



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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



March 11, 2019

State House Update

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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

On March 5, GBC leaders met with the newest member of the Maryland Congressional Delegation, Congressman David Trone. Congressman Trone, a Democrat representing District 6, which includes Western Maryland and parts of Montgomery County, visited the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) to discuss his legislative and policy priorities.

Congressman Trone focused his remarks on justice reform, employment of returning citizens and education for incarcerated individuals. Congressman Trone believes that individuals incarcerated or returning to society should be provided improved opportunities to find employment in order to avoid returning to jail or prison.

GBC EVENTS**March 27, 2019**

Newsmaker Breakfast:
An Inside View of How Energy
is Traded

April 15, 2019

Breakfast Briefing:
What the Affordable Care Act
Means for You

May 13, 2019

GBC Annual Meeting

July 10, 2019

GBC Golf Classic

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

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The GBC agrees with this very important priority and in 2017 created the Coalition for a Second Chance, a group of experts from the public and private sectors charged with examining barriers to employment for those returning to society from a period of incarceration, as well as other policy issues tied to reentry for these individuals. The Coalition for a Second Chance produced the report "[Opening Doors to a Second Chance: Removing barriers and cultivating job opportunities for returning citizens and job seekers with a criminal background.](#)" Congressman Trone also shared a report produced by the Trone Private Sector and Education Advisory Council for the American Civil Liberties Union, entitled "[Back to Business: How Hiring Formerly Incarcerated Job Seekers Benefits Your Company.](#)"

It is easy to forget during a busy 90-day session of the Maryland General Assembly that partnering with members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation is also important for taking positive steps to address the most important policy issues facing the Greater Baltimore region and the State of Maryland.

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

Sincerely,

Donald C. Fry
President and CEO

Kirwan Commission Interim Recommendations Lead to Legislation

The Commission for Innovation and Excellence in Education, known as the Kirwan Commission after its Chair, former University System of Maryland Chancellor William "Brit" Kirwan, was tasked with creating broad recommendations that improve Maryland's education system. An interim report was released two weeks ago, leading to the introduction of legislation by Democratic leaders of the Maryland General

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Assembly, SB 1030/HB1413 -- *The Blueprint for Maryland's Future.*

The legislation calls for \$1 billion in new spending over the next two fiscal years for Kirwan Commission-recommended public education initiatives. The new funding, pending passage of the legislation, would implement some of the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission, including full-day prekindergarten for four-year olds, grants for teacher raises, assistance for struggling learners in grade three or below, grants for schools with high concentrations of poverty and special education initiatives.

Kirwan met with the GBC's Board of Directors on March 8 to provide a briefing on the Kirwan Commission's recommendations and next steps, which include additional efforts to update funding formulas and a breakdown for the cost of implementation for both State and local governments. It is currently estimated that the Kirwan Commission's recommendations would cost approximately \$3.8 billion in new spending when fully implemented in 10 years.

The GBC supports the broad objective of the Kirwan Commission to ensure the creation of a world-class public education system with adequate and equitable funding. In the GBC's *Gaining a Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, a report published by the GBC that identifies eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth, it states that a "workforce that is highly-educated and meets Maryland's business needs" is of a top priority for a competitive business environment. Recommendations of the Kirwan Commission are consistent with this pillar. A world-class system of public education is a vital component to ensuring Maryland is creating a strong workforce that meets the needs of jobs of the future.

GBC Testimony in Annapolis

Here are some of the bills weighed in on by the GBC this week in the Maryland General Assembly's 2019 session:

Supported

SB 588/HB 1250 -- Career Education Act of 2019

Requires high schools to treat the pursuit of vocational certificates, industry certifications or apprenticeship programs as the equivalent of pursuing postsecondary education and establishes a grant program for local boards of education to develop a curriculum for soft skills in the workplace.

SB 795/HB 1163 -- Income and Property Taxes - Qualified Maryland Opportunity Zone Investments

Establishes an incentive that seeks to enhance investments in Opportunity Zones in Maryland through a State tax credit and additional property tax relief on properties that were vacant for 12 months or more.

HB 440 -- Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) Expansion Act of 2019

Repeals the limit on the number of Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) schools that can be located in a school system and removes a requirement that additional

schools may not be created until the first cohort of P-TECH students completes the six-year pathway sequence.

HB 705 -- Career and Technology Education - Training in Soft Business Skills

Requires public school career and technology education programs to include training in soft business skills.

HB 918 -- Credit for Opportunity Zone Employers - Formerly Incarcerated Individuals

Establishes a tax credit program for employers in Opportunity Zones that hire formerly incarcerated individuals.

HB 1116 -- Gender Diversity in the Boardroom - Annual Report for Nonprofit Sales and Use Tax Exemption Application

Requires nonprofits and publicly traded companies with operating budgets exceeding \$5 million to report the percentage of women on their boards.

HB 1167 -- Labor and Employment - Apprenticeship Career Training Pilot Program for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals - Establishment

Establishes the Apprenticeship Career Training Pilot Program for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals within the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

HB 1173 -- Baltimore City Police Officers - Incentives for Purchase of Dwelling in Baltimore City

Establishes the Baltimore City Police Officer Down Payment Assistance Program and the Baltimore City Police Officer Deferred Payment Loan Program to provide benefits that encourage law enforcement officers to purchase homes in Baltimore City.

HB 1404 -- Economic Development - Baltimore Symphony Orchestra - Funding and Workgroup

Requires the Governor to include \$1.6 million in the State budget for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) in fiscal 2020 and 2021 and creates a workgroup on the BSO to examine structural efficiencies and make recommendations regarding cost containment and audience development.

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 [March 27](#), the GBC is holding a Newsmaker Breakfast "An Inside View of How Energy is Traded." This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at Exelon Headquarters, 1310 Point Street, Baltimore, MD 21231.

On [April 15](#), 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.

Join the GBC on [May 13](#) for its 64th 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.