



The Greater Ocean City, Maryland  
Chamber of Commerce

# Four Things You Need to Know This Week

## Member Notice

### **OC Chamber Legislative Update**

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce maintains an Actively Monitored Legislation list that impacts our region and member businesses. Additionally, the Legislative Committee participates in weekly Zoom sessions with our lobbyist, Dennis Rasmussen, to stay abreast of any changes or action that needs to be taken. We also work closely with our elected officials and strengthen relationships with other statewide legislators that have similar priorities in their districts.

[View Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce Actively Monitored Legislation as of 2/15/2021](#)

[Visit Chamber Legislative Updates on our website](#)

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### **The OC Chamber is Now Utilizing Ujoin to Send Actionable Legislative Priority ALERTS**

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce is now capable of actionable legislative priority ALERTS. The alerts will be shared via email communication with the membership on a regular basis throughout the year. It is expected that there will be more items of action during the Maryland General Assembly Legislative session. The emails will make for a quick and easy method to support or oppose legislation with a one click point of contact for all of the appropriate legislative representatives. We look forward to utilizing a platform that will allow for a measurable and immediate impact on the legislative process that impacts how the Chamber business community does business.

## Maryland House Republican Caucus Announces Business Relief Package

The House Republican Caucus has announced a Business Relief Package of legislative initiatives to help Maryland businesses recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Included in this package is Delegate Wayne Hartman-sponsored bill [HB1176](#): Income Tax – Credit for Travel, Hospitality, and Entertainment Expenses. The bill will provide tax credits to individuals and families to cover expenses for travel to Maryland destinations or attend live entertainment and sporting events in Maryland. The expenses include food and beverages, lodging, and transportation costs. It also includes expenses related to attending live entertainment, sporting events, and attending conferences or business meetings. The travel has to take place in either 2021 or 2022 and must be at least 50 miles from an individual's residence. The tax credit is up to \$4,000 for individual filers and \$8,000 for married couples who file jointly, plus an additional \$500 for each dependent child. The tax credit program is capped at \$25 million per year.

[Read House Republican Caucus Business Relief Package Press Release](#)

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## OC Chamber Signs BridgeUSA Coalition Letter to Secretary of State Blinken Urging to Rescind Presidential Proclamation 10052 and Return to BridgeUSA Exchange Programs

The COVID-19 pandemic and Presidential Proclamation 10052 have greatly impacted BridgeUSA programs. The 2020 Summer Work Travel Program from May – September comprised 93% fewer participants than 2019 levels. When Proclamation 10052 is rescinded, the process of restoring confidence in these critical public diplomacy programs can begin again.

[Read the BridgeUSA Coalition Letter to Secretary of State Blinken](#)

*In Partnership With*



Please contact the Chamber for additional information  
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