



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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



April 12, 2019

State House Update

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MD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Message to Members

The 2019 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly, the first of a new four-year term, concluded at midnight on April 8. A number of important pieces of legislation passed that impact businesses in the Greater Baltimore region. The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) monitored or took positions on approximately 10 percent of the 2,499 bills that were introduced.

This session was marked by significant change. The General Assembly welcomed 17 new Senators and 43 new Delegates who quickly became acclimated to the fast pace of the legislative process. There were also several changes to the leadership ranks in the Senate of Maryland and House of Delegates.

From the beginning of the session, both Presiding Officers struggled with personal illness. While this limited their involvement in some procedural matters, both remained steadfast in their commitment to ensuring that the work of the body progressed. With the passing of Speaker Michael Busch on April 7, the House of Delegates will select a new Speaker during a special session on May 1.

GBC EVENTS

May 13, 2019
GBC Annual Meeting

June 11, 2019
Breakfast Briefing:
Corporate Responsibility
with Michael Hankin,
President and CEO,
Brown Advisory

June 26, 2019
Breakfast Briefing:
Cybersecurity in the Workplace

July 10, 2019
GBC Golf Classic

September 27, 2019
Newsmaker Breakfast
with Debra L. McCurdy,
President-Elect,
Baltimore City
Community College

Speaker Series with
McDonnell 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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During the interim, the GBC will work through its committees and task forces to develop and refine policy positions to inform future legislation and initiate action-oriented approaches to solving policy issues.

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

Sincerely,



Donald C. Fry
President and CEO

Speaker Michael E. Busch

The Greater Baltimore Committee is saddened by the passing of Speaker of House Michael E. Busch. Speaker Busch was elected to District 30A representing the Annapolis area in 1986 and was selected by his peers to serve as Speaker in 2003. His leadership and steady hand will be missed in Annapolis. Greater Baltimore Committee President and CEO Donald C. Fry, who served with Speaker Busch in the House of Delegates, said that "Busch possessed leadership qualities that are rarely found today. He was respectful of legislators and advocates with divergent political philosophies and always made them feel that they had a fair chance to express their views. He was always mindful of the importance of the General Assembly as an institution and the importance of maintaining the integrity of the body. Those traits explain why he became the longest-serving speaker of the House in Maryland's history."

GBC Legislative Priorities for the 2019 Session

Every year, prior to the start of the legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly, the GBC releases its Legislative Priorities, which are based on several core policy priority areas. This end of session summary is organized with the [2019 GBC Legislative Priorities](#) in mind. The report is divided into several policy areas deemed important by the Greater Baltimore business community regarding business competitiveness and job creation.

GBC Legislative Priority - Creating a More Competitive Business Climate

The creation of a strong and competitive business climate is among the most important roles of government and policymakers. It is critical that government leadership needs to unite with business as a partner. Job creation, a key outcome of a strong business climate, not only provides additional tax revenue, but new opportunities for citizens at all levels of the income ladder. It is paramount that Maryland's elected leaders



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make a competitive business climate part of a comprehensive policy approach.

SB 280/HB 166 - Labor and Employment - Payment of Wages - Minimum Wage (Fight for Fifteen) (passed)

Legislation to raise Maryland's statewide minimum wage to \$15 per hour passed this year after unsuccessful attempts in prior years. The GBC successfully fought for several amendments, including extending the phase-in period to reach the \$15 per hour minimum wage from 2023 to January 2025 and July 1, 2026 for small businesses with 14 or fewer employees. Governor Larry Hogan vetoed the legislation, but the Senate and House voted to override the veto.

SB 912/HB 686 -- Maryland Healthy Working Families Act - Adverse Actions - Absence Control Policy (failed)

Since the enactment of the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act of 2018, several major Maryland employers have reported a dramatic increase in unplanned absences (i.e. absences without prior notice to the employee's supervisor or colleagues). This bill would have amended the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act of 2018 to expressly permit an employer to apply an absence control policy that includes sick and safe leave under certain circumstances. In the fiscal note, the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation reported that the current law is difficult to interpret and that the Department had received numerous inquiries regarding absence control policies. During the Committee hearings, there was a lack of agreement as to whether the current law permits employers to apply an absence control policy to the current sick and safe leave law. The bill was referred to an interim study.

