



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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



April 7, 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

April 19, 2017
Newsmaker Breakfast:
Bernard C. (Jack) Young,
President,
Baltimore City Council

Message to Members

Another legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly is drawing to a close. The Greater Baltimore Committee has had a visible and active presence in Annapolis influencing legislation affecting a variety of issues of importance for the Greater Baltimore region and the State.

This session has been a busy one with 2,861 pieces of legislation introduced, which is slightly more than usual. The GBC tracked of 318 bills and took a position on more than 60, which is on par with previous sessions. For each bill the GBC supported or opposed, we talked with legislators, worked with partners and oftentimes testified before one of the Maryland General Assembly's 10 committees.

For some legislation, we spent a great deal of time educating legislators or working behind the scenes to create a favorable outcome. As an example, the GBC's Bioscience Committee developed a concept to alter the existing Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit. The goal of the proposal was to provide a new pathway for the commercialization of technologies developed at Maryland's research universities. After a great deal of work this session, the legislature adopted this concept, which the GBC expects to lead to the creation of new bioscience companies, jobs and economic development.

We are pleased to report that our overall success rate of influencing legislation was good, and you can learn more by reading our end of session wrap up Tuesday morning. This report card informs GBC members of what happened based on the GBC's 2017 Policy Priorities, which was published in advance of the session.

May 15, 2017
GBC Annual Meeting

May 17, 2017
SOLD OUT:
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,
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,
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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As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Donald C. Fry
President and CEO

Session Ends Monday At Midnight

With only a few days to go before the close of the 2017 session on Monday at midnight, some important issues are moving toward a resolution. Here is an update:

Mandatory Paid Sick Leave

After five years of attempts, mandatory paid sick leave legislation successfully passed the Maryland General Assembly and was sent to Governor Larry Hogan for action. The Governor has promised to veto the bill. Since this bill missed the deadline for the Governor to take action during the 2017 session, an attempted veto override will have to wait until the 2018 session. The legislation passed with a veto-proof majority, so the prospects for overturning it are good. The bill will require employers with 15 or more employees to provide 40 hours of annual sick leave for full-time employees. The proponents of the bill estimate that this would extend paid sick leave to 700,000 Maryland workers.

Cash Bail Reform

Cash bail reform, supported by the GBC, is an issue that has likely found resolution. The House of Delegates is not expected to take action on legislation that would preserve the role of cash bail, thereby negating part of a recent Maryland Court of Appeals ruling. If the bill ultimately fails, supporters of the elimination of cash bail will have an opportunity to evaluate what the court decision means in practice. This issue may be revisited during the 2018 session.

More Jobs for Marylanders Act of 2017

The prospects for the Governor's bill to create incentives for manufacturing jobs in distressed jurisdictions remains uncertain. Governor Hogan has indicated this bill is a priority for passage this session. However, legislators have heavily amended the bill by stripping away some of its original features, now establishing a 10-year income tax credit for manufacturing businesses that increase employment and offer ongoing job skills enhancement training. This bill is expected to be decided on the last day of session.

Gubernatorial Votes

Legislators sent 27 bills to be signed or vetoed to Governor Hogan prior to the required six days before the close of

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session. Meeting this deadline gives the Maryland General Assembly an opportunity to override a veto before the close of session instead of waiting to take action in a special session or at the beginning of the 2018 session. There will be more vetoes, but they will not occur until after the session concludes.

The Governor's only veto was an education reform bill meant to preserve public schools, but limited options for reforming low-performing schools and opportunities for students to attend charter schools. The legislature was able to override the veto. Some bills were signed by the Governor, including a ban on fracking.

Many of the remaining bills sent to the Governor were allowed to become law without his signature, including legislation favored by the GBC that repeals the requirement that the Maryland Transit Administration recover at least 35 percent of its total operating costs from fares derived from its bus, light rail, and metro subway services in the Baltimore region.

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

Join the GBC on **April 19** for a [Newsmaker Breakfast with Baltimore City Council President Bernard C. \(Jack\) Young](#). The GBC's **May 17** [Newsmaker Breakfast with Scott Burger, PANDORA, President of the Americas](#) is SOLD OUT!

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.

