



## GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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



February 3, 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 9, 2017**

## 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,

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



Donald C. Fry  
President and CEO

**March 16, 2017**  
Newsmaker Breakfast:  
Al 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 Burqer, 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:  
Dr. Redonda Miller, President,  
The Johns Hopkins Hospital,  
and Dr. Mohan Suntha,

## Governor Larry Hogan's Legislative Priorities for 2017

On February 1, Governor Larry Hogan delivered the annual State of the State address. The speech, delivered to a joint session of the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates, focused on the governor's core legislative priorities for 2017. After touting an economic resurgence in Maryland, the Governor touched on a number of priority bills in his legislative package that relate to economic development, the business climate and other related issues. Highlights of the Governor's legislative package include:

- Doubling the number of P-TECH schools that equip students with skills for the workforce
- Improving the methods used to estimate state revenues
- Extending the sunset and altering the Cybersecurity Investment Incentive Tax Credit
- Reducing taxes for military retirees and law enforcement, fire, rescue and emergency services personnel
- Authorizing mandatory paid sick for companies with 50 or more employees
- Reducing existing spending mandates in Maryland's budget
- Improving the State procurement oversight and efficiencies
- Reducing student loan debt
- Repealing of the Maryland Open Transportation Investment Decision Act of 2016
- Creating the Maryland Energy Innovation Institute to spur clean energy programs and development
- Continuing restoration of the Chesapeake Bay through nitrogen and phosphorus nutrient credits
- Altering small and minority-owned business participation for State contracts
- Creating and attracting manufacturing jobs in high unemployment areas
- Providing greater protections for Maryland taxpayers against fraud and identity theft
- Preventing the ongoing opioid and heroin epidemic
- Creating the Maryland Public Charter School Authority
- Creating a defined contribution retirement savings plan for state employees

In the coming weeks, much of the governor's legislative package will receive hearings. The GBC will take a close look at all elements of the governor's legislative package. GBC members can keep track of our positions on priority legislation by [clicking here](#).

President and CEO,  
University of Maryland Medical  
Center University Campus

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

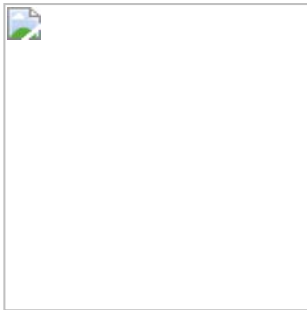
#### STAFF CONTACTS

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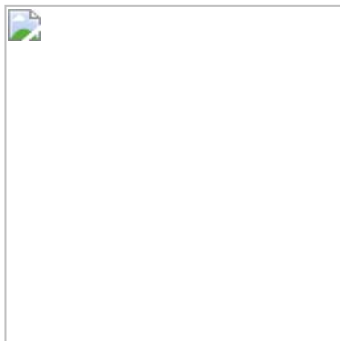
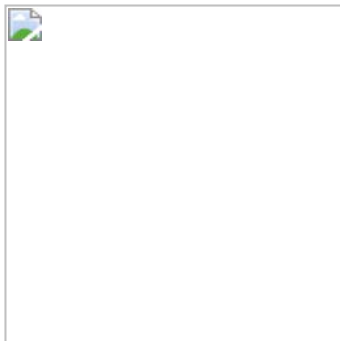
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## Maryland General Assembly Overrides Veto on Renewable Energy Standards

This week, the Maryland General Assembly was putting the finishing touches on overriding a veto of a bill passed during the 2016 legislative session that seeks to create stronger renewable energy standards. Governor Hogan called the proposal a "sunshine tax," citing that an increase in utility bills will be needed to pay for the program's implementation.

Specifically, the legislation requires Maryland to buy 25 percent of its energy from renewable-energy sources by 2020. The existing standard calls for 20 percent renewable energy by 2022. Proponents say the higher standards improve air quality and the creation of more jobs in the green energy sector. Opponents are concerned about increased utility bills to pay for the costs associated with higher utility company compliance costs.

Democrats in the Maryland General Assembly hold more than the three-fifths majority needed to override vetoes if members vote along party lines. While the Republican Governor's threat of a veto is powerful, the current partisan splits in the Maryland General Assembly heavily favor Democrats and allow the specter of veto overrides.

## Nick Mosby Appointed to District 40 House Seat

Former Baltimore City Council member Nick Mosby's appointment has been approved for the vacant House seat in District 40, which covers portions of West Baltimore. Delegate Mosby, who served on the City Council from 2011 to 2016 and ran unsuccessfully for mayor of Baltimore, takes over the seat of Barbara Robinson, who was appointed to the District 40 Senate seat vacated after the election of Mayor Catherine Pugh. Two vacancies remain in the House of Delegates and one in the Senate. These seats are expected to be filled shortly.

## 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

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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](#).

