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GBC'S 2019 AGENDA

GBC’s 2019 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

Message to Members

Dates matter in the Maryland General Assembly. When facing a compact 90-day timeframe for the legislative session, deadlines offer a roadmap for legislators and citizens alike.

This week marks an early milestone - bill introduction deadlines. This important deadline means that legislation introduced after a certain date is not guaranteed assignment to a committee. For the Senate of Maryland, the bill introduction deadline was February 4. For the House of Delegates, the deadline is February 8. Late bills can certainly be viable, but their chances for passage are reduced.

Other important upcoming deadlines and dates:

- March 4 - final date for introduction of bills without suspension of rules
- March 12 - committee reporting courtesy date, meaning each chamber’s committees must report their own bills by this date
- March 18 - opposite chamber crossover date, meaning each chamber must send to other chamber those bills it intends to pass favorably
- April 1 - budget bill to be passed by both chambers
GBC EVENTS

February 20, 2019
Newsmaker Breakfast: Baltimore’s CitiWatch Surveillance Camera Program - Its Role in Law Enforcement

February 25, 2019
Newsmaker Breakfast: Meet Baltimore Police Department Acting Commissioner Michael Harrison

May 13, 2019
GBC Annual Meeting

July 10, 2019
GBC Golf Classic

Four-part Speaker Series with Chris McDonell, President and CEO, McDonell Consulting Group/Sandler Training:

May 8, 2019
LinkedIn and the Art of Social Selling

September 26, 2019
Closing the Sale: How to Inspect What you Expect

November 20, 2019
Effective Networking and Business Development

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

STAFF CONTACTS

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AMBASSADOR SPONSOR

2/11/2019

State House Update - February 8, 2019

- April 8 - Sine Die (adjournment of session)

With 60 days remaining in the 2019 session, the pace of session activities will begin to pick up significantly. The GBC will continue to 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

GBC Concept for a New Method to Select Lt. Governor Candidates Introduced as Legislation

The GBC is a business and civic organization representing the Greater Baltimore region. On behalf of its members, the GBC advocates for policies that improve the business climate and increase the competitiveness of the Greater Baltimore region. In this vein, the GBC contends that good government is an integral component to creating a climate that best serves its citizens.

For example, the GBC supports the creation of a nonpartisan Congressional redistricting process and then, based on that experience, the examination of a similar system that can be employed for State legislative maps. More recently, the GBC weighed in on the timing and process in which Maryland’s gubernatorial candidates select their Lieutenant Governor candidate and concluded there was room for significant improvement.

In Maryland, candidates for Governor select their running mate prior to the Primary Election filing date. Different systems for selecting Lieutenant Governors exist around the country, but in Maryland the system does not necessarily produce the best candidates for the State’s second highest elected position. To find out why, check out what GBC President and CEO Don Fry wrote for in The Daily Record on July 19, 2018, A Better Way to Select a Lieutenant Governor.

It appears legislators were listening and agreed that changes to the process of selecting a Lieutenant Governor were needed. Identical cross-field bills, SB 373/HB 535 - Election Law - Deadline for Selection of Lieutenant Governor, propose a constitutional amendment advanced in The Daily Record article that allows the Lieutenant Governor candidate to be selected following the Primary Election.

The GBC supports the passage of this legislation and commends the lead sponsors, Senator Paul Pinsky and
Delegate Kumar Barve, for pursuing this change. Simply put, allowing candidates for Governor to select their running mate after the Primary Election will widen the pool of good candidates and ultimately better serve the citizens of Maryland.

GBC Testimony in Annapolis

The GBC has been busy during the 2019 session of the Maryland General Assembly. In the last two weeks, the GBC has taken positions on 17 bills. More testimony will follow in the coming weeks. To keep up with the GBC’s positions on important legislation and to read our testimony, please visit our legislative tracking page.

Supported

SB 3 -- Maryland Smart Growth Investment Fund
Requires the Maryland Department of Commerce to issue a request for proposals for a management entity to establish the Maryland Smart Growth Investment Fund and requires that the Governor allocate funding for the program.