HB 768 -- Health - Prescription Drug Affordability Board (passed)

The cost of health care is an important issue to employers and employees alike. Several bills sought to ensure that affordable health care is available to Maryland residents. However, there were also bills that put Maryland's innovative economy at risk. HB 768 originally sought to make Maryland the first state in the country to create a drug pricing control entity. At the close of session, a heavily amended bill passed that creates a panel to research what other states are doing to reduce drug prices. The panel would then make recommendations that may lead to a pilot program to set upper payment limits for high-cost drugs purchased for government employees only. Reasonable health care costs are an important part of a strong business climate, but efforts to increase affordability must be balanced with support for Maryland's innovation sector.

SB 738/HB 734 -- Labor and Employment - Wage History and Wage Range (failed)

The GBC opposed legislation that would have created new and unnecessary requirements on Maryland's employers. SB 738/HB 734 sought to prohibit an employer from screening or considering an applicant for employment or determining an applicant's wages based on the applicant's wage history and from seeking wage history information for an applicant.

SB 89/HB 46 -- Small Business Relief Tax Credit - Expansion (failed)

The GBC supported these bills, which would have provided employers with 14 or fewer employees that provide either paid parental leave or paid sick benefits a \$500 per employee tax credit. If a small business provided an employee both benefits,

the employer would have been entitled to a \$1,000 tax credit. The GBC is supportive of policies that lower the cost of doing businesses, especially for small business.

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

SB 581 establishes the Opportunity Zone Enhancement Program, which allows businesses within an opportunity zone to qualify for enhanced incentives under several existing tax credit programs. The bill is intended to enhance the federal opportunity zone program, created by the 2017 federal *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*, which seeks to spur investment in distressed communities. There are 149 Opportunity Zones in Maryland, 62 of which are in the Greater Baltimore region with 42 located in Baltimore City. Other legislative proposals that enhanced opportunity zones were largely amended into SB 581. Additionally, the bill makes changes and extends the Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program and the More Jobs for Marylanders Program.

HB 173 -- Economic Development - Job Creation Tax Credit - Sunset Extension (passed)

The GBC supported HB 173, which sought to extend the sunset date of the Job Creation Tax Credit to January 1, 2027. The program was set to expire on January 1, 2020. The legislature amended the bill to sunset the program on January 1, 2022 with legislation expected in the future to further extend the sunset date. This long-running program provides an income tax credit to businesses that create a minimum number of new full-time positions.

HB 175 -- Maryland Research and Development Tax Credit - Sunset Extension (passed)

The GBC supported HB 175, which sought to extend the sunset date of the Research and Development Tax Credit to January 1, 2027. The program was set to expire on January 1, 2020. The legislature amended the bill to sunset the program on January 1, 2022 with legislation expected in the future to further extend the sunset date. This long-running program provides an income tax credit to businesses that have qualified research and development expenses.

SB 794/HB 629 - Labor and Employment - Heightened Security Interest Locations (Secure Maryland Wage Act) (failed)

This bill would have expanded prevailing wage requirements significantly by imposing these requirements based on the geographic location of employment for all covered employees regardless of the funding source or type of work performed at the location. Enactment of this bill would have set a meaningful and potentially damaging precedent by canceling employment contracts negotiated through collective bargaining procedures and for imposing prevailing wage requirements on employers outside of the parameters established by current federal and state statutes. The GBC opposed this bill as its enactment would signal that the business climate in Maryland is both costly and unpredictable.

GBC Legislative Priority - Building and Strengthening the Workforce

Preparing the workforce to be successful in tomorrow's workplace requires innovative thinking, industry-specific training programs and career pathways. Policymakers should

enact legislation that ensure the state's workforce has well-trained workers at all skill levels.

A number of bills that will improve the skills of the workforce and provide opportunities for individuals who are reentering the workforce were addressed during the 2019 session. Topics ranged from P-Tech schools and apprenticeship bills to a complete overhaul of the Maryland K-12 education system.

