Standing Room Only!

Yesterday the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce celebrated MORE SUCCESS in West Virginia at the 2018 Legislative Reception.

This year's event featured a standing-room only crowd in the Great Hall of the West Virginia Culture Center made up of members of the West Virginia Legislature, college and university presidents, state government officials, business leaders, local chambers of commerce and other honored guests. We were thrilled to welcome Mr. Hershel Williams.

West Virginia Chamber Chairman Pat Graney and Mr. Hershel "Woody" Williams

January 31, 2018
22nd Day of the 60-Day Legislative Session

2018 Legislative Schedule

30th Day of the Session
(half-way point)
Thursday, February 8

Last Day to Introduce Bills in the House of Delegates
Tuesday, February 13

Last Day to Introduce Bills in the Senate
Monday, February 19

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

Last Day to Consider
"Woody" Williams as our special guest and hear him give some remarks about his outstanding work in advocating for Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments around the country. Mr. Williams is the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from the Pacific Theater of World War II and a lifelong West Virginian. We are looking forward to Sunday, when West Virginia will get to watch Mr. Williams do the coin toss at the Super Bowl.

Thanks for everyone who joined us yesterday as we continue to celebrate MORE SUCCESS in West Virginia!

House Speaker Tim Armstead and Senate President Mitch Carmichael to Speak at First Legislative Briefing Breakfast

House Speaker Tim Armstead and Senate President Mitch Carmichael will speak at the West Virginia Chamber's first Legislative Briefing Breakfast this coming Tuesday, February 6, 2018. The event will begin at 7:45am in the Charleston Marriott-Town Center.

President Carmichael and Speaker Armstead will give an update on the top priorities of the Legislature this session and highlight what will likely happen over the following month.

If you haven't registered for this event, make sure you click the link below. You don't want to miss this opportunity to hear from the two top legislative leaders on the issues most important to you!

Register Now!
Amendment Process for Intermediate Appellate Court Bill to Start

Legislation that will create an Intermediate Appellate Court in West Virginia has been receiving a thorough review in the Senate Judiciary Committee this week. The legislation, SB 341, would add an additional layer of appeals between circuit courts and the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee began asking questions of committee counsel on Friday, and further examination of the bill took place this week. Yesterday John Canfield, Vice-President and Counsel for the West Virginia Chamber, spoke to members about this legislation and cited two independent judicial studies that have recommended that West Virginia adopt an intermediate appellate court. One of those studies was chaired by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

The Senate Judiciary Committee is expected to begin considering amendments to the bill during its meeting this afternoon.

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 Passed out of House Energy Committee

Yesterday the House Energy Committee passed 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.

The bill passed the House Energy Committee on a vote of 14-10, with all Democrats and two Republicans opposing the bill. The bill, which is supported by the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, now moves to the House Judiciary Committee.

### Expanded Access to Community & Technical College Passed Unanimously by Senate

Governor Justice’s bill to expand access to career education and workforce training passed the Senate by a vote of 34-0 yesterday. **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 would require applicants to exhaust all other forms of financial assistance first, but would have the state cover the remaining "last dollar."

SB 284 is now in the House Education Committee before a second reference to the House Finance Committee.

To read the latest version of the bill, please [click here](#).

### BILLS 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
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<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td><strong>SB 304</strong></td>
<td>Relating to authorization and establishment of charter schools</td>
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<td><strong>SB 341</strong></td>
<td>Creating new WV Intermediate Court of Appeals</td>
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<td><strong>SB 360</strong></td>
<td>Clarifying royalty owned in oil and gas lease</td>
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<td><strong>SB 395</strong></td>
<td>Providing for judicial review of appealed decisions of Air Quality Review Board, Environmental Quality Board and Surface Mine Board</td>
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<td><strong>HB 2028</strong></td>
<td>Relating to the venue for suits and other actions against the state</td>
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<td><strong>HB 2379</strong></td>
<td>Providing a special method for valuation of certain wireless technology property for property taxes</td>
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<td><strong>HB 2383</strong></td>
<td>Providing for the redistricting office of the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to propose redistricting plans during census years</td>
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<td><strong>HB 4002</strong></td>
<td>Providing that all delegates shall be elected from one hundred single districts following the United States Census in 2020</td>
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<td><strong>HB 4005</strong></td>
<td>Clarifying that appeals to the Supreme Court are a matter of right</td>
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<td><strong>HB 4009</strong></td>
<td>State Settlement and Recovered Funds Accountability Act</td>
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<td><strong>HB 4013</strong></td>
<td>Clarifying venue in West Virginia state courts as it applies to nonresidents of the state</td>
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<td><strong>HB 4187</strong></td>
<td>Business Liability Protection Act (prevents employers from prohibiting firearms in locked vehicles on company parking lots)</td>
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<td><strong>HB 4268</strong></td>
<td>Co-tenancy Modernization and Majority Protection Act</td>
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<td><strong>HB 4298</strong></td>
<td>The Campus Self Defense Act (allows concealed carrying of firearms on state institutions of higher education)</td>
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<td><strong>HB 4357</strong></td>
<td>West Virginia Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act</td>
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<td><strong>SJR 9 / HJR 106</strong></td>
<td>Just Cut Taxes and Win Amendment (eliminates personal property taxes on industrial equipment and inventory)</td>
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<td><strong>HJR 103</strong></td>
<td>Election of West Virginia Board of Education members amendment</td>
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