



## *Legislative Alert*

JANUARY 30, 2019 – LA03

101 Centennial St., Suite A, La Plata, MD 20646

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### **Legislative Alert Introduction**

Dear Chamber Members:

It is once again that time of the year when the Maryland General Assembly is in session and our own Legislative Committee is on the job, meeting every week to review proposed bills in both houses to assure that our members' interests are well served and our businesses are protected.

This is our third Legislative Alert which will be issued every week that the Legislative Committee meets during session and will be sent only by an email on the Peek at the Week using Constant Contact.

The Legislative Committee works diligently and intensely on your behalf during the session and throughout the year. The Legislative Alert keeps you up to the minute on what is going on in government that affects your business and your family.

It's worth your time to read it every week.

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### **Annual 2019 Legislative Update Breakfast**

Dear Chamber Members:

The Charles County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to present the Annual 2019 Legislative Update Breakfast at the Charleston Senior Community. Spend the morning with the Southern Maryland Delegation as they review the issues and bills that are being presented during this year's legislative session. This is your opportunity to ask questions and voice your opinion before the 2019 legislative session adjourns. Here are the opportunities to be a sponsor:

**Breakfast Sponsor** (Limited Availability) with 8 seats, full page ad in program, event promotion on Chamber sites and logo on website & peek - \$750.00

**Program Sponsor** – with 6 seats, a full page ad in program, event promotion on Chamber sites and recognition at event - \$500.00

**Media Sponsor** with 4 seats, half page ad in program, recognition at event - \$250.00

**Attendee** - \$35 before February 25<sup>th</sup> and \$45 after February 25<sup>th</sup>.

You must have reservations to attend this event. If interested, please call **Dee Hancock at the Chamber at 301-932-6500** or email to **Tracey at [talbrittain@charlescountychamber.org](mailto:talbrittain@charlescountychamber.org)**. Remember you must make reservations by February 25<sup>th</sup> to have a name tag made.

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### **Legislative Committee Structuring**

Please take note of the listing below, and if you have any questions about any of the bills listed within the Legislative Alert, or if you have concerns of your own, do not hesitate to contact either the appropriate sub-committee person, the co-chairs or the Chamber at 301-932-6500 or Dee Hancock, Chamber staff to the Legislative Committee at [dhancock@charlescountychamber.org](mailto:dhancock@charlescountychamber.org).

## Charles County Chamber of Commerce 2019 Legislative Sub-Committee:

Committee Co-Chairman: Steve Scott, Scott Law Group, LLC, 301-870-5355,

Fax 301-870-6471, e-mail: [SScott@ScottLawLLC.com](mailto:SScott@ScottLawLLC.com)

Committee Co-Chair: Phil McDonagh, Scott Law Group, LLC, 301-870-5355, fax 301-870-6471,

E-mail: [pmcdonagh@scottlawllc.com](mailto:pmcdonagh@scottlawllc.com)

### COMMITTEE NAME                      PHONE NUMBER    FAX NUMBER    E-MAIL

#### ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS/BUSINESS REGULATIONS:

Chairman: Rick Barnas – St. Charles Community, LLC	301-655-1090		<a href="mailto:rick.barnas@lennar.com">rick.barnas@lennar.com</a>
Tom Dennison – SMECO	301-274-4342		<a href="mailto:thomas.dennison@smeco.coop">thomas.dennison@smeco.coop</a>
Sue Greer – The Greer Law Firm	301-934-7988		<a href="mailto:sue@thegreerlawfirm.com">sue@thegreerlawfirm.com</a>
Doug Meeker – Elm Street Development	410-266-9700		<a href="mailto:dmeeker@elmstreetdev.com">dmeeker@elmstreetdev.com</a>
Lock Wills – SMO	301-932-3600		<a href="mailto:lwills@twgi.net">lwills@twgi.net</a>

#### FINANCIAL/REAL ESTATE:

Rick Barnas – St. Charles Community, LLC	301-655-1090		<a href="mailto:rick.barnas@rennar.com">rick.barnas@rennar.com</a>
Doug Meeker – Elm Street Development	410-266-9700		<a href="mailto:dmeeker@elmstreetdev.com">dmeeker@elmstreetdev.com</a>

#### HEALTH CARE/HEALTH INSURANCE:

Chairman: Ken Cross – Cross & Wood & Assoc.	301-934-4680		<a href="mailto:kwcross881@gmail.com">kwcross881@gmail.com</a>
Michelle Fowler – Plexus by Michelle	301-885-6242		<a href="mailto:michelle@michellefowler.com">michelle@michellefowler.com</a>
George Hawley – Plan-it-4-U	240-367-6489		<a href="mailto:planit4ueventplanning@gmail.com">planit4ueventplanning@gmail.com</a>