The most prominent of these was **SB 1030 -- The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**. SB 1030 adopted several recommendations of 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. These recommendations include increased funding for teacher salaries and students with disabilities and provide for an expansion of pre-K for low-income four year olds. The legislature approved \$255 million to begin implementing these changes in Fiscal Year 2020. The bill establishes mandated appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021 and Fiscal Year 2022 of \$355 million and \$371 million, respectively. The bill also establishes a Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education. The Kirwan Commission will continue to work during the interim to address funding formulas and the distribution between State and local funding for the recommendations.

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

HB 440 as amended allows for the creation of up to three new P-TECH schools prior to the 2023-2024 school year. When the initial P-TECH law was passed, it included a limit on additional new P-TECH schools until the 2016-2017 cohort of P-TECH students complete the six year pathway sequence. Governor Hogan introduced two similar bills, which the GBC supported, which would have completely removed the limit on new P-TECH schools.

HB 1167 -- Labor and Employment Apprenticeship Career Training Program for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals - Establishment (passed)

This bill creates a pilot apprenticeship program in Baltimore City and Washington County to support increased employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals. The GBC supported this and other measures to promote successful reentry and create employment opportunities for returning citizens in our communities.

SB 839/HB 994 - Labor and Employment - Criminal Record Screening Practices (Ban the Box) (passed)

This legislation prohibits employers that employ 15 or more full-time employees from requiring a job applicant to disclose information regarding criminal background prior to the first in-person interview, with some exception. The GBC monitored this legislation as it was amended heavily from introduction to final passage. In passing this legislation, Maryland joins 11 other states that have state laws that ban the box, though the specific provisions vary widely from state-to-state.

GBC Legislative Priority - Promoting Innovation and Entrepreneurship

As Maryland competes to be a leader in emerging technologies and seeks to grow a strong entrepreneurial community, policies and programs need to reflect these

priorities. In order to compete and succeed in the global economy, Maryland's small and emerging companies, including minority and women-owned firms, require incentives to raise capital and advance their ideas, services and products to market.

SB 937/HB 654 - Wireless Facilities - Installation and Regulation (failed)

SB 937/HB 654 sought to streamline and standardize the process for the installation of shoebox-sized antennas, known as small cells, which can be affixed in rights-of-way to traffic signals, buildings and street lights. These small cells, which enable faster mobile Internet download speeds, improved call quality and better wireless service through 5G technology, the fifth generation of mobile communications networks. The GBC maintains that this legislation would encourage innovation, economic development, job creation and entrepreneurial activity through investment in next-generation technologies. However, the bill did not pass and interested parties will attempt to seek consensus over the interim and return in the 2020 session.

SB 507/HB 886 - Income Tax - Angel Investor Tax Credit Program (failed)

Legislation to create an Angel Investor Tax Credit program was unsuccessful. Currently, there are no incentives that seek to support a broad range of industries in the tech-led economic development space. The GBC developed the concept in 2015, which has led to the introduction of legislation in recent sessions. The GBC contends this program can be an important tool for the innovation-led economy that is constantly changing and presenting new opportunities. The GBC expects this bill to be introduced in some form again in 2020.

SB 574 -- Department of Commerce - Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer - Study (passed)

The GBC supported legislation that sought to establish the Maryland Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer Incentive Program and Matching Fund. These federal programs are one of the largest sources of early-stage capital for technology commercialization and allow small businesses to engage in federal research and development that has a strong potential for commercialization. The legislature heavily amended the bill to require the Department of Commerce to conduct a study on financing options for recipients of federal small business innovation research and technology transfer grants. A report of recommendations is required by December 31, 2019.

HB 141 - Commercial Law - Internet Privacy and Net Neutrality (failed)

Net neutrality is a contentious issue and plays a role in tech-led economic development. The GBC opposed HB 141, a bill that would have required that State funds may only be used to procure services from an Internet service provider that does not block content or impair or degrade lawful internet traffic. The GBC maintains that net neutrality is more appropriately in the purview of the federal government and any policy should be decided by Congress.

