Prepared by Danna Kauffman
Schwartz, Metz and Wise, PA
410-294-7759
dkauffman@smwpa.com

UPDATES FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 10, 2020
MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Legislative Day – February 4, 2020; 3:30 PM – 8:00 PM.

The 440th Session of the Maryland General Assembly commenced at noon on January 8th. This Session brings significant change to Annapolis with two new presiding officers (Senator Bill Ferguson – President of the Senate; Delegate Adrienne Jones – Speaker of the House). Consequently, changes have also been made to House and Senate leadership, especially in the Senate with the appointment of new chairs and vice-chairs in three of the four committees. Priority issues this Session will be the funding of the Kirwan recommendations (education); extending ACA health insurance protections to Maryland law; and authorizing end-of-life options to terminal patients.

Key dates this Session include:

- January 15th: Budget Bill Introduced.
- January 17th: Senate and House Bill Drafting Guarantee Request date.
- January 20th: Governor's bill package introduction date.
- TBD: Governor's State of the State.
- February 3rd: Senate Bill Introduction date.
- February 7th: House Bill Introduction date.
- March 16th: Cross-over date.
- March 30th: Budget Bill to be passed by both Chambers.
- April 6th: Sine Die/Last Day of Session.

This week was largely ceremonial with committees holding organizational meetings. Next week, committees will begin subject matter briefings and bill hearings. Please refer to the accompanying bill chart. One notable subject matter briefing that will be held in various committees is a briefing on Kirwan funding. As previously noted, Kirwan is the recommendations to fund K-12 education. The General Assembly has committed to dedicating approximately $4 billion to restructuring and improving education in Maryland. While this may not directly impact post-acute care, we will be closely monitoring it due to the impact on the State budget and the possibility of cuts to State programs.