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General Assembly received crucial insights into the accounting and finance profession today as more than 200 CPAs poured into the state's capital for the Maryland ...

Jan. 24, 2020



Rocked over the past year by unprecedented changes in leadership, Maryland's General Assembly received crucial insights into the accounting and finance profession today as more than 200 CPAs poured into the state's capital for the Maryland Association of CPAs' annual CPA Day in Annapolis.

The event, which marks the beginning of the Maryland General Assembly's annual

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you make time for your profession and the license that you worked so hard to earn?"

One MACPA member summed up the urgency well after his CPA Day experience: "If we don't have a seat at the table, we could end up on the menu. Thanks, MACPA, for giving us that seat!"

This year's Maryland General Assembly includes three CPAs:

- Arthur Ellis, a senator from the 28th Legislative District.
- William Wivell, a delegate from District 2A.
- Brian Feldman, a senator from the 15th Legislative District.

"Seismic" is the way Sen. Feldman describes the changes that have hit the General Assembly over the past year.□

● In January 2019, 60 new lawmakers — 43 in the House and 17 in the Senate — took their seats in the General Assembly. That's a huge portion of the legislature that were new to their jobs, and CPAs rallied to acclimate themselves to the new lawmakers while also acclimating the legislators to their new roles as lawmakers.□

● On April 7, House Speaker Michael Bush died from pneumonia at the age of 72. Busch was a powerful political figure in Maryland who had served as House speaker since 2003. Adrienne Jones, a Democrat from the 10th legislative district, was named House speaker, becoming the first African-American and the first woman to fill that role.□□□

● In October, Senate President Thomas "Mike" Miller, the longest-serving state senate president in the United States, announced he would end his 32-year reign due to an ongoing battle with prostate cancer.□□□

- In December, state Sen. Bobby Zirkin, chairman of the Senate Judicial

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On top of all that, the MACPA's 2020 legislative agenda will be packed with issues that could have an explosive impact on the profession.

- Early indications are that tort reform / comparative fault legislation may be introduced this year. If passed, this will result in increased professional liability and the potential for more lawsuits against firms. The MACPA would oppose such legislation.

- The association also is watching potential efforts to raise revenue by imposing sales taxes on professional services — which it also would oppose.□□□

- CPAs will work to defeat efforts to impose excessive data protection and privacy legislation.□□□

- Similarly, the MACPA will aggressively oppose efforts to weaken or eliminate professional licensing boards, a deregulatory risk that has arisen in several other states recently.□□□

- The association also will work to stop service contracts, employee tracking, excessive overtime legislation, and other onerous employment laws□.□

- MACPA volunteers also will be closely monitoring legislation related to Maryland tax policy and offering our insights as needed.□

A comprehensive list of the bills the MACPA is following this year can be found at www.MACPA.org/advocacy.

One member summed it up well describing his experience, “If we don’t have a seat at the table, we could end up on the menu. Thanks, MACPA for giving us that seat!”

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