SB 175/HB 235 - Economic Development - Maryland Technology Infrastructure Program (failed)

SB 175/HB 235 would have established the Maryland Technology Infrastructure Program, Authority and Fund (MTIF)

in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO). The purpose of MTIF was to focus Maryland's innovation around targeted growth opportunities and place-making efforts. The bill did not pass as TEDCO experienced issues following an audit released early in the session that was critical of its management of venture funding programs.

GBC Legislative Priority - Ensuring Public Safety to Grow Jobs and Promote a Higher Quality of Life

In order to grow and create jobs, businesses and their patrons need to feel safe in their environment. In Baltimore City, violent crime continues to threaten economic prosperity. State and city leaders must join together in pursuit of an aggressive two-pronged approach that reduces violent crime while simultaneously addressing the root causes of crime.

SB 793 -- Community Safety and Strengthening Act (passed)

The GBC supported legislation granting Johns Hopkins University, the region's largest employer, the authority to create a 100-person police department. The public benefit of SB 793 is clear - it allows staff, students and surrounding communities to benefit from improved public safety. The GBC contends that there is a direct relationship between public safety and economic competitiveness. The passage of SB 793 allows Johns Hopkins University police powers similar to public higher education institutions in Maryland and peer urban campuses throughout the United States.

SB 856/HB 606 -- Juvenile Justice Reform Council (passed)

Both Chambers passed legislation to create a statewide Juvenile Justice Reform Council. The Council will partner with organizations with expertise in criminal justice reform to analyze current laws, policies and trends in the State's juvenile justice system and to develop a series of recommendations for reform. These recommendations are likely to be presented as a legislative package during the 2020 General Assembly Session. The GBC supported this statewide, data-informed process to implement needed reforms in the juvenile justice system drawing on national best practices.

SB 39/HB 528 -- Baltimore City - Police Districts - Redistricting (passed)

These bills require the Baltimore Police Commissioner to collect and analyze data to reallocate resources and redraw police district boundaries following each decennial census. Baltimore police districts have not been redrawn for several decades despite declines and shifts in population. Several cities throughout the United States have undertaken this process in recent years with positive results.

SB 166/HB 236 -- Crimes - Use of a Firearm in the Commission of a Crime of Violence or Felony - Penalties (The Repeat Firearms Offender Act of 2019) (failed)

SB 166/HB 236 sought to strengthen public safety by modifying laws to make the use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence a felony offense. The bills also increased mandatory imprisonment for a repeat offender convicted of using a firearm in a crime of violence and eliminated parole for subsequent violations. For the second session, this bill did not move out of its committee of origin.

The GBC supports this measure as a step to reducing violent crime by ensuring that those who repeatedly commit violent crimes with firearms face serious consequences.

SB 176/HB 229 -- State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy - Annual Report - Crimes of Violence (failed)

SB 176/HB 229 would have required additional information be included in the annual report submitted by the State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy, which reviews sentencing policy and practices, as a means to increase judicial transparency. The GBC maintains that Maryland's judiciary fails to provide the transparency needed for the public to make proper assessments of judges and sentencing. When examining currently available data, the GBC concluded that compared to some other states, there is significant lack of ability to collect comparative empirical data.

SB 346 -- Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Sell, Rent, Transfer or Loan (passed)

This bill expands and alters prohibitions against selling, renting, transferring or loaning a regulated firearm. The GBC supported this legislation, which closes a loophole created by a 2006 Maryland Court of Appeals decision that made it difficult to charge and prosecute individuals that transfer firearms illegally. Passage of this legislation helps ensure that firearms cannot be exchanged between two people and prosecutors are able to pursue charges when illegal transfers do take place.

SB 41/HB 516 -- Office of Legislative Audits - Audits of the Baltimore Police Department (passed)

This legislation requires the Office of Legislative Audits to conduct an audit of the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) at least every six years. The audit would focus specifically on financial management practices, including the BPD's effectiveness and efficiency. This periodic check by an independent entity into the activities of the BPD will not only provide better accountability but also help restore public trust in the department.

GBC Legislative Priority - Building a Competitive, Predictable and Fair Tax System

A fair and predictable tax structure is a key factor that determines business location and expansion. The state's spending process and tax structure should be reformed to ensure obligations are being met without placing an undue burden on individual or business taxpayers.