SB 37 -- Corporate Income Tax - Rate Reduction
Decreases the State corporate income tax rate from 8.25 percent to 7 percent.

SB 39 -- Baltimore City - Police Districts - Redistricting
Requires that following each decennial census, the Baltimore Police Commissioner collect and analyze data to reallocate resources and redraw police district boundaries.

SB 41 -- Office of Legislative Audits - Audits of the Baltimore Police Department
Requires the state Office of Legislative Audits to conduct an audit of the Baltimore Police Department every six years focused on its financial management practices.

SB 89 -- Small Business Relief Tax Credit - Expansion
Stipulates that small employers providing either paid parental leave or paid sick benefits are eligible for a $500 per employee tax credit and if a small business provides an employee both benefits, the employer is entitled to a $1,000 tax credit.

SB 166 -- Crimes - Use of a Firearm in the Commission of a Crime of Violence or Felony - Penalties (The Repeat Firearms Offender Act of 2019)
Provides that using a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence is a felony, not a misdemeanor as in current law, and stipulates that a person convicted of using a firearm in a second or subsequent offense would face imprisonment of not less than 10 years and not exceeding 20 years.

SB 176 -- State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy - Annual Report - Crimes of Violence
Requires that additional information about sentencing be included in the annual report submitted by the State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy.

SB 190 -- Corporate Income Tax - Rate Reduction
Reduces the State corporate income tax rate from 8.25 percent to 6 percent.
SB 219 -- Employers of Ex-Offenders - Liability for Negligent Hiring or Inadequate Supervision - Immunity
Establishes that an employer, under certain circumstances, may not be held liable for negligently hiring or failing to adequately supervise an employee based on evidence that the employee has received probation before judgment for an offense or has been convicted of an offense.

SB 229 -- Baltimore City - Summer Youth Employment - Funding and Incentives
Requires the Governor to include $3 million annually for fiscal years 2021, 2022 and 2023 to be used for the Maryland Summer Youth Connection Program in Baltimore City.

HB 173 -- Economic Development - Job Creation Tax Credit - Sunset Extension
Extends the termination date of the Job Creation Tax Credit for seven years.

HB 175 -- Maryland Research and Development Tax Credit - Sunset Extension
Extends the termination date of the Maryland Research and Development Tax Credit for seven years.

Opposed

SB 76 -- Small Business Fairness Act
Requires retail trade and food services corporations to compute Maryland taxable income using combined reporting.

SB 200 -- State Finance and Procurement - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System
Prohibits the State or any local jurisdiction from spending any public money on a magnetic levitation (Maglev) transportation system in Maryland.

HB 66 -- Railroad Company - Movement of Freight - Required Crew
Prohibits a train or light engine used in connection with the movement of freight from being operated in Maryland unless it has at least two crew members.

HB 91 -- Public-Private Partnerships - Presolicitation Reports - Environmental Impact Statement Requirement
Prohibits certain State agencies from submitting a presolicitation report for a public-private partnership (P3) that requires an environmental impact statement until a draft environmental impact statement that complies with federal requirements is available.

HB 141 -- Commercial Law - Internet Privacy and Net Neutrality
Requires that State funds may only be used to procure services from an Internet Service Provider that does not block certain content or engage in commercial traffic preferencing.

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 priority legislation, including testimony.
Upcoming Dates of Interest

On Monday, February 11, the GBC is hosting a Breakfast Briefing, "What the Affordable Care Act Means for You." This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the GBC Office, 111 South Calvert Street, Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202.

On February 20, the GBC is hosting a Newsmaker Breakfast, "Baltimore's CitiWatch Surveillance Camera Program - Its Role in Law Enforcement." This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the GBC Office, 111 South Calvert Street, Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202.

On February 25, the GBC is hosting a Newsmaker Breakfast, "Meet Baltimore Police Department Acting Commissioner Michael Harrison." This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the GBC Office, 111 South Calvert Street, Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202.