#### INSURANCE/UNEMPLOYMENT/WORKER COMP.:

Chairman: Larry Sanders – E.L. Sanders Insurance	301-934-9521		<a href="mailto:larrys@elsanders.com">larrys@elsanders.com</a>
Ken Cross – Cross & Wood & Assoc.	301-934-4680		<a href="mailto:kwcross881@gmail.com">kwcross881@gmail.com</a>
George Hawley – Plan-it-4-U	240-367-6489		<a href="mailto:planit4ueventplanning@gmail.com">planit4ueventplanning@gmail.com</a>
Craig Hickerson – Sign-A-Rama	301-870-0299		<a href="mailto:sarwaldmd@verizon.net">sarwaldmd@verizon.net</a>

#### MISCELLANEOUS:

Chairman: Sue Greer – The Greer Law Firm	301-934-7988		<a href="mailto:sue@thegreerlawfirm.com">sue@thegreerlawfirm.com</a>
Steve Scott – Scott Law Group, LLC	301-870-5355		<a href="mailto:sscott@scottlawllc.com">sscott@scottlawllc.com</a>
Doug Meeker – Elm Street Development	410-266-9700		<a href="mailto:dmeeker@elmstreetdev.com">dmeeker@elmstreetdev.com</a>
Bob Eaton -	301-752-3371		<a href="mailto:bceaton@verizon.net">bceaton@verizon.net</a>

#### TAX:

Chairman: Phil McDonagh – Suntrust Mortgage	301-392-3574		<a href="mailto:phillipmcdonagh@suntrust.com">phillipmcdonagh@suntrust.com</a>
Bob Eaton – Capital One	301-752-3371		<a href="mailto:robert.eaton@capitalone.com">robert.eaton@capitalone.com</a>

#### TRANSPORTATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Bob Eaton – Capital One	301-752-3371		<a href="mailto:robert.eaton@capitalone.com">robert.eaton@capitalone.com</a>
George Hawley – Plan-it-4-U	240-367-6489		<a href="mailto:planit4ueventplanning@gmail.com">planit4ueventplanning@gmail.com</a>

#### UTILITIES:

Chairman: Tom Dennison – SMECO	301-274-4342		<a href="mailto:thomas.dennison@smeco.coop">thomas.dennison@smeco.coop</a>
Natalie Cotton – SMECO	301-274-4377		<a href="mailto:natalie.cotton@smeco.coop">natalie.cotton@smeco.coop</a>

#### CHARLES COUNTY DELEGATION:

Senator Arthur Ellis	410-858-3616		<a href="mailto:arthur.ellis@senate.state.md.us">arthur.ellis@senate.state.md.us</a>
Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.	410-858-3700		<a href="mailto:thomas.v.mike.miller@senate.state.md.us">thomas.v.mike.miller@senate.state.md.us</a>
Delegate Debra Davis	410-858-3337		<a href="mailto:debra.davis@house.state.md.us">debra.davis@house.state.md.us</a>
Delegate Edith Patterson (Charles Chair)	410-858-3247		<a href="mailto:edith.patterson@house.state.md.us">edith.patterson@house.state.md.us</a>
Delegate Susie Proctor	410-858-3083		<a href="mailto:susie.proctor@house.state.md.us">susie.proctor@house.state.md.us</a>
Delegate C.T. Wilson	410-858-3325		<a href="mailto:ct.wilson@house.state.md.us">ct.wilson@house.state.md.us</a>

## Bill Descriptions and Chamber Positions

### HOUSE BILLS:

#### **HB36: SURFACE MINI – ZONE OF DEWATERING INFLUENCE – WATER SUPPLY REPLACEMENT**

Requiring a surface mining permittee to permanently replace a certain water supply within a certain zone of dewatering influence within 45 days of the date on which the permittee knew of the water supply failure; authorizing a surface mining permittee to seek reimbursement for certain water supply replacement costs under certain circumstances; and providing for the construction of certain provisions of law relating to a contested case hearing.

POSITION: **Opposed.**

#### **HB46: SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF TAX CREDIT – EXPANSION**

Altering the definition of "qualified employee" to include certain individuals who are provided certain paid parental leave for purposes of a credit against the State income tax for certain small businesses that provide certain employer benefits to certain qualified employees; altering the calculation of the credit; increasing, from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000, the total amount of tax credit certificates that may be issued by the Department of Commerce for each taxable year; applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2018; etc.

POSITION: **Support.**

#### **HB91: PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS-PRESOLICITATION REPORTS-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIREMENT**

Prohibiting a reporting agency for certain proposed public-private partnerships from submitting a certain presolicitation report before a draft environmental impact statement that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act is available; requiring the Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transportation Authority to withdraw a certain presolicitation report; prohibiting the resubmission of the report until a certain draft environmental impact statement is adopted and a certain alternative is selected; etc.