Combined Reporting

The GBC opposed attempts to make Maryland's tax structure less competitive for businesses and those bills were all defeated. Two bills sought to require affiliated corporations to compute Maryland taxable income using combined reporting.

- **SB 377 - Corporate Income Tax - Combined Reporting (failed)**
- **SB 76 - Small Business Fairness Act (failed)**

Corporate Tax Rate Cut

There were several bills introduced during the 2019 session that sought to lower Maryland's corporate tax rate. The GBC maintains creating a tax environment that is supportive of

business growth and job creation is a top priority. While Maryland has a myriad of competitive advantages that would be appealing to any business - a top-rated K-12 public education system, world-class institutions of higher learning and critical infrastructure such as the Port of Baltimore and the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport - the State's tax structure is often seen as a deterrent for companies looking to relocate and a burden on existing companies. Maryland's corporate income tax of 8.25 percent has remained unchanged since 2007 while other states in the region have recently taken action to significantly reduce their corporate tax rate. These bills included:

- **SB 37/HB 1139 - Corporate Income Tax - Rate Reduction (failed)**
- **SB 190/HB 922 - Corporate Income Tax - Rate Reduction (failed)**
- **HB 375 - Corporate Income Tax - Rate Reduction (failed)**

GBC Legislative Priority - Advocating Growth-Oriented Transportation Policies

Employers and workers benefit from an interconnected multimodal transportation system that provides options to reach employment hubs. Policymakers should commit to strategic investments for roads and mass transit projects that provide an integrated and efficient transportation network. Transportation revenues should be sufficient and provide long-term stability in order to maintain and enhance the system.

Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan

In 2018, the General Assembly required the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), in consultation with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and a newly appointed Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan Commission (Commission), to develop a Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan (CMRTP).

Subsequently, it became apparent that the requirements set forth in the legislation lacked the specificity to ensure a meaningful product. In the final days of session, the GBC supported amendments to **HB 1281 -- Transportation - Bikeways Network Program and Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan (passed)** to make substantial clarifications and additions to the planning process, including the requirement that the MTA submit a draft of the plan to the Commission prior to the finalization. The bill also provides increased specificity regarding the content of the plan, to include specific corridors prioritized, specific improvements to public transportation services and assets, a listing of the specific improvements in the order of planned implementation and an analysis of the funding available for the specific improvements and potential sources of additional funding. The bill also requires the MTA to create a timeline and plan for achieving a state of good repair for its capital assets and to publish the report on the MTA website.

HB 923 -- Task Force to Study Transportation Access (passed)

This bill establishes a Task Force to Study Transportation Access which will examine existing transportation services and needs, examine barriers to accessing transportation and explore opportunities for expanded access. The bills passed with an amendment to include a representative of the Greater Baltimore Committee, selected by the Greater Baltimore Committee and other business representatives, on the Task

Force. An interim report is due by June 30, 2020 and a final report by December 1, 2021.

HB 771/SB 630 -- Transportation - Regional Transportation Authority Study (failed)

These bills would have authorized the General Assembly to contract for a study on regional transportation authorities. While the bills failed, \$45,000 of the Department of Transportation's budget was restricted for use as a grant to the Baltimore Metropolitan Council to conduct a regional transportation authority study.

Public-Private Partnerships

The Greater Baltimore Committee opposed a number of bills that would have made it more difficult to implement public-private partnership (P3) projects. In 2013, the state's policy on P3s was established through the passage of legislation that ensured a fair, predictable and transparent process for P3 projects that would benefit the State and private sector. It created a system that provides certainty and predictability for the private sector, ensuring that delays that cost money or threaten private-sector financing are minimized while also providing meaningful oversight by the public sector. Legislative attempts to modify the current P3 law to prolong the process would discourage specific projects and threaten the future viability of all P3 projects in the state.

