



# GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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



February 5, 2018

## State House Update

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### GBC'S 2018 AGENDA

[GBC's 2018 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

## Message to Members

On January 29, 2018, the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) held its annual Maryland General Assembly Legislative Forum. The GBC holds the event a few weeks after the start of the Maryland General Assembly legislative session to provide members and guests the opportunity to hear from political "insiders" about the most important and controversial issues facing the General Assembly.

The event featured leading figures from the Executive and Legislative branches from both parties. The panel consisted of Keiffer Mitchell, who represented Governor Larry Hogan (R), Senator Bill Ferguson (D-46), Senator J.B. Jennings (R-7), Delegate Maggie McIntosh (D-43) and Delegate Kathy Szeliga (R-7).

The speakers addressed a wide range of issues with a focus on what is important to the Greater Baltimore region. Nearly 300 attendees heard about matters ranging from public safety and violent crime in Baltimore City to the effect of federal tax changes on Maryland's taxpayers. The panel also touched on important policy issues such as health care costs, education funding, innovation and economic development.

**February 28, 2018**  
 Newsmaker Breakfast:  
 Celebrating the Life of  
 Thurgood Marshall - A  
 Baltimore Hero with Larry  
 Gibson, Author, Young  
 Thurgood

**March 8, 2018**  
 Newsmaker Breakfast:  
 Baltimore City's Plan to Reduce  
 Crime and Improve Public  
 Safety with Drew Vetter,  
 Director, Mayor's Office on  
 Criminal Justice

**March 21, 2018**  
 Newsmaker Breakfast:  
 Improving and Funding  
 Education in Maryland with  
 William E. "Brit" Kirwan, Chair,  
 Maryland Commission on  
 Innovation and Excellence in  
 Education

**May 14, 2018**  
 Annual Meeting

**May 23, 2018**  
 Newsmaker Breakfast:  
 Baltimore's Housing Options:  
 Neighborhood Strengths and  
 Hidden Gems with Annie Milli,  
 Executive Director, Live  
 Baltimore

**July 17, 2018**  
 Golf Classic

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**September 13, 2018**  
 Economic Outlook Conference

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**October 11, 2018**  
 Transportation Summit

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**December 5, 2018**  
 Mayor's Business Recognition  
 Awards Luncheon

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

#### STAFF CONTACTS

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The GBC will be active throughout the legislative session, serving as the voice of business and protecting Maryland's competitive business environment. To follow the GBC's work in Annapolis, visit our [legislative tracking page](#).

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

Sincerely,



Donald C. Fry  
 President and CEO

## Governor Hogan Delivers State of the State Address

Governor Larry Hogan delivered his annual State of the State Address on January 31. In the last speech of his term, the Governor reported that the state of the State is strong. He touted numerous accomplishments regarding Maryland's business climate, competitiveness and job creation efforts, all of which are important priorities for the Greater Baltimore Committee.

Governor Hogan also cited his legislative priorities for the 2018 legislation session of the Maryland General Assembly. The GBC will support a number of items mentioned in the State of the State address, including expanding the More Jobs for Marylanders Act, improving incentives for Maryland's cybersecurity industry and creating a computer science curriculum in public schools to better prepare our future workforce.

The GBC is also supportive of the Governor's focus on public safety, which is primarily aimed at stemming violent crime and homicides in Baltimore City. This issue is a top priority for the GBC, Baltimore City's business community and other stakeholders. Overall, the GBC looks forward to working with the Governor and legislative leaders on legislation this session that reduces violent crime and improves Maryland's competitive business climate.

## Governor Hogan Releases 2018 Legislative Package

Governor Hogan has released his package of legislation for the 2018 session. With 24 bills, the Governor seeks to address issues including crime, business climate and the environment. The GBC has supported three public safety-related bills submitted by the Governor and will offer support for others (see below).

First, a bill that would provide for improved incentives for growing cybersecurity companies, called the CyberMaryland

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Act of 2018. Second is the More Jobs for Marylanders Act 2.0, which expands to additional jurisdictions the program that was created last year to provide incentives for manufacturing in distressed jurisdictions. The proposal also extends the incentives to additional industry sectors.

Finally, the GBC will support legislation creating the Achieving Computer Science Collaborations for Employing Students Statewide (ACCESS) Act of 2018, which would develop a statewide computer science curriculum to better prepare students for the workforce. The ACCESS bill and related priorities of the Governor in the 2018 legislative package will be discussed when the GBC Education and Workforce Committee receives a briefing from the Governor's Legislative Office at its February 8 meeting.

## Public Safety Hearings in Annapolis

This week, the Greater Baltimore Committee submitted testimony in support of three public safety bills developed by Governor Hogan.