POSITION: **Opposed.**

#### **HB109: ENVIRONMENT – EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE FOOD SERVICE PRODUCTS – PROHIBITION**

Prohibiting a person from selling in the State a certain expanded polystyrene food service product on or after January 1, 2020; prohibiting certain food service businesses and certain schools from selling or providing food in certain expanded polystyrene food service products on or after January 1, 2020; requiring a county health department to impose penalties of up to \$250 for certain violations; requiring a county health department to notify the Department of the Environment of certain violations; providing a certain waiver; etc.

POSITION: **Opposed and the committee will keep watch for similar bills.**

#### **HB134: ENVIRONMENT – SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS – USE IN RESTAURANTS**

Prohibiting, beginning January 1, 2020, a restaurant from providing a single-use plastic straw to a customer dining in at the restaurant unless the customer requests a straw; and providing the Act does not apply to restaurant services provided at a drive-through window.

POSITION: **Committee opposed this bill and will do the same with similar bills.**

#### **HB150: MORE POOPRTUNITIES FOR MARYLANDERS ACT OF 2019**

Extending certain benefits under the More Jobs for Marylanders Program to businesses that locate or expand in opportunity zones in the State; extending to 2030 the termination date of the Program; altering the maximum aggregate credit amounts of initial tax credit certificates the Department of Commerce may issue from the More Jobs for Marylanders Tax Credit Reserve Fund in a fiscal year; altering the calculation the Governor shall use for appropriating funds to the More Jobs for Marylanders Tax Credit Reserve Fund; etc.

POSITION: **Support**

#### **HB166: LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT-PAYMENT OF WAGES-MINIMUM WAGE AND ENFORCEMENT (FIGHT FOR FIFTEEN)**

Specifying the State minimum wage rate that is in effect for certain time periods; increasing, except under certain circumstances, the State minimum wage rate based on the annual growth in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV metropolitan area; specifying the tip credit amount that is in effect for certain time periods; prohibiting an employer, beginning July 1, 2027, from including the tip credit amount as part of the wage of certain employees; etc.

POSITION: **Opposed, this sets an increasing minimum wage with a goal of \$15/hour and prescribes how a business owner competes in a free labor market.**

#### **HB204: INCOME TAX - SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION - EMPLOYEE-OWNED BUSINESSES**

Allowing a subtraction modification under the State income tax for income from a qualified transfer of stock or membership interest of a Maryland corporation or limited liability company to certain employee ownership entities; limiting the amount of the subtraction if the transfer is to a direct share ownership plan; applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2018; etc.

POSITION: **Support.**

#### **SENATE BILLS:**

##### **SB37: CORPORATE INCOME TAX – RATE REDUCTION**

Decreasing the State corporate income tax rate from 8.25% to 8.0% for tax year 2019, 7.5% for tax year 2020, and 7.0% for tax year 2021 and beyond.

POSITION: **In support of corporate deduction.**

##### **SB76: SMALL BUSINESS FAIRNESS ACT**

Requiring affiliated retail trade and food services corporations with multiple locations to compute Maryland taxable income using a combined reporting method; requiring, subject to regulations, certain groups of retail trade and food services corporations to file income tax returns reflecting the aggregate income tax liability of all the members of the group; requiring the Comptroller to report to the General Assembly by March 31 each year an estimate of the total additional tax revenue resulting from the combined reporting method; etc.

POSITION: **Opposed.**

##### **SB174: MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARYLANDERS ACT OF 2019**

Extending certain benefits under the More Jobs for Marylanders Program to businesses that locate or expand in opportunity zones in the State; extending to 2030 the termination date of the Program; altering the maximum aggregate credit amounts of initial tax credit certificates the Department of Commerce may issue from the More Jobs for Marylanders Tax Credit Reserve Fund in a fiscal year; altering the calculation the Governor shall use for appropriating funds to the More Jobs for Marylanders Tax Credit Reserve Fund; etc.

POSITION: **Support.**

##### **SB190: CORPORATE INCOME TAX – RATE REDUCTION**

Reducing, from 8.25% to 6.0%, the State corporate income tax rate by reducing the rate by 0.25% each year for 9 years.

POSITION: **Support, with comment that a more aggressive timeline for the reduction would be more beneficial to business and the state economy.**

##### **SB280: LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – PAYMENT OF WAGES – MINIMUM WAGE AND ENFORCEMENT (FIGHT FOR FIFTEEN)**

Specifying the State minimum wage rate that is in effect for certain time periods; increasing, except under certain circumstances, the State minimum wage rate based on the annual growth in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV metropolitan area; specifying the tip credit amount that is in effect for certain time periods; prohibiting an employer, beginning July 1, 2027, from including the tip credit amount as part of the wage of certain employees; etc.

POSITION: **Opposed, this sets an increasing minimum wage with a goal of \$15/hour and prescribes how a business owner competes in a free labor market.**



Thank you to the following sponsors of the Legislative Alert:

