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Out of Annapolis 2018: Government Relations Report for The Maryland Association for Justice

Major issues from the 2018 Maryland General Assembly Session

The 2018 Maryland General Assembly session marked the final year of Governor Hogan's first term. All state offices are on the ballot in November, and election year politics were in full force during this legislative session. The first weeks of session were marked by several veto overrides, including Governor Hogan's veto of paid sick leave passed by the General Assembly last year. From there, Republican and Democratic leadership both rolled out ambitious policy agendas that kept Annapolis busy all session. It was another year for historic bill introductions, with 3,101 bills for the General Assembly to consider in 90 short days. The future of school funding and education policies, bi-partisan support for a tax and infrastructure package to lure Amazon to Montgomery County, craft beer brewing, drug pricing, gun violence, gang and crime prevention, voter registration, and renewable energy were among the hot topics considered by the General Assembly this session. On top of their state work, the House and Senate responded to federal actions on tax reform and health care to keep our budget balanced, taxes fair, and health insurance coverage affordable.

Operating Budget

The \$44.5 billion operating budget passed with bipartisan support, no new taxes, support for higher education, modest pay increases for state employees, raises for caregivers, historic spending on school safety, and increases in violence prevention and public safety programs. As always, much of the budget debate was focused on schools; between increases for teacher pay, settling the dispute about local control over school day calendars, capital investments like heating and air conditioning in aging schools, and school security enhancements throughout the state. After weathering nearly a decade of drastic cuts to local governments, highway user revenues were partially restored to counties and municipalities. Legislation was passed to restore nearly \$500 million to local governments over the next five years – a big victory for our local jurisdictions.

Taxes

Federal tax changes threatened to disproportionately impact Maryland, since a large part of our tax code was tied to the federal tax code. There's no way to accurately predict how the federal changes will affect Maryland's 2.7 million taxpayers, but all reports showed a big increase to taxpayers if the state did not step in. Between dueling proposals from Governor Hogan, the Senate Democrats, and the House Democrats, several bills were passed that will begin to address the steep increases from the federal government and take some of the burden off Maryland tax payers. A bill to permit Marylanders to continue to file itemized deductions eliminated at the federal level, passed unanimously. Legislation to increase the standard deduction will provide Marylanders will a small tax break, and an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit would give a break to low-income adults without dependents. Despite all of this work, many Marylanders will still face a tax increase and fully addressing federal actions will likely be a multi-year effort.

This session also brought a renewed discussion over lowering Maryland's corporate income tax rate from 8.25% to 6%. The departure of Discovery and the application to Amazon are increasing the pressure to consider Maryland's competitiveness in the region. A second term for Governor Hogan would almost certainly mean a stronger push for a lower corporate tax rate.

Paid Sick Leave

Last year, the General Assembly passed legislation that would require most employers to provide at least five days of paid sick leave. Governor Hogan promptly vetoed the legislation and spent the summer advocating for a more business friendly approach. This session, the General Assembly overturned Hogan's veto, triggering a 30-day timeline for the bill to take effect. The Senate moved to



Thank you for choosing Alexander & Cleaver as your government relations team.

As the dust begins to settle from session, our work during the interim is only just beginning.

Electoral politics, procurement, county budgets, and implementation of recently passed legislation will keep many clients busy for the rest of the year.

Look for outreach on these issues and more from our Government Relations team, and please don't hesitate to contact me anytime at: (410) 974-9000.

*—Robert Garagiola,
President, Government Relations Division*



delay implementation and enforcement to give employers in every sector time to make the changes necessary to comply with the law. The House rejected that proposal, and as of February 11, 2018, paid sick leave is required in Maryland. A&C is happy to provide guidance and clarity to clients with questions about this change.

Minimum Wage

Legislation to increase the minimum wage in Maryland by \$1 per hour until the minimum wage is \$15 per hour in 2023 was heard in both chambers. Similar proposals have been introduced 3 years in a row. Near the end of session, polling that showed strong support for a minimum wage increase in conservative districts was released in an effort to get the bill to move. Now that paid sick leave has been addressed, and some local jurisdictions are considering minimum wage raises, we expect this issue to return with a strong legislative coalition backing the proposal in 2019.

