Welcome to your Garrett County Chamber’s 2021 Legislative Update email. The following are bills that your Chamber is monitoring during the 2021 regular session of the Maryland General Assembly. These are bills that may impact your business or our community. If you have questions, concerns or comments about the bills, please contact Senator George Edwards or Delegate Wendell Beitzel. From time to time throughout the session, we may need you to contact your legislators about a specific bill. Your assistance will be enlisted under the "Calls to Action" section of this email.

This email will be sent on an as needed basis and you may opt-out by clicking the unsubscribe link below. Thank you for your consideration and please contact Nicole Christian if you have any questions.

*Every Monday at 2:00 pm during the Legislative Session a conference call is held with the Chamber's Lobbyist, Dennis Rasmussen. We invite you to join these calls to hear a weekly update about our priorities and the happenings in Annapolis. If you are interested in participating in these calls, please email Holly Lane at holly@garrettchamber.com.*

Click HERE to view the Chamber's 2021 Legislative Agenda!

calls to action

During the session we will alert you of critical legislation that is being heard by committees and ask you to testify in favor of or in opposition to the specified bill.

How to Testify: Due to COVID, rules for testifying have changed. You must create a “My MGA” account on the Maryland General Assembly website to submit written testimony or to sign up to testify virtually. You can watch a video tutorial to help you understand the process. Click here and scroll to the Witness Sign Up video. Written testimony and to sign up for virtual testimony must be submitted 2 days prior to the bill hearing. For hearings on Mondays, you must sign up or submit by the Thursday prior, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. For Tuesday hearings, by the Friday prior, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Below are the committee guidelines for bill hearings for each chamber.

2021 House Committee Guidelines
2021 Senate Committee Guidelines

Stop This Tax - Digital Advertising Gross Revenues Tax

At the very end of the 2020 Maryland legislative session, the General Assembly rushed House Bill 732 - Digital Advertising Gross Revenues Tax, a very shortsighted and deeply flawed bill - to the floor and passed it along party lines. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the normal legislative process was curtailed, and public input was limited. The outcome is a bill that will raise taxes on every single person and business that advertises services online, from the smallest mom and pop to the largest corporation to your next-door neighbor. Governor Hogan vetoed the bill, but the legislator is contemplating overriding the veto. If Governor Hogan's veto is overridden, Maryland would have the notorious distinction of being the only state in the country to enact an digital advertising tax.

The stakes couldn’t be higher. With COVID-19 still doing untold damage to our communities, and businesses of all sizes struggling to keep their doors open, legislators should be totally focused on...
saving lives and economic recovery. The last thing they need to do is make life any more difficult than it already is for hard-working Marylanders. Your legislator needs to hear from you directly. The best way to ensure we sustain Governor Hogan's veto and stop the $250 MILLION digital ad tax is to make sure your voice is heard by lawmakers and amplified to the public. **TAKE ACTION – Contact your legislators today!**

**STOP COSTLY INCREASED BUSINESS REGULATIONS DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

We need your help to prevent the Legislature from passing HB 581. **HB 581, Employment Standards During an Emergency (Maryland Essential Workers’ Protection Act),** would implement additional regulations on employers in cases of emergency or when under Executive Order. It defines essential workers, requires an employer to provide a supplementary $3.00 per hour in hazard pay for essential workers, requires more occupational safety and health procedures during an emergency, allows an essential worker to refuse to fulfill a certain responsibility, and prohibits an employer from retaliating or taking other adverse action against an essential worker for refusing to fulfill his/her responsibility.

These regulations would be excessive and onerous. The definition of essential worker is too broad and encompasses most employers in Maryland, including a large portion of small businesses. The hazard pay alone will irreparably damage these businesses, and making that pay retroactive will completely decimate most employers that worked hard to stay in business during the pandemic. And allowing employees to refuse to come to work places an undue hardship on employers.

We must stop this onerous and excessive legislation!

