



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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



March 4, 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

With the 2019 session of the Maryland General Assembly well past its halfway point, it is time to assess where things stand with business-related legislation. On February 21, I posted a commentary, *The Midsession Business Report from Annapolis*, in *The Daily Record*. To read the commentary, [click here](#).

In the commentary, I cover a number of pressing business and employment-related issues that are topics of spirited discussion among Maryland's policymakers. These include a \$15 per hour minimum wage, additions to the federal Opportunity Zones, proposals for corporate tax reduction, combined reporting and public-private partnerships.

This session, like most, has no shortage of important issues that affect the business climate and competitiveness. As always, the Greater Baltimore Committee will be busy in the halls of Annapolis ensuring that business climate and competitiveness are top of mind for Maryland's policymakers.

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

GBC EVENTS**March 11, 2019**

Breakfast Briefing: 5G and
The Future of Wireless
Connectivity, Innovation
and Investment

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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Sincerely,



Donald C. Fry
President and CEO

Minimum Wage Bill Moves Forward in House of Delegates

The vehicle for incrementally raising Maryland's statewide minimum wage to \$15 per hour, [House Bill 166](#), has been amended by the House Economic Matters Committee and was passed by the full House of Delegates on March 1. The Senate is expected to take up the bill shortly and make its own changes to the legislation. Following that, the Senate and House will attempt to reconcile their differences prior to the close of session on April 8 this year.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) proposed several amendments that seek an easier transition for businesses that have to absorb this major policy change. The GBC's support of the bill is contingent on the incorporation of these amendments. House Bill 166, as amended, incorporates some of the GBC's suggestions, but not all. The GBC will lobby the Senate to add the unincorporated amendments.

The GBC proposed five amendments to the \$15 per hour minimum wage bill. The status of GBC proposed amendments following the passage of the House bill is as follows:

- **Extend time frame for Small and Mid-Size Businesses** - The House amended bill extends by 18 months the phased-in time period to reach the \$15 per hour minimum wage. This acknowledges the significant role of small businesses, mid-size businesses and nonprofits on the State's economy and the disproportionate impact that an increased minimum wage increase has on those entities.
- **Pre-Emption** - The House did not include an amendment to prohibit a county or municipality from enacting any law regulating the hourly minimum wage that is inconsistent with the State's minimum wage. This amendment would help prevent competition among Maryland's jurisdictions and avoid the creation of a patchwork of minimum wage laws.
- **Seasonal, Temporary, Youth Worker Treatment** -The GBC supports the removal of minimum wage provisions on seasonal, temporary and youth workers. While the full amendment was not incorporated, the amended bill did provide employers with the ability to pay 85 percent of minimum wage to employees up to 18 years old for the first six months of employment. The amendments also allow employers to pay 85 percent of the minimum wage to seasonal and temporary workers.
- **Tipped Wages** - The GBC opposed the elimination of the tipped wage category that would bring all tipped



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wage workers under the \$15 per hour Maryland minimum wage. The House agreed with the GBC position and eliminated that provision in the amended bill.

- **Due Process Provisions** - The GBC opposed the removal of the prohibition against an employee making a groundless or malicious complaint. The amended bill strikes these provisions.

Two other changes were included in the House bill that the GBC did not propose. One provides the Board of Public Works a one-time ability to delay a scheduled increase based on economic data. The other removes automatic minimum wage rate increases based on the Consumer Price Index.

Call for Action on Future of the Preakness Stakes and Pimlico Race Course

The GBC joined Baltimore City leaders in a call to action regarding the future of the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course. On Friday, March 1, GBC President and CEO Don Fry testified in Annapolis in support of legislation that would create a workgroup to examine financing options for the redevelopment of Pimlico Race Course and the adjacent communities. The call to action is below:

Your support and action is needed to save the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico. In recent days, the fight to keep the Preakness Stakes in Baltimore has been highlighted in the [media](#). Here's what you need to know:

- [The Stronach Group \(TSG\) has publicly acknowledged its intention](#) to build a "super track" at Laurel Park and to move the Preakness from Baltimore to Laurel Park. Working with a team of lobbyists in Annapolis, TSG-backed legislation has been introduced that would allow the State to issue \$120 million in bonds to upgrade Laurel Park and build a training center in Bowie. If this legislation were to pass, the changes to the financing structure for racing in Maryland would essentially guarantee that the Preakness would move to Laurel Park while Pimlico is left in the dust.
- Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh and the Baltimore City Delegation are fighting to save the Preakness at Pimlico and to advocate for the redevelopment of the Greater Pimlico Area and Park Heights Communities as envisioned in the [Maryland Stadium Authority \(MSA\) Pimlico Race Course Study Phase Two Study](#). Opponents have indicated that the plan is too costly, but the City and GBC believe that it is feasible to develop a financial plan that can make this community revitalizing redevelopment opportunity a reality.
- To stop the hasty legislative action that will strip the Preakness from Baltimore and cost the region tens of millions of dollars in lost revenue each year, legislation has been introduced that would create a workgroup to develop a financial plan for the redevelopment envisioned in the MSA Study.