Maryland Response to Federal Action on Health Care Coverage

Congressional efforts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act included the repeal of the individual mandate and several fiscal policy changes. The cumulative effect of these actions has limited the growth of the Affordable Care Act and greatly increased health insurance costs for many. This jeopardized the state's successful Health Benefits Exchange (MHBE) while insurers proposed premium increases between 30% and 50% in Maryland.

In reaction to these threats to our statewide health care system, the General Assembly passed two bi-partisan bills. One bill authorizes the state to request a federal waiver to divert federal funds into an MHBE reinsurance program. The second bill imposes a premium tax on Maryland insurers to generate an additional \$380 million. This tax replaces a similar federal tax exemption and is roughly equivalent to what the insurers would have paid in federal taxes this year. Using that money for a reinsurance fund will lower premiums for everyone in the individual insurance market and fend off a potential crisis created by extreme health insurance premium increases. The goal of both these bills is to ensure more Marylanders have access to affordable health care and to bring skyrocketing premium costs under control. While these fixes will provide immediate relief and received national coverage for their creativity, they are temporary and the General Assembly will be working to find a permanent solution to these problems.

The Work Begins Anew

The 2018 legislative session was a typical session for an election year, including an increase in the amount of bills and many introduced in reaction to national current events. National issues always feel a little more immediate and they get a lot of attention from the electorate. If elected officials know their constituents will be asking about an issue when they're knocking on doors or phone banking, they'll do their best to address it through legislation. Because of the tragedy in Las Vegas with the multiple deaths at the country music festival, there was a bill to ban bump stocks on semiautomatic weapons in Maryland. Because of national Republicans leading efforts to roll back part of the Affordable Care Act, Democratic lawmakers in Maryland responded with their own legislation addressing those roll backs. The Trump tax package negatively impacted Maryland and therefore there was a statewide response to that measure.

As we look to the future, we know for certain that turnover in the legislature will likely rival the turnover we experienced four years ago. Regardless of the outcome in November, you can be sure there will be much to do over the next nine months before the 2019 General Assembly session. The budget, education, tax, health care, environmental and employment issues will always take center stage. Laying the groundwork during the interim gives us the best opportunity to impact state policy in the coming year – make working with us a priority over the summer and into the fall.

Thank you again for the opportunity to work with you on your government relations needs. If you would like more information on any of these issues, or others that were not addressed, please do not hesitate to contact us at (410) 974-9000.

Sine Die Report

Introduction

The Alexander & Cleaver (A&C) Government Relations team is proud to represent the Maryland Association for Justice (MAJ) before the Maryland General Assembly and State Government. This year's Legislative Session brought numerous challenges and successes for MAJ's Legislative Committee. In addition to Rob Garagiola and Josh Howe, MAJ welcomed Alexandra Shull and Davion Percy as newly appointed lobbyists to MAJ's A&C Government Relations team. With the help of the A&C team, MAJ reviewed the 3,100 bills introduced, actively tracked more than 260, and offered testimony on more than 60 bills throughout the 90-day session.

The Legislative Committee developed legislative priorities in the Summer of 2017 and hit the ground running at the start of session in January. The committee met weekly to review introduced legislation, coordinate legislative testimony, and strategize execution of MAJ's legislative priorities. Over 30 members of the committee came to Annapolis to testify on behalf of MAJ during the 90-day session. In addition to testimony, committee members routinely met with legislators to educate and persuade them on MAJ's policy stances. MAJ strengthened existing relationships with legislators and made new allies on "both sides of the aisle." MAJ's top priorities received overwhelmingly bi-partisan support this session.

MAJ's legislative events continue to make a significant impact. The annual Legislator – MAJ Member Happy Hour Reception at Red Red Wine Bar is a legislator favorite. This event draws many legislators, and MAJ members took the opportunity to get to know these elected officials in a relaxed social setting. The Joint Committee Dinners at Lewnes' Steakhouse also

continue to achieve goals of relationship building with legislators. Finally, the Alexander & Cleaver team worked well with MAJ's Executive Staff to organize and execute another successful Justice Day. Justice Day remains an excellent opportunity for MAJ members engage in the legislative process and to advocate their priorities to their own elected officials.

Looking forward, Alexander & Cleaver is eager to develop new priorities for the 2019 Session. The MAJ Legislative Committee will meet periodically over the interim to discuss and strategize execution of the new legislative priorities. The elections taking place in June and November will certainly change dynamics in Annapolis next session. Alexander & Cleaver will be ready to aide MAJ in navigating these dynamics. We look forward to hitting the ground running again in 2019.