**Senate Bill 197** seeks to make several changes to existing law, including harsher penalties for repeat violent offenders, whom police believe are behind much of Baltimore's crime. The legislation also changes the use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence from a misdemeanor to a felony, sending an important message to perpetrators of violence that their crimes will be taken seriously.

**Senate Bill 198** would make changes to the existing gang statute by adding several offenses to the list of underlying crimes that trigger a violation of the gang statute. These include: subornation of perjury, bribery of a juror and obstruction of justice.

**Senate Bill 199** increases accountability for repeat violent offenders by removing parole eligibility for offenders convicted of a violent crime for a second time. The bill would also increase the number of years before an individual serving a life sentence is eligible for parole.

The GBC will be testifying in support of these bills in the House of Delegates on February 6.

## GBC Testimony in Annapolis

The GBC has been busy during the early days of the 2018 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly. In the first three weeks of the 90-day session, the GBC has weighed in on 17 bills, including the Administration's public safety bills mentioned above.

### Supported

**Senate Bill 67 - Department of Commerce - Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund - Renaming and Revising**



Renames the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund to the Advantage Maryland Fund and enhances its capabilities.

**[Senate Bill 101](#) - Criminal Procedure - Expungement - Time for Filing**

Allows for immediate expungement of records by removing them to a secure area that can only be accessed by individuals with a legitimate reason.

**[Senate Bill 154](#) - Transportation - Highway User Revenues - Phased Restoration**

Alters the distribution of funds in the Gasoline and Motor Vehicle Revenue Account of the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) to the benefit of local jurisdictions.

**[Senate Bill 228](#) - Cybersecurity Investment Incentive Tax Credit - Eligibility, Appropriation, and Sunset Extension**

Alters the eligibility criteria for the Cybersecurity Investment Incentive Tax Credit by providing the tax credit incentive to investors rather than cybersecurity companies.

**[Senate Bill 236](#) - State Board of Education - Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship Curriculum - Development and Implementation**

Requires the State Board of Education to develop curriculum for a semester-long high school elective course in financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

**[Senate Bill 237](#) - Adult Correctional Institutions - Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship Curriculum - Development and Implementation**

Requires the development of a financial literacy and entrepreneurship curriculum for inmates prior to their release.

**[Senate Bill 304](#) - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act - Enforcement - Delayed Implementation**

Prohibits the Commissioner of Labor and Industry from enforcing the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act for 60 days after February 11, 2018.

**[House Bill 31](#) - Criminal Procedure - Charges Disposed of by Nolle Prosequi, Dismissal, or Acquittal - Case Search**

Ensures that charges that are more than five years old, which resulted in a Nolle Prosequi, dismissal, or acquittal, do not appear on Maryland Judiciary Case Search.

**[House Bill 291](#) - Correctional Services - Inmate Case Record - Educational, Vocational, and Job History**

Requires the Division of Correction to conduct, for each inmate, an educational, vocational and job history interview and include the interview in the case record for the inmate.

**[House Bill 295](#) - Correctional Services - Diminution Credits - Education**

Incentivizes incarcerated individuals to take advantage of the educational programming by granting one-time diminution credits if the inmate successfully obtains a various degrees.

**Opposed**

**[Senate Bill 36/ House Bill 289](#) - Civil Actions - Noneconomic Damages**

Increases the maximum amount of noneconomic damages that may be recovered in wrongful death or survival actions.



**[Senate Bill 5](#) - Civil Actions - Punitive Damage Awards**

Establishes that punitive damages may be awarded in a civil action only if the plaintiff proves by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant acted with wantonness, fraud or malice.

**[Senate Bill 195](#) - Business Relief and Tax Fairness Act of 2018**

Requires affiliated corporations to compute Maryland taxable income using combined reporting.

**[Senate Bill 227](#) - Small Business Fairness Act of 2018**

Requires retail trade and food services corporations to compute Maryland taxable income using combined reporting.

For an up-to-date account of the GBC's efforts in Annapolis during the session, visit our [legislative tracking page](#). The legislative tracking page contains the GBC's positions on legislation, including testimony.

## Upcoming Dates of Interest

On **February 28**, the GBC is hosting a Newsmaker Breakfast celebrating Black History Month. The event will feature Larry Gibson, author of *Young Thurgood, The Making of a Supreme Court Justice*. Autographed copies of Gibson's book are available for \$20 but must be purchased in advance. This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the GBC Office, 111 S. Calvert St., Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202.

On **March 8**, the GBC is hosting its next Newsmaker Breakfast featuring a discussion with Drew Vetter, Director of the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice, regarding Baltimore City's plan to reduce crime and improve public safety. This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the GBC Office, 111 S. Calvert St., Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202.