It’s Not Too Late to Sign Up!

As the voice for business, the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce is honored to represent more than half of the state's workforce. Our daily efforts focus on building a strong, prosperous state—where business can thrive. We believe West Virginia is moving in the right direction, and we will celebrate this during our 2018 Legislative Reception.

This coming Tuesday, January 30, more than 500 people will join together to celebrate West Virginia's success at the West Virginia Culture Center from 4:30pm to 6:30pm.

There is no other event this session that brings together college and university presidents from across our state, state agency leaders, and members of the West Virginia Legislature with national and state business leaders. You will have the opportunity to discuss issues important to you with these leaders and other guests.

We hope that you will be a part of this exciting event!

Register Now!
First Legislative Briefing Breakfast Set for February 6

The West Virginia Chamber’s first Legislative Briefing Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2018. Breakfast will begin at 7:45am in the Charleston Marriott - Town Center.

Attendees will hear from Senate President Mitch Carmichael and House Speaker Tim Armstead, who will give a leadership overview of the 2018 legislative Session.

This is your opportunity to hear from the two top legislative leaders on the issues most important to you!

Register Now!

Intermediate Appeals Court Bill Moving in Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 341, which will create an Intermediate Appellate Court in West Virginia, was presented to the Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday. The legislation, SB 341, would add an additional layer between circuit courts and the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee asked legislative attorneys initial questions about the bill during yesterday’s meeting.

Bills Due Out of Committees in House of Origin
Sunday, February 25

Last Day to Consider Bill on Third Reading in House of Origin
Wednesday, February 28

Legislative Session Ends at Midnight
Saturday, March 10
Chairman Charles S. Trump, IV (R - Morgan) said that the amendment process and action on the bill will take place early next week. To read a summary of what is in the current version of the bill, please click here. To read the language being considered by members of the committee, please click here.

The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce has long advocated for the creation of an intermediate appellate court. Appellate review is an essential component of a fair and balanced judicial system, and helps create a rational, consistent and stable body of law.

Co-Tenancy Legislation Receiving Consideration in House Energy Committee

Yesterday the House Energy Committee began consideration on HB 4268, which would update West Virginia's co-tenancy laws related to natural gas development.

Currently, West Virginia requires unanimous consent from all co-tenants of a mineral property before any development can begin. This means that a co-tenant controlling 1% of a mineral property can halt development even if the owners of the 99% would like to proceed. HB 4268 would address that by protecting the wishes of a majority of co-tenants.

If passed, HB 4268 would begin to align West Virginia's co-tenancy laws with those found in other states. This would also make mineral development more efficient in the state.

The House Energy Committee is expected to resume consideration of the bill next week.

Bill to Expand Access to Community & Technical College In Senate

Governor Justice's bill to expand access to career education and workforce training is on 1st Reading in Senate today. SB 284, which was introduced on behalf of the Governor, would provide "last dollar" funding for those wishing to attend community or technical college in West Virginia.
The bill received widespread bi-partisan support upon its introduction. It could be up for passage in the Senate as early as Tuesday, after which it would move to the House of Delegates.

To read the latest version of the bill, please click here.

Candidate Filing Ends Tomorrow at Midnight!

Candidate filing for the 2018 Elections concludes tomorrow, January 27, at midnight. Offices on the ballot include one United States Senate seat, all three U.S. House of Representatives seats, 17 of 34 seats in the West Virginia State Senate, and all 100 seats in the West Virginia House of Delegates.

In addition to Congressional and Legislative races, numerous county and municipal offices will be on the ballot.

For more information on how to file for office, please click here.

BILL TO WATCH

TO REVIEW THE TEXT OF ANY BILL
CLICK THE BILL NUMBER

SB 100 --- Taxing digital goods, products and services
SB 269 --- Establishing 2018 Regulatory Reform Act
SB 272 --- Relating generally to drug control
SB 273 --- Reducing use of opiates
SB 284 --- Increasing access to career education and workforce training
SB 289 --- Entitling natural resource producers to economic opportunity tax credit
SB 300 --- Creating five-year tax credits for businesses locating on post-coal mine sites
SB 304 --- Relating to authorization and establishment of charter schools
SB 341 --- Creating new WV Intermediate Court of Appeals

SB 360 --- Clarifying royalty owned in oil and gas lease

HB 2028 --- Relating to the venue for suits and other actions against the state

HB 2379 --- Providing a special method for valuation of certain wireless technology property for property taxes

HB 2383 --- Providing for the redistricting office of the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to propose redistricting plans during census years

HB 4002 --- Providing that all delegates shall be elected from one hundred single districts following the United States Census in 2020

HB 4005 --- Clarifying that appeals to the Supreme Court are a matter of right

HB 4009 --- State Settlement and Recovered Funds Accountability Act

HB 4013 --- Clarifying venue in West Virginia state courts as it applies to nonresidents of the state

HB 4187 --- Business Liability Protection Act (prevents employers from prohibiting firearms in locked vehicles on company parking lots)

HB 4268 --- Co-tenancy Modernization and Majority Protection Act

HB 4298 --- The Campus Self Defense Act (allows concealed carrying of firearms on state institutions of higher education)

SJR 9 / HJR 106 --- Just Cut Taxes and Win Amendment (eliminates personal property taxes on industrial equipment and inventory)

HJR 103 --- Election of West Virginia Board of Education members amendment

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