECH schools in Maryland. P-TECH is part of a national program first launched by IBM in 2011 and was created to ensure that more young students graduate equipped with skills that lead directly to jobs.

HB 161 – Department of Commerce - Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund - Renaming and Restructuring

This bill renames the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund (MEDAAF) to the Advantage Maryland Fund. MEDAAF is the Maryland Department of Commerce's most flexible broad-based program that provides grants, loans and investments to support economic development initiatives. The bill also modernizes the program to better meet today's economic development needs.

HB 245 – Department of Commerce - Maryland Advisory Commission on Manufacturing Competitiveness - Renaming and Restructuring

This bill renames the Advisory Commission on Manufacturing Competitiveness to the Maryland Manufacturing Advisory Board and reduces the number of commissioners from 25 to 18. These changes allow for a faster response and improved collaboration and guidance for the manufacturing industry.

GBC 2017 Legislative Priorities

For reference during the session, 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. at the GBC office, 111 S. Calvert St., Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202.

Future Newsmaker Breakfast programs include: Al Hutchinson, President and CEO of Visit Baltimore on [March 16](#) and Baltimore City Council President Bernard C. (Jack) Young on [April 19](#).