HB 581 is being heard by the House Economic Matters Committee on February 5 at 1:00 p.m. Please submit written testimony or sign up to testify virtually by February 2 for the House hearing. To view a copy of the Chamber’s testimony, please click [here](#). The companion bill, SB 486 is being heard by the Senate Finance Committee on February 11 at 1:00 p.m. Please submit written testimony or sign up to testify virtually by February 8 for the Senate hearing.

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**Bills and Hearings**

**House Bill 12 and Senate Bill 205** - Alcoholic Beverages - Sale or Delivery for Off-Premises Consumption
Hearings: HB 12 Economic Matters, February 19, 2021 at 11:00 am. SB 205 First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**House Bill 36** - Environment – Packaging, Containers, and Paper Products – Producer Responsibility
Hearing: HB 36 First Environment and Transportation, February 9, 2021 at 1:30 pm. **Oppose.**

**House Bill 56 and Senate Bill 473** - Labor and Employment – Leave With Pay – Bereavement Leave
Hearings: HB 56 Economic Matters, January 28, 2021 at 1:30 pm. SB 473 Finance, February 11, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

**House Bill 61** - Environment – Statewide Green Business Certification Program – Establishment
Hearing: HB 61 Environment and Transportation, January 15, 2021 at 1:30 pm.

**House Bill 62** - Department of Small Business, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation - Established

**House Bill 99** - Beverage Container Deposit Program - Establishment and Advisory Commission

**House Bill 109 and Senate Bill 254** - Public Safety – Maryland Swimming Pool and Spa Standards – Adoption
Hearings: HB 109 Environment and Transportation, January 26, 2021 at 1:30 pm. SB 254 Judicial Proceeding, February 3, 2021 at 11:00 am.

**House Bill 124** - Occupational Safety and Health Standards to Protect Employees - Aerosol Transmissible Diseases and COVID-19
Hearing: HB 124 Economic Matters, January 28, 2021 at 1:30 pm. **Oppose.**
House Bill 185 - Alcoholic Beverages - On-Sales - Required Multiple Purchases
Hearing: HB 185 Economic Matters, February 19, 2021 at 11:00 am.

House Bill 201 - Income Tax Rates – Capital Gains Income
Hearing: HB 201 Ways and Means, January 21, 2021 at 1:30 pm. Oppose.

House Bill 278 - Economic Development - Job Creation Tax Credit - Qualified Position
Hearing: HB 278 Ways and Means, January 14, 2021 at 1:30 pm. Oppose.

House Bill 314 and Senate Bill 223 - Plastic Bag Reduction Act
Hearing: HB 314 Environment and Transportation, January 28, 2021 at 1:30 pm. SB 223 Finance, January 28, 2021 at 1:00 pm. Oppose.

House Bill 338 - Business Regulation - Innkeepers - Records and Human Trafficking Awareness Training
Hearing: HB 338 Economic Matters, January 19, 2021 at 1:30 pm.

House Bill 350 - Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Verification
Hearing: HB 350 Economic Matters, January 28, 2021 at 1:30 pm.

House Bill 360 and Senate Bill 246 - Income Tax - Angel Investor Tax Credit Program
Hearing: HB 360 Ways and Means, January 21, 2021 at 1:30 pm. SB 246 Budget and Taxation, January 21, 2021 at 11:00 am. Support.

House Bill 375 and Senate Bill 211 - Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2021)
HB 375 First Reading Economic Matter. Hearing: SB 211 Finance, January 28, 2021 at 1:00 pm. Oppose.

House Bill 407 and Senate Bill 22 - On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems - Inspection - Licensing
Hearings: HB 407 Environment and Transportation, January 27, 2021 at 1:30 pm. SB Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, January 21, 2021 at 11:00 am.

