The Place to Be on January 29!

The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce will hold its 2019 Legislative Welcome Reception from 4:30pm - 6:00pm on Tuesday, January 29 at the West Virginia Culture Center.

This is the premier event during the Legislative Session that brings together college and university presidents from across the state, state agency leaders, business leaders, local chambers of commerce and members and leadership of the West Virginia Legislature. Join us and meet with key policymakers to discuss the issues important to you.

With major topics likely to be underway in the Legislature including education reform, the elimination of the personal property tax on business equipment and inventory, broadband expansion, and so many others, you do not want to miss this event! With over 600 people in attendance last year, this is the place to be on Tuesday, January 29!

We look forward to seeing you on January 29 as we celebrate continuing West Virginia’s Comeback Story!
Bill to Expand Access to Community & Technical College Approved by Senate Education Committee

SB 1, whose lead sponsor is Senate President Mitch Carmichael, was approved by the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday with a unanimous voice vote.

The bill will provide last-dollar funding for those seeking to attend community or technical college education and is designed to help prepare the workforce for skilled jobs. Community and Technical College Education Chancellor Dr. Sarah Tucker testified that similar bills in other states have boosted attendance by approximately 20%.

Following its unanimous approval in Senate Education, SB 1 now heads to the Senate Finance Committee for further consideration.

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

Judicial Bills See Significant Movement Early in Session

The first week of the 2019 Legislative Session has seen considerable movement on several bills related to the state’s judiciary.

HB 2164 states that appeals to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals are a matter of right, codifying an existing practice by the Court. The bill passed the House of Delegates 100-0 and now moves to the West Virginia Senate.

HB 2008 would require candidates for the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals to receive more than 40 percent of the votes cast in order to avoid a runoff election. If no candidate receives more than 40 percent of the vote, a runoff election will be scheduled. The bill was introduced this week and is now in the House Judiciary Committee.
SB 266 would create an Intermediate Court of Appeals in West Virginia, something that has been long-championed by the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce. The bill is currently under consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee. A similar bill passed the full Senate on a bi-partisan 23-11 vote last year, but it was not taken up in the House of Delegates.

Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act Could Pass Senate Early Next Week

A bill to expand access to 5G service in West Virginia was approved by the Senate Government Organization Committee this week. SB 3, the WV Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act, would enable internet providers to utilize existing rights-of-way such as utility poles to help expand 5G service throughout West Virginia.

In addition to SB 3, the House of Delegates is considering similar provisions within HB 2005, which was approved by the House Technology and Infrastructure Committee on Wednesday. HB 2005 now moves to the House Judiciary Committee.

BILLS TO WATCH

TO SEE MORE ABOUT ANY BILL, CLICK THE BILL NUMBER

SB 1 --- Increasing access to career education and workforce training.

SB 3 --- Establishing WV Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act

SB 52 --- Entitling natural resource producers to economic opportunity tax credit

SB 119 --- Specifying documents not subject to discovery in certain proceedings.

SB 160 - SB 166 --- DEP Air Rules

SB 266 / HB 2366 --- Creating Intermediate Court of Appeals and WV Appellate Review Organization Act of 2019
HB 2005 --- Broadband Expansion Act of 2019

HB 2008 --- Relating to nonpartisan election of justices of the Supreme Court of Appeals

HB 2049 --- Relating to a prime contractor's responsibility for wages and benefits

HB 2164 --- Clarifying that appeals to the Supreme Court are a matter of right

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