In conclusion, the A&C Government Relations Team prepared summaries of actions on MAJ's priority bills and other significant legislation considered in 2018. The categories of legislation are Priority, Medical Malpractice, Motor Vehicles, Torts & Claims, and Worker's Compensation.

Priority Legislation

HB 1581 | SB 30 - Health Care Malpractice Qualified Expert - Limitation on Testimony in Personal Injury Claims – Repeal
(Del. Vallario - Sen. Ramirez)

This bill would have repealed the "20% Rule" the requirement that a health care provider who also does work as a qualified expert devote no more than 20% of the provider's professional activities to testimony in medical malpractice claims. This was MAJ's number one priority

this year. A&C worked with the Senate sponsor over the interim to get a pre-filed bill and a hearing early in the legislative session. Originally, MAJ offered amendments to the bill, which would have attempted to fix the 20% Rule and remove ambiguity from the action of qualifying a witness. The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee opted to reject MAJ's amendments and pass the bill (10-1) as a full repeal of the 20% Rule. The bill met opposition on the Senate Floor, but ultimately passed the Senate (29-16) due to whipping efforts by A&C and MAJ's Legislative Committee.

The House took up both the House and Senate versions of the bill in the House Judiciary Committee. The committee opted to amend the full repeal to keep the 20% Rule, and simply add language that would ensure that once an expert witness qualifies under the 20% Rule they would stay qualified until the end of the trial. MAJ opposed these amendments because the definition of "qualifying professional activities" remained vague and ambiguous. MAJ worked with the Judiciary Committee to find members that were in favor of a full repeal, but the vote came out of Judiciary Favorable with Amendments (16-3).

MAJ then worked with the Senate Judicial Proceedings committee to reject the House amendments to send the bill to a conference committee. Three members of each committee met to reconcile differences. On Sine Die, MAJ and A&C worked with the six appointed conferees to get 5 out of 6 members to vote for a full repeal of the 20% Rule. The Senate adopted the conference committee report and passed a full repeal of the 20% Rule *again* (24-21) after a cloture vote to end a Senate filibuster. MAJ mobilized the morning of Sine Die and over 20 members of the legislative committee spent the day in Annapolis advocating for the 20% Repeal. MAJ and A&C met with over 100 members of the Legislature to educate them on the 20% Rule and its obsolescence and unfair nature. Despite MAJ's

and A&C's best efforts (along with Frank Boston's Firm), the House voted 41-89 for the conference committee report in the final minutes of the session.

Several legislators who expressed support for the final repeal buckled under pressure from doctors and hospitals. As a result, the conference committee report to repeal the 20% Rule failed. While we fell short in the end we are in a great place to begin the fight in 2019, particularly with the 2018 elections. MAJ and A&C will strategize over the interim to determine how to get this bill across the finish line in the 2019 Session.

HB 205 | SB 48 - Workers' Compensation - Permanent Partial Disability - State Correctional Officers

(Del. Clippinger & Buckel – Sen. Mathias)

This bill would provide for enhanced workers' compensation benefits for a State correctional officer for a compensable permanent partial disability of less than 75 weeks. MAJ made this a legislative priority this year. In coordination with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), this bill received unanimous and bi-partisan support. However, there was significant lobbying of the House and Senate leadership to move this bill forward as it stalled in prior sessions. MAJ provided excellent witnesses and the bill's sponsors worked hard to get both bills on the Governor's desk for consideration. We are awaiting the Governor's signature.

HB 289 | SB 36 - Civil Actions - Noneconomic Damages

(Del. Sydnor – Sen. Smith)

This bill would have increased the maximum amount of noneconomic damages that may be recovered in specified wrongful death actions or survival actions. It also would have provided that

a jury may be informed of specified limitations on noneconomic damages in specified civil actions. MAJ offered multiple panels of testifiers to support this legislation. The bills did not receive votes out of committee, but MAJ will continue to educate the legislature on the unfair nature of the cap. The inequity of the cap arising out of a medical malpractice claim resonated loud this year. There may be an appetite within the legislature to address the caps in 2019.

