



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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



February 27, 2017

State House Update

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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

March 9, 2017

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

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,

McDaniel College

March 16, 2017
Newsmaker Breakfast:
Al Hutchinson, President and
CEO, Visit Baltimore

April 2, 2017
37th Annual Meet and Greet
the Orioles

April 3, 2017
GBC Members-Only
Orioles Opening Day
Pre-Game Bash
*Limited to the first 100
responses*

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
Newsmaker Breakfast:
Paul Comfort,
Administrator and CEO, MTA

July 12, 2017
GBC Golf Classic

July 19, 2017
Newsmaker Breakfast:
Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises,
CEO, Baltimore City Public
Schools

August 9, 2017
Newsmaker Breakfast:
Ricky Smith, CEO of Baltimore
Washington International
Thurgood Marshall Airport

September 20, 2017
Newsmaker Breakfast:
Rod. J. Rosenstein,
United States Attorney,
District of Maryland

October 18, 2017
Newsmaker Breakfast:
Dr. Thomas M. Scalea,
Physician-In-Chief,
R Adams Cowley
Shock Trauma Center

November 15, 2017
Newsmaker Breakfast:
Dr. Redonda Miller, President,
The Johns Hopkins Hospital,



Donald C. Fry
President and CEO

GBC Priority Legislation This Week

The GBC weighed in directly on several pieces of legislation that received hearings last week in the Maryland General Assembly:

SB 317/HB 394 -- More Jobs for Marylanders Act of 2017 (Support)

This bill would establish the More Jobs for Marylanders Program and eliminate taxes for the first 10 years of new manufacturing business entities that locate their operations or increase the number of qualified positions at a facility located in jurisdictions with high unemployment, including Baltimore City. Manufacturing is an important contributor to Maryland's economy and has great potential in the Greater Baltimore region.

SB 318/HB 378 -- Cybersecurity Investment Incentive Tax Credit - Eligibility and Sunset Extension (Support)

This bill would alter eligibility criteria under the Cybersecurity Investment Incentive Tax Credit to provide that the credit be afforded to investors instead of cybersecurity companies. This change allows this program to better align with the investment needs of the cybersecurity industry.

SB 357/HB 615 -- Business Relief and Tax Fairness Act of 2017 (Oppose)

This bill would require affiliated corporations to compute Maryland taxable income using a combined reporting method. Aside from creating additional burdens on businesses, requiring combined reporting would also negatively affect Maryland's competitiveness.

SB 682 -- Civil Actions - Noneconomic Damages (Oppose)

This bill would increase the maximum amount of non-economic damages that may be recovered in wrongful death actions or survival actions. There are many ways to measure whether Maryland has a good business climate, including the legal and tort environment. This bill is harmful to Maryland's tort climate.

HB 639 -- Corporate Income Tax - Throwback Rule (Oppose)

This bill would significantly increase the Maryland tax liability for businesses that have multi-state operations and sell tangible property. This change would not be competitive with other states' tax structure and would create uncertainty and complexities for Maryland businesses.

HB 1325 -- Oil and Natural Gas - Hydraulic Fracturing - Prohibition (Oppose)

and Dr. Mohan Suntha,
President and CEO,
University of Maryland Medical
Center University Campus

Event and sponsorship
information:
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This bill would prohibit an individual from engaging in hydraulic fracturing and would repeal the provision in state law that requires the Department of Environment to adopt regulations and issue permits for those who wish to engage in hydraulic fracturing. Safe, reliable and clean sources of energy are critical to the future economic growth of Maryland and this bill would harm those efforts.

Legislative Session Reaches Halfway Point

Today marks the 45th day of the 90-day legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly. The halfway point allows the opportunity to take stock in where things stand for the business community. While much is not known and bills will begin to move quickly in the coming weeks, the major issues for business are well established.

State budget - Perhaps the most important issue of the session is addressing Maryland's current and ongoing budget woes. Budget leaders not only face a deficit in the current and upcoming fiscal year, but are again dealing with how to address future budget deficits. Little in the way of tax cuts or major new business incentive programs are expected.

Mandatory paid sick leave - Legislation has now received hearings on both Governor Larry Hogan's plan to provide mandatory sick leave for businesses with 50 or more employees as well as other legislation that has a threshold of 15 or more employees. Last Thursday, the House Economic Matters Committee gave a favorable report to HB1, Healthy Working Families Act, the House leadership's version of paid sick leave. Some version of mandatory paid sick leave is expected to pass this session.

Business Incentives and tax cuts - While the budget situation inhibits splashy new incentives or tax cuts that are meant to improve the business climate, there are numerous proposals to create, alter or modernize economic development programs. These may include changes to numerous Department of Commerce incentives, a new incentive for manufacturing in distressed areas and tax cut proposals for retired members of the military and first responders.

Costs to businesses - There are numerous bills that attempt to change Maryland's tax laws, fees paid by businesses and tort reform. The GBC is fighting proposals that seek to harm Maryland's business climate and increase costs or uncertainty for businesses.

Innovation - Increasing entrepreneurship and innovation opportunities is in the spotlight this session. Legislation includes efforts to improve incentives for bioscience and cybersecurity industries, but also proposals seeking to place onerous burdens on the biopharma industry. The GBC is actively taking policy positions to protect the growing industry sector.

Other controversial legislation - There is other legislation pending that is either controversial and affects either the business climate or directly impacts the Greater Baltimore



region. These include restructuring of Baltimore City Community College, the Governor's effort to repeal transportation scoring bill legislation and reform of systems for pre-trial release and elimination of cash bail.

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

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](#).



Join the GBC for its [37th Annual Meet and Greet with the Baltimore Orioles](#) from noon to 2 p.m. on **Sunday, April 2**. Join us for food and beverages; autograph and photos; raffles; and interviews with Orioles Manager Buck Showalter, Orioles Executive VP, Baseball Operations Dan Duquette and Orioles players. For sponsorship information contact [Lisa Byrd](#), Event and Business Development Manager, at 410-727-2820.