The threat of losing the Preakness in Baltimore is very real. We need you to take action. Here's how you can help.

Contact your elected officials

The message is simple:

- I **support** [House Bill 1190/Senate Bill 800](#). I support the Preakness in Baltimore and believe that Baltimore deserves the opportunity to develop a financial plan for the redevelopment of the Greater Pimlico and Park Heights Community.
- I **oppose** [House Bill 990/Senate Bill 883](#). I oppose efforts to invest state dollars into racing infrastructure at Laurel Park and Bowie Training Center while Pimlico is left behind.

Contact Governor Hogan

Online Submission: <https://governor.maryland.gov/contact-the-governor>

Phone: 410-974-3901

Contact Senate President Miller

Email: thomas.v.mike.miller@senate.state.md.us

Phone: 410-841-3700

Contact House Speaker Busch

Email: michael.busch@house.state.md.us

Phone: 410-841-3800

Contact your Representatives. Find your representative [here](#).

Testify at the Senate Bill Hearing

Senate Hearings

Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at 1 p.m.

[West Miller Senate Building, Room 3, Annapolis, MD](#)

Support [Senate Bill 800](#): Maryland Stadium Authority's Pimlico Race Course Study Workgroup.

Oppose [Senate Bill 883](#): Video Lottery Terminal Proceeds - Racetrack Facility Renewal Account - Use of Funds

If you plan to testify for a bill, please review the guidelines [here](#). Advance sign-up is required.

GBC Testimony in Annapolis

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

Supported

SB 174 -- More Opportunities for Marylanders Act of 2019

Extends the benefits of the More Jobs for Marylanders program to businesses and manufacturers that expand or locate in Opportunity Zones in Maryland.

SB 574/HB 1161 -- Maryland Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer Incentive Program

Establishes the Maryland Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer Incentive Program.

SB 581 -- Economic and Community Development Tax Credits - Opportunity Zone Enhancement Program

Establishes the Opportunity Zone Enhancement Program to provide additional State tax credits and incentives for certain investments in Opportunity Zones.

HB 886 -- Income Tax - Angel Investor Tax Credit Program

Establishes the Angel Investor Tax Credit program to provide incentives for angel investment in Maryland technology startups and early-stage companies.

HB 801 -- Maryland Stadium Authority - Baltimore Convention Facility - Renovation

Allows the Maryland Stadium Authority to renovate the Baltimore Convention Center and issue up to \$600 million in bonds for the project.

HB 1117 -- Maryland Transit Administration - Extension of MARC Service - Plans and Report

Requires the Maryland Transit Administration to develop a plan to extend Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) service to expanded daytime hours, provide MARC service to the Crystal City station in Arlington, Va., and develop recommendations for policy actions necessary to implement the plan.

HB 1168 -- Education - Career and Technical Education Expansion Grant - Established

Establishes the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Expansion Grant, requiring the Governor to appropriate \$2 million to county boards of education in 2021 to expand the CTE programs and facilities in each county.

HB 1190 -- Maryland Stadium Authority's Pimlico Race Course Study Workgroup

Establishes a workgroup to study the implementation and financing options of Phase 2 of the Maryland Stadium Authority's Pimlico Race Course Study.

Opposed

SB 788/HB 695 -- Transportation Climate Accountability Act of 2019

Requires the Maryland Department of the Environment and other agencies to conduct a comprehensive study regarding the environmental impact of each public-private partnership project.

SB 931/HB 1257 -- Maryland Transportation Public-Private Partnership Oversight Act

Establishes the Office of Transportation Oversight as the regulatory entity for transportation-related public-private partnerships and partnership agreements.

HB 765 -- Transportation - Magnetic Levitation Projects - Requirements

Prevents the use of or access to a state-owned right-of-way or state property for a magnetic levitation propulsion system (MAGLEV) project unless an impacted county is provided with a complete listing of private property that needs to be condemned, and the county gives its express consent to the project.

HB 990 -- Video Lottery Terminal Proceeds - Racetrack Facility Renewal Account - Use of Funds

Allocates funds from the Racetrack Facility Renewal Account to the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) and would authorize MEDCO to enter into agreements with the racing licensee/owner of the Bowie Training Center and Laurel Park and to issue bonds to finance up to \$120 million in infrastructure improvements at these locations.

HB 1070 -- Video Lottery Terminals - Racetrack Facility Renewal Account - Allocation of Funds

Alters the allocation of funds from the Racetrack Facility Renewal Account by adding the Bowie Race Course Training Center to the list of thoroughbred racing facilities eligible to receive the funds.

HB 1091 -- Public Private Partnerships - Reforms

Prohibits the Board of Public Works from approving a public-private partnership agreement until an independent rating assessment survey is completed.

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 11](#) the GBC is hosting the Breakfast Briefing "5G and The Future of Wireless Connectivity, Innovation and Involvement." This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the GBC Office, 111 South Calvert Street, Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202.

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.