SB 5 – Civil Actions – Punitive Damages (Sen. Norman)

This bill would have redefined when punitive damages may be awarded, by providing that punitive damages may be awarded in a civil action if the plaintiff proves by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant acted with wantonness (reckless indifference for the rights of others), fraud, or malice. The bill also would have required the trier of fact to consider a defendant's liability for punitive damages and ability to pay any imposed punitive damages. Unfortunately, despite our hard work, this bill did not receive a vote this session.

As in prior years, we continue to see punitive damages appear in pieces of legislation which were not spearheaded by MAJ. We believe this to be a positive result of our efforts to educate legislators. MAJ and A&C will continue to advocate for reasonable expansion of punitive damages.

Senator Wayne Norman was a strong ally of MAJ. Our thoughts and prayers were with his family, and continue to be, after we learned of his passing. Senator Wayne Norman's dedication to advocating for a fair and civil justice system will be missed. His wife, Senator Linda Norman, continued in his footsteps as a strong MAJ ally.

SB 124 – Courts – Direct Action Against Insurer (Sen. Zirkin)

This bill would have caused the court to inform civil juries that the defendant has insurance, and the insurance company is available to help with victim recovery should the victim agree to the defendant's insurance caps. Specifically, the bill would have required that an insurance policy be construed to make the insurer directly liable, and would have ensured that a third-party claimant has a right of direct action against an insurer. Despite our hard work with the bill sponsor, this bill did not receive a vote this session. MAJ and A&C will continue to support the bill's sponsor next year in the effort to increase just recovery for victims.

HB 909 | SB 862 – Maryland No – Fault Birth Injury Fund (Del. Cullison – Sen. Kelley)

This bill was MAJ's defensive priority for this session. During the interim, the A&C team along with members from the MAJ legislative committee met with co-sponsors from last year's bill to educate them on the problem with HB 909. We managed to peel off 9 Delegate cosponsors from last year's House bill, many of whom are in Leadership positions.

This bill, like last year's bill, sought to establish the Maryland No-Fault Birth Injury Fund to provide compensation to children who were harmed by a birth-related neurological injury. It would have provided compensation to the injured victim, on a no-fault basis, for a limited class of catastrophic injuries that result in unusually high costs for custodial care and rehabilitation. Further, the bill would have allowed insurance companies to pass the costs of the financing and administering of the Fund along to its insureds. The bill received hearings in both the House and Senate, but as a result of our constant vigilance, it was not voted on in committee and expired on Sine Die. MAJ will remain vigilant to ensure a birth injury fund is not established in Maryland.

Medical Malpractice

HB 716 | SB 266 - Maryland Health Care Commission – Mortality Rates of African American Infants and Infants in Rural Areas – Study

(Del. R. Lewis – Sen. Nathan- Pulliam)

This bill would require that the Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with: the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities; the Maternal and Child Health Bureau; the Vital Statistics Administration; and interested Stakeholders; to conduct a study on the mortality rates of African American infants and infants in rural areas to require the Commission to examine certain factors to require the Commission to report its findings and recommendations, including draft legislation establishing a council on infant mortality, by November 1, 2019. This bill passed through both chambers without opposition and will be considered by the Governor. MAJ will monitor the taskforce that is created to ensure that any Birth Injury Fund proposals or similar proposals are met with opposition.

SB 230 - Disclosure of Medical Records - Compulsory Process – Timeline (Sen. Zirkin)

This bill requires a health care provider to disclose a certain medical record in accordance with compulsory process no later than 30 days after receiving documentation and certain fees outlined in §4 -306 of the Health - General Article, and authorizes a health care provider, on a showing of good cause, to request up to 30 additional days beyond the date by which disclosure is required to disclose a medical record. MAJ supported this bill and the bill met no opposition. This bill will be considered by the Governor in the following weeks.

Motor Vehicles

HB 1045 | SB 743 - Peer- to- Peer Car Sharing Programs

(Del. Davis – Sen. Middleton)

The bill would prohibit a peer-to-peer car sharing program from delivering or issuing in the State a peer-to-peer car sharing program agreement unless the peer-to-peer car sharing program uses a certain collision damage waiver form; and require the Maryland Insurance Commissioner to issue a limited lines license authorizing the sale of certain insurance by the peer-to-peer car sharing program. The bill spawned a work-group that met throughout session, which MAJ participated in. The Senate version of the bill ultimately passed with amendments and will be considered by the Governor.

