



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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



March 3, 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

We often discuss the importance of deadlines during the legislation session of the Maryland General Assembly. Knowledge of deadlines is essential because they, in a sense, provide a roadmap to orient ourselves during the fast-paced and sometimes confusing 90 days of session.

A couple weeks ago, we passed deadlines that guarantee bills introduced will be assigned to a committee and receive a hearing. Legislation can still be introduced after these deadlines, but chances for passage are decreased. Last week the session reached its 45th day, meaning the session is half over. While this is an unofficial marker, it informs us that things in Annapolis are primed to begin moving quickly.

There are two important deadlines looming in March. First, March 14 is known as the committee reporting courtesy day. If a bill does not successfully report out of its first committee by that date, oftentimes it is not expected to move. Following that, March 20 is the opposite chamber bill crossover date, meaning that if a House bill does not pass the full House and a Senate bill does not clear the full Senate, the bill is unlikely to pass at all.

Looking forward, the last week of the session brings with it perhaps two of the most significant deadlines. The budget bill must be passed by the 83rd day of the 90-day session, which falls on April 3 this year. As we get closer to this deadline, much of the other business of the Maryland General Assembly slows to a crawl. Finally, the last day of session, Sine Die, is April 10 this year. Once the session ends at midnight, the

McDaniel College

March 16, 2017

Newsmaker Breakfast:
AI 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,
and Dr. Mohan Suntha,

legislature's work is completed and any outstanding bills that
did not pass will have to wait until next year.

As we represent the interests of the business community in
Annapolis, we keep track of important deadlines and adjust our
efforts accordingly. There are numerous pieces of important
legislation we are either actively trying to pass or defeat. To
see what bills we deem a priority, [click here](#).

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

Sincerely,



Donald C. Fry
President and CEO

GBC Priority Legislation This Week

The GBC submitted testimony, written or oral, on several
pieces of legislation that received hearings this week in the
Maryland General Assembly:

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

SB 862 -- Environment - Hydraulic Fracturing - Moratorium and Referenda (Oppose)

This bill delays the authorization of fracking until it is approved
by each local jurisdiction in the 2018 election. The GBC
believes that if fracking is deemed safe, Maryland families and
businesses could see an increase in employment and energy
savings.

HB 872 -- Tax Credits - Enterprise Zones, RISE Zones, and Maryland Jobs Development Projects (Support)

This bill consolidates and updates many of the Maryland
Department of Commerce's arsenal of economic development
incentives and tax credits. Overall, the GBC is supportive of
examining the efficacy of economic development programs
and, as needed, making changes that streamline, create
flexibility and make overall improvements to Maryland's ability
to attract and retain businesses and jobs.

SB 571 -- Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Act (Support)

This bill would establish a Maryland Health Insurance Coverage
Protection Commission to study the potential impact of federal
changes or repeal to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
Act. The GBC supports regulatory policies that are streamlined,
stable and predictable. Federal health care reform has the
potential to impact the cost, availability and quality of health
care in Maryland.

President and CEO,
University of Maryland Medical
Center University Campus

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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SB 869 -- Higher Education - Community Colleges - Workforce Development Sequence Grants and Scholarships (Support)

This bill would establish the Workforce Development Sequence program, which would provide grants to community colleges for scholarships to students who demonstrate financial need and are enrolled in courses related to job preparation. The GBC is supportive of programs that provide incentives to learn real-world skills and training employers are seeking.

HB 907 -- Chesapeake Bay Water Transportation Network (Support)

This bill would authorize a study of the feasibility of using a water transportation network to link waterfront communities by using high-speed water taxis and other vessels to transport residents and visitors to employment centers, recreational facilities, and activities along the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay plays an important role in Maryland's economic growth. The GBC supports efforts to build superior transportation infrastructure and to promote tourism as an economic driver.

HB 911 -- Motor Fuel Tax Rates - Consumer Price Index Adjustment - Repeal (Oppose)

This bill would repeal the requirement that the motor fuel tax rate is annually adjusted based on inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The GBC believes a superior transportation infrastructure with reliable funding mechanisms is vital for a competitive business environment. By tying future increases to the CPI, the legislature ensured that future transportation revenues would keep pace with growing transportation needs and the escalating costs of construction.

Last Vacancy Filled in General Assembly

During this session, the GBC has been keeping its members up-to-date with the myriad of recently changing faces in the Maryland General Assembly. Many of those new faces are in Baltimore City and the Greater Baltimore region, some as a result of Mayor Catherine Pugh's election in November 2016. Now that the last vacancy has been filled, here is an up-to-date list of all legislators who are in their first legislative session, including the three new Senators who moved up from the House:

- Senator Nathaniel Oaks (D-41, Baltimore City)
- Senator Barbara Robinson (D-40, Baltimore City)
- Senator William Smith (D-20, Montgomery County)
- Delegate Bilal Ali (D-41, Baltimore City)
- Delegate Jerry Clark (R-29, Calvert and St. Mary's counties)
- Delegate Joe Cluster (R-8, Baltimore County)
- Delegate Angela Gibson (D-41, Baltimore City)
- Delegate Jazz Lewis (D-24, Prince George's County)
- Delegate Nick Mosby (D-40, Baltimore City)
- Delegate Robbyn Lewis (D-46, Baltimore City)
- Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins (D-20, Montgomery County)

With so many new faces, it is important for the GBC to get to know legislators who will influence important decisions made in

Annapolis. We also urge GBC members to reach out and get to know their legislators.



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GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT



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.

Join the GBC on **May 15** for its [62nd Annual Meeting](#), the state's premier business event of the year. To become a sponsor for this important event, contact [Lisa Byrd](#), Event and Business Development Manager, at 410-727-2820.