



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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April 3, 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

Only one week remains in the 90-day legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly. The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) has had a visible and active presence in Annapolis influencing legislation affecting a variety of issues of importance to the Greater Baltimore region and the State.

As things stand with Sine Die looming on April 9, virtually every piece of legislation awaits its final resolution. It has been a busy year, with 3,125 bills and resolutions introduced (compared to 2,886 last year).

Understanding and having the ability to navigate the legislative process is critically important in the waning days of the legislative session when procedural maneuvers become more prevalent.

Distinction Between Legislative Days and Calendar Days

One of the most basic components is recognizing the peculiar use of "legislative days" and "calendar days" and how it impacts the process. A legislative session consists of 90 calendar days. We accept that a "calendar day" is a 24-hour period. Conversely, a "legislative day" is that period of time

April 26, 2018
Maryland Gubernatorial Forum

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
GBC 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

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from the convening of a daily session of the House of Delegates or Senate until its adjournment. So, a "legislative day" and "calendar day" are not the same, a "legislative day" can be longer or shorter than a "calendar day."

That is an important distinction because it creates the potential for more than one legislative day to be held in a single calendar day or a legislative day to extend into a second calendar day. The determining factor is whether a chamber chooses to recess or adjourn. A recess keeps the current legislative day open whereas an adjournment will terminate the current legislative day.

By choosing to recess rather than adjourn a legislative body can "save" one or more legislative days throughout the 90-day session to be utilized in the last week or two of the 90-day session. This is advantageous as Sine Die approaches because a bill cannot pass second reader and third reader (final vote) on the same legislative day. But through utilizing the "adjournment" versus "recess" procedure, a bill can be voted on two separate "legislative days" but on a single "calendar day."

Veto Deadlines

In every legislation session, controversial legislation can fall under threat of a gubernatorial veto. With a divided government in Maryland (Democrats control both the Senate of Maryland and the House of Delegates and Governor Lawrence J. Hogan is a Republican), veto strategy can play a significant role in the legislature's actions.

Maryland law states that if a veto is expected and the legislature wishes to attempt to override the veto during the session, they must send the bill to the Governor with six or more days remaining in the 90-day session. The deadline this year to ensure that the Governor will be required to consider the legislation during the current legislative session was Monday, April 2.

If a bill lands on the Governor's desk on or before April 2, the Governor must take action prior to Sine Die and has three choices: sign the legislation, veto the legislation, or allow the legislation to become law without his signature. If a bill is sent to the Governor after that date and he chooses to veto the legislation, the legislature must call a special session to attempt a veto override. Unlike the first three years of a legislative term, veto overrides in the fourth year of a term cannot wait until session reconvenes the following January, because a new group of legislators are not permitted to act on veto overrides of a previous General Assembly.

To override a veto, the Senate and House must each achieve a three-fifths vote, rather than a simple majority. Democrats currently hold veto-proof majorities in the Senate and House, although this does not guarantee the ability to override a veto in every situation. In the Senate, a veto override requires 29 of 47 Senators. In the House, 85 of the 141 votes are required.

Both chambers of the legislature have passed a number of bills and forwarded them to the Governor for consideration prior to the April 2 deadline. It will be incumbent on the Governor to take action on these bills prior to the end of session. The legislature will have an opportunity prior to Sine

Die on April 9 to override any vetoes by the Governor on bills that met that deadline.

Complicated and confusing? Yes, but understanding the terminology is important if one is to successfully navigate the legislative process.

End of Session Reports

Immediately following the conclusion of the session, the GBC will share its annual report card outlining important issues and how they fared. After that, the GBC will compile a more detailed summation of the 90-day session in Annapolis. In the meantime, please follow the GBC's work in Annapolis by visiting 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

Senator Nathaniel Oaks Resigns

With only 11 days remaining in the session, Senator Nathaniel T. Oaks resigned from the Senate of Maryland effective March 29. Oaks, who was under a 10-count indictment for fraud and obstruction of justice charges, then pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count of "honest services" wire fraud. In February, the Senate stripped Senator Oaks of his seat on the Finance Committee upon a recommendation of the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics.

Oaks, a Democrat, represented District 41, which includes portions of West Baltimore. He previously served in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1983 to 1989 and again from 1995 to 2017 before being appointed to fill a vacancy in the District 41 Senate seat. The Senate seat will remain vacant for the remainder of the 2018 session. The District 41 Democratic Central Committee has 30 days to recommend a replacement to serve as Senator for the balance of the term (January 2019).

Oaks remains registered to run for re-election. Although he will be ineligible to serve if elected, it is too late to remove him from the ballot. There are two other Democrats registered to run for the District 41 Senate seat - former Delegate Jill Carter and J.D. Merrill. No Republicans have filed to run in the district.

Upcoming Dates of Interest



RESCHEDULED: On [April 4](#), the GBC is hosting a Newsmaker Breakfast featuring a discussion with Dr. William E. "Brit" Kirwan, Chair of the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, commonly referred to as the Kirwan Commission. Dr. Kirwan will discuss the current ranking of Maryland schools in the United States and internationally as well as preliminary findings of the Commission. Findings include shortcomings of the funding formulas for the state's poorer jurisdictions, needed improvements for recruiting and retaining teachers and more support for at-risk students. This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the GBC Office, 111 S. Calvert St., Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202.

Join the GBC and Associated Black Charities on [April 26](#) for a Maryland Gubernatorial Forum featuring the seven Democratic candidates for Governor of Maryland: Rushern Baker, Benjamin Jealous, Kevin Kamenetz, Richard Madaleno, Alec Ross, Jim Shea and Krish Vignarajah. This event will begin at 5:30 p.m. at University of Maryland School of Medicine, Leadership Hall, 685 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

Join the GBC on [May 14](#) for its 63rd Annual Meeting, the state's premier business event of the year. To become a sponsor or to purchase tickets, please contact Lisa Byrd, Director of Events and Business Development, at 410-727-2820.

On [May 23](#), the GBC is hosting a Newsmaker Breakfast featuring a conversation with Annie Milli, Executive Director of Live Baltimore, about Baltimore's housing options and neighborhood strengths and hidden gems. This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the GBC Office, 111 S. Calvert St., Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202.