HB 656 | SB 945 - Motor Vehicle Insurance - Discrimination in Underwriting and Rating – Use of Occupation or Education Level (Del. Sydnor – Sen. Young)

This bill would have prohibited an automobile insurer, with respect to private passenger motor vehicle insurance, from refusing to underwrite, cancel, refuse to renew, rate a risk, or increase a renewal premium, based in whole or in part on the occupation or on the education level attained by the insured or applicant. MAJ supported this bill, but unfortunately neither version of the bill received a committee vote.

HB 657 | SB 1059 - Motor Vehicle Insurance - Discrimination in Underwriting and Rating – Use of Marital Status or Gender (Del. Sydnor – Sen. Kagan)

This bill would have repealed a certain provision of law prohibiting an insurer, with respect to private passenger motor vehicle insurance, from increasing a certain premium for a certain spouse

based on a certain change in marital status. It would have also prohibited an insurer, with respect to private passenger motor vehicle insurance, from refusing to underwrite, cancel, refuse to renew, rate a risk, or increase a renewal premium, based in whole or in part on the marital status or the gender of the insured or applicant. MAJ supported this bill, but unfortunately neither version of the bill received a committee vote.

HB 1514 – Baltimore City & Baltimore County - Low-Cost Automobile Insurance Program
(Del. Brooks)

This bill would have established a Low-Cost Automobile Insurance Program in Baltimore City and County within the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund. The Low-Cost Program would have sold automobile insurance to Marylanders earning under a certain level of income. MAJ opposed this bill because the Low-Cost Program would offer liability coverage in the amounts of \$15,000/ \$30,000, which is half of current Maryland minimums. This bill received an unfavorable report by the House Economic Matters Committee.

HB 1161 | SB 856 - Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund – Uninsured Division - Uninsured Motorists
(Del. Brooks – Sen. Middleton)

This bill would establish certain legislative findings and declarations, and mandate the Uninsured Motorist Education and Enforcement Fund to provide funding for the education of drivers about the security requirements for motor vehicles in the State. The bill would also establish in the Uninsured Division a program to Incentivize and Enable Uninsured Vehicle Owners to Be Insured to reduce the number of uninsured vehicles in the State; and provide that an individual is eligible to participate in the program under certain circumstances. MAJ supported this bill and both versions of the bill will be considered by the Governor.

SB 573 - Vehicle Laws - Rental Vehicles – Security
(Sen. Klausmeier)

This bill would have established that the owner of a rental vehicle may satisfy a specified insurance requirement by maintaining a specified security that is secondary to any other valid and collectible coverage. It would have required a motor vehicle rental company to disclose specified information about a person that rents or is authorized to drive a rental vehicle, to a specified person under specified circumstances. MAJ supported this bill with amendments, however it did not receive a vote in the Senate Finance Committee.

HB 349 | SB 296 - Vehicle Laws - Drunk and Drugged Driving - Subsequent Offenders - Felonies (Repeat Drunk Driving Offenders Act of 2018)
(Hogan Administration)

This bill would have increased certain penalties for drunk and drugged driving offenses for individuals who have previously been convicted of certain other crimes under certain circumstances. The bill would have made certain drunk and drugged driving offenses felonies and would have established that the District Court and circuit courts have concurrent jurisdiction over certain drunk and drugged driving offenses. MAJ monitored this bill on behalf of its members practicing motor vehicle law. The Senate version of the bill made it through both committees but died because amendments from each body could not be reconciled.

Torts & Claims

HB 1611 - Courts - Concealment of Public Hazards (Sunshine in Litigation Act)
(Del. Morales)

The bill would have prohibited a court from entering an order or a judgment that conceals

information related to a public hazard, and ensured that any confidentiality provisions that conceal information related to a public hazard would be unenforceable. In addition, the bill provided that a substantially affected person, including news media, would have had standing to contest an order, a judgment, an agreement, or a contract that violates the law and may bring an action for declaratory judgment. MAJ supported this bill, however received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee and was withdrawn.