House Bill 417 - Education - Public Schools - Required Number of School Days or Hours

House Bill 441 and Senate Bill 366 - Department of Assessments and Taxation - Identification Number for Business - Task Force
Hearings: HB 441 Ways and Means, February 2, 2021 at 1:30 pm. SB 366 Budget and Taxation, February 2, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

House Bill 495 - Income Tax - Internal Revenue Code Amendments and the Federal CARES Act - Decoupling
Hearing: HB 495 Ways and Means, February 4, 2021 at 1:30 pm.

House Bill 581 and Senate Bill 486 - Labor and Employment - Employment Standards During an Emergency (Maryland Essential Workers’ Protection Act)
Hearing: HB 581 Economic Matters, February 5, 2021 at 11:00 am. SB 486 Finance, February 11, 2021 at 1:00 pm. Chamber Opposes.

House Bill 588 and Senate Bill 491 - Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2022)
HB 588 First Reading Appropriations. SB 491 First Reading Budget and Taxation.

House Bill 589 and Senate Bill 493 - Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2021
HB 589 First Reading Appropriations. SB 493 First Reading Budget and Taxation.

HB 590 First Reading Appropriation. SB 492 First Reading Budget and Taxation.

House Bill 595 - Vehicle Laws - Personal Delivery Devices - Standards and Requirements
HB 595 Environment and Transportation, February 11, 2021 at 1:30 pm.
House Bill 612 and Senate Bill 496 - Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act
Hearing: HB 612 Ways and Means, February 4, 2021 at 1:30 pm. Senate Bill 496 Budget and Taxation, January 26 at 1:00 pm.

HJ0002 - Resolution to End the State of Emergency
HJ2 In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations

**Senate Bill 33** - State and County Procurement - Minority Business Enterprise Program Participation Goals
Hearing: SB 33 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, February 3, 2021 at 11:00 am.

**Senate Bill 59** - State Procurement - Small Business Reserve Program
Hearing: SB 59 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, February 3, 2021 at 11:00 am.

**Senate Bill 64 and House Bill 685** - Unemployment Insurance - Earned Rating Record - Waiver of Benefit Charges Due to COVID-19
Hearing: SB 64 Finance, February 9, 2021 at 1:00 pm. HB 685 First Reading Economic Matters. Supports.

**Senate Bill 107** - Labor and Employment - Secure Maryland Wage Act
Hearing: SB 107 Finance, January 28, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

**Senate Bill 123** - Small Business Fairness Act
Hearing: SB 123 Budget and Taxation, January 21, 2021 at 11:00 am.

**Senate Bill 165** - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act - Applicability
Hearing: SB 165 Finance, January 21, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

**Senate Bill 181** - Corporations and Associations - Trade Name Certificates - Requirements
SB 181 In the Senate - Second Reading Passed with Amendments.

**Senate Bill 186** - Economic Development – Job Creation Tax Credit – Credit for Hiring Veterans
Hearing: SB 186 Budget and Taxation, January 27, 2021 at 1:00 pm. Oppose.

**Senate Bill 210 and House Bill 508** - COVID-19 Claim - Civil Immunity
Hearing: SB 210 Judicial Proceeding, January 26, 2021 at 1:00 pm. HB 508 Judiciary, February 3, 1:30 pm. Support.

**Senate Bill 214** - Unemployment Insurance – Computation of Earned Rate of Contribution – Applicable Table of Rates
Hearing: SB 214 Finance, February 9, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

**Senate Bill 252** - Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority - Minority Business Enterprise Procurement Contract Financing Program
Hearing: SB 252 Finance, February 9, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

**Senate Bill 450 and House Bill 631** - State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund - Purpose, Use, and Funding - Sunset Extension
Hearings: SB 450 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, February 10, 2021 at 1:00 om. HB 631 Environment and Transportation, February 10, 1:30 pm.

**Senate Bill 504** - Discrimination in Employment – Use of Medical Cannabis – Prohibition
Hearing: SB 504 Judicial Proceedings, February 9, 2021 at 1:00 pm.