The unsuccessful bills include:

- **HB 91 - Public-Private Partnerships - Presolicitation Reports - Environmental Impact Statement Requirement (failed)**
- **HB 209 - Privately Owned Transportation Projects - Construction and Authorization to Use State-Owned Rights-of-Way and Property - Requirements (failed)**
- **HB 695/SB788 - Transportation Climate Accountability Act of 2019 (failed)**
- **HB 1091 - Public-Private Partnerships - Reforms (failed)**
- **HB 1257/SB 931 - Maryland Transportation Public-Private Partnership Oversight Act (failed)**

Maglev

The GBC opposed bills that would make it more difficult or impossible to achieve the goal of high-speed rail in the Northeast Corridor, particularly between Baltimore and Washington. The GBC stressed that rather than attempting to impede the progress being made, the state should, within reason, remove barriers to progress. The GBC maintains that it is important to leave all options open and to consider an integrated bold approach to help solve our transportation problems.

The bills, which all died in committee, include:

- **HB 765/SB 914 -- Transportation - Magnetic Levitation Projects - Requirements (failed)**
- **HB 1296/SB 200 -- State Finance and Procurement - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System (failed)**

GBC Legislative Priority - Promoting Tourism as an Economic Development Driver

Tourism is a well-established economic driver of jobs, revenue and the economy. Greater Baltimore's tourism industry is an important part of the state and region's economy. Policymakers should support strategies that continue to grow this vital industry sector.

Horse Racing in Maryland

The GBC, Baltimore City leaders and others from the region joined together to ensure the future of the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course. The GBC supported legislation to create a Pimlico Race Course Study Workgroup and opposed a bill that would allow Racetrack Facility Renewal Account (RFRA) funds to be used to build a "super track" at Laurel Park. Both bills were unsuccessful. Throughout the session, but notably in the waning days, leaders of the Baltimore City Delegation voiced their strong opposition to moving the Preakness from Pimlico. Hopefully, the unsuccessful legislative efforts will bring the parties together to address the future of Pimlico, its surrounding neighborhoods and the Preakness.

SB 673/HB 643 -- Senator West/ Delegate Guyton - Video Lottery Terminal Proceeds - Racetrack Facility Renewal Account - Racecourse at Timonium (failed)

SB 673/HB 643 would have allocated \$350,000 of RFRA funds each year to the Racecourse at Timonium. During the final days of session, this bill was amended to heavily incorporate elements of other legislative proposals and ultimately failed.

SB 800/HB 1190 -- Senator Hayes / Delegate Glenn - Maryland Stadium Authority's Pimlico Race Course Study Workgroup (failed)

SB 800/HB 1190 would have created a Workgroup to study the feasibility of implementing the Maryland Stadium Authority's Phase Two study to redevelop Greater Pimlico.

SB 878/HB 1070 -- Senator Peters / Delegate Valentino-Smith - Video Lottery Terminals - Racetrack Facility Renewal Account - Allocation of Funds (failed)

SB 878/HB 1070 would have added the Bowie Training Center as an eligible facility to receive RFRA funds.

SB 883/HB 990 -- Senator Beidle / Delegate Chang - Video Lottery Terminal Proceeds - Racetrack Facility Renewal Account - Use of Funds (failed)

SB 883/HB 990 would have monetized the RFRA account and authorized the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) to issue bonds for infrastructure improvements to build a "super track" at Laurel Park and improve Bowie Training Center.

HB 801 -- Maryland Stadium Authority - Baltimore Convention Facility - Renovation (passed)

HB 801 requires the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) and Baltimore City to enter into a written agreement to begin the planning and design of the expansion or renovation of the Baltimore Convention Center (BCC) in Fiscal Year 2020. Planning and design costs must be allocated two-thirds to MSA and the remaining one-third to Baltimore City. The bill also redefines the geographic boundaries of the BCC site.

HB 1404 -- Economic Development - Baltimore Symphony Orchestra - Funding and Workgroup (passed)

HB 1404 requires the Governor to include \$1.6 million in the State budget for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) in Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021. The bill also establishes the Workgroup on the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, which is charged with examining the structural efficiencies of the BSO, including health care costs and facility usage, and making recommendations regarding cost containment strategies and audience development. The workgroup must report its recommendations to the budget committees by October 1, 2019.

Upcoming Dates of Interest

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.

On [June 26](#), the GBC is hosting the Breakfast Briefing "Cybersecurity in the Workplace." This event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the GBC Office, 111 South Calvert Street, Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202.