HB 1119 – Hate Crimes – Civil Remedy
(Del. Kramer)

This bill would have provided that a person who is aggrieved by a violation of specified hate crime laws may bring a civil action against the person or persons who committed the violation in a court of competent jurisdiction. The court would have been able to impose an injunction and award specified damages. MAJ offered informational testimony on this bill to educate the committee on punitive damages. This bill did not receive a vote out of the House Judiciary Committee.

HB 1475 - Civil Actions - Duty to Render Assistance
(Del. Lisanti)

This bill would have required an individual to provide reasonable assistance to specified individuals who are under threat of or have incurred serious physical injury if providing assistance does not endanger self or others. It established a civil penalty of \$250 for a violation and provides civil immunity for a specified individual who renders reasonable assistance to specified individuals. MAJ opposed this bill in the past due to the immunities given to those attempting to provide care. The bill received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee. At the request of the sponsor, MAJ and A&C worked with the sponsor to craft amendments that would bring about the intent of the legislation, while not granting immunity or

creating a statutory duty.

HB 1596 | SB 1010 - Disclosing Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Act of 2018
(Del. Valderrama – Sen. Zucker)

This bill provides that a provision in employment contracts, policies, or agreements that waive certain rights or remedies to a claim of sexual harassment or certain retaliation is null and void, as being against the public policy of the State. The bill prohibits an employer from taking certain adverse actions against employees. MAJ testified in support of this bill in the Senate Finance Committee. Both bill versions passed and will be considered by the Governor.

SB 1010 - Hospitals - Discharge of Patients - Emergency Medical Conditions and Extreme Temperatures (Rebecca's Law)
(Sen. Muse)

This bill would have prohibited a hospital from discharging into extreme outdoor temperatures a patient that an employee of the hospital has reason to believe is suffering from an emergency medical condition and lacks certain capacity to seek shelter, without assistance, from the extreme temperatures. It also would have provided that a person who violates certain provisions of the Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on Conviction, is subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 90 days or both. The bill was a response to an incident in which a hospital discharged a patient in an inhumane manner. MAJ was eager to testify in support of this bill; however, the bill's sponsor withdrew the bill before its scheduled hearing.

SB 554 - Maryland Tort Claims Act - Immunity - Persons Acting on Behalf of the State
(Sen. Cassilly)

This bill would have altered the definition of "State personnel" to include a person acting on behalf of the State in accordance with State law for the purposes of establishing certain immunity

against tort claims. MAJ testified in opposition of this bill and as a result, the bill did not receive a vote out of committee.

HB 359 | SB 309 - Health - Reporting of Overdose Information
(Hogan Administration)

This bill would authorize an emergency medical services providers and law enforcement officers to report overdoses using a certain information technology platform with secure access, and requires the emergency medical service provider or law enforcement officer making a report to make an effort to make the report within 24 hours after responding to the incident. The original bill language also granted immunity to first responders that utilize this system. MAJ testified favorable with amendments, to strike the civil and criminal immunities entirely. The Senate Finance Committee adopted the amendments; however, the House Health and Government Operations Committee amended the immunity provision back to the bill. The Senate version of this bill died in conference committee. The House version was amended to only strike the civil immunity provision from the Senate version. The House bill passed and will be considered by the Governor.

Worker's Compensation

HB 1500 | SB 979 - Workers' Compensation - Third-Party Actions – Subsequent Injury Fund
(Del. Valderrama – Sen. Klausmeier)

This bill would require that if a self-insured employer, insurer, or the Uninsured Employers' Fund has not waived third-party reimbursement, the Subsequent Injury Fund (SIF) be reimbursed after the self-insured employer, insurer, or Uninsured Employers' Fund in a certain third-party action. MAJ originally supported this bill, but amendments were offered by the MD Defense Council and SIF that MAJ ultimately opposed. Unfortunately, this bill passed through

both chambers and will be considered by the Governor for approval.

HB 1307 - Workers' Compensation - Complex Regional Pain Syndrome
(Del. Rose)

This bill would have required an employer, except as otherwise provided and under certain circumstances, to provide certain compensation to a covered employee who is diagnosed with complex regional pain syndrome caused by an accidental personal injury arising out of and during the course of employment. MAJ testified in opposition of this bill and as a result, the bill did not receive a vote in committee.

HB 484 - Workers' Compensation - Average Weekly Wage - Multiple Employers
(Del. Morales)

This bill would have required that the weekly wages from the employments of a covered employee who, at the time of an accidental personal injury, was concurrently employed by more than one employer be combined for purposes of computing the average weekly wage. MAJ supported this bill; however, it did not receive a favorable report out of the Worker's Compensation Subcommittee within the Economic Matters Committee. MAJ will work with the sponsor to bring the bill to a more palatable posture of the legislature.

SB 1207 - Workers' Compensation - Temporary Partial Disability - Concurrent Employment
(Sen Klausmeier)

This bill would have authorized a covered employee, during the time the employee is receiving temporary partial disability benefits as a result of an accidental personal injury or occupational disease, to earn wages, under certain circumstances, from concurrent employment in

which the covered employee was engaged at the time that the accidental personal injury or occupational disease occurred. The sponsor of the bill recognized a need for improvement and pushed for this bill to be considered for interim study. MAJ will be sure to participate in any conversation regarding this bill.

HB 1497 | SB 852 - Workers' Compensation - Temporary Total Disability - Credit
(Del. Valderrama – Sen. Klausmeier)

This bill would have provided a credit for an employer or insurer for compensation paid to a covered employee who is temporarily totally disabled due to an accidental personal injury or an occupational disease under certain circumstances and during a certain period. MAJ opposed this bill and as a result the bill did not receive a vote out of either committee of jurisdiction.

2018 Elections

Federal, State, County, and Central Committee Candidates are all up for election.

Primary Election

June 26, 2018
June 14 - June 21 (early voting)

General Election

November 6, 2018
Oct. 25 - Nov. 1 (early voting)

2018 Conference Schedule

Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference
6/10- 6/13, Ocean City

Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners
6/24-27, Hershey, PA

National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Meeting,
7/30-8/2, Los Angeles

Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference
8/5-8/8, Rye Brook, NY

Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference,
8/15-8/18 Ocean City

Call Moira for details!
410-974-9000

Alexander & Cleaver Means Business

Bill Signings

The Governor has 30 days to sign, veto, or let legislation passed this year become law. There are typically 2-3 days of bill signings during May. Bill signings are a great way to celebrate your accomplishments during session. The schedule for the signings is set as the bills are reviewed, and often without a lot of advance notice. We always let clients know as soon as the dates and lists of bills to be signed are released, but expect a quick turnaround!

Interim Work

The Maryland General Assembly adjourned on April 9, 2018, but the Alexander & Cleaver Team is still busy advocating on behalf of our clients. With offices in Annapolis, Rockville, Cumberland, LaPlata and Ft. Washington, we spend our time before various county, municipal governments and Baltimore City. We are actively engaged on issues before the DC city government as well, including issues related to procurement and local legislation. The A&C team is also very busy in the State of Delaware for the second year in a row.

On behalf of many clients, the team at Alexander & Cleaver is engaged in non-legislative work involving marketing, procurement, corporate image building and networking.

Policy Maker Events

Throughout the year Alexander & Cleaver holds frequent policy maker events for our clients. Our guest speakers include federal, state and local elected and appointed officials. Each event is an opportunity to meet with our leaders and discuss the issues that affect your business or organization.

Signature Events

- Opening Day Reception
- Sine Die Reception
- MML Conference Reception in Ocean City
- MACo Conference Reception in Ocean City
- Legislative Policy Breakfast

2017 Policy Maker Speakers:

House Majority Leader **Bill Frick**

Senate Majority Leader **Doug Peters**

House Minority Leader **Nick Kipke**

Baltimore City Mayor **Catherine Pugh**

Frederick County Executive **Jan Gardner**

Howard County Executive **Allan Kittleman**

A&C's Annual Policy Breakfast-Senate
President Mike Miller, House Speaker Mike Busch, and Chief Legislator Officer to the Governor Chris Shank

A&C Regional Government Relations

We represent clients across the region, including the State of Maryland, Washington, DC City Government, the State of Delaware, the federal government, and many of Maryland's counties and municipalities.

A&C Government Relations team members are also present at virtually every convening of state legislators over the summer, including NCSL, CSG West, Midwest, East, and a number of policy-specific conferences too. These events are short but there is opportunity to make an incredible impact.

We coordinate keynote speeches, panels, site visits, conference resolutions and policy recommendations, and receptions on behalf of our clients at these conferences. Talk to us about your summer plans, and we'll tell you how we can help.
