

House Speaker Draws Industry Applause

*Biotech Group Names Taylor
As Top Lawmaker of '97*

The **Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)**, has named House Speaker **Casper R. Taylor Jr.** its "Outstanding State Legislator of the Year."

The organization, which represents more than 700 biotechnology companies in 47 states and 20 countries, cited Taylor for his leadership in passage of key legislation supporting the state's growing technology industries.

Taylor is the first Maryland official to be recognized by BIO, which each year honors the nation's best public officials with awards given to a governor, a state legislator, a state cabinet officials and a Member of Congress.

Among accomplishments recognized by industry officials are Taylor's role in the passage of an initiative that exempts the manufacturing of biotech products from state taxes and the creation of a permanent House committee for science and technology.

Taylor said that he was "thrilled" with the award because it tells him that Maryland "is on the right track."

BIO estimates that there are more than 13,000 biotech firms in the country today. In Maryland, nearly 1,000 firms employ about 100,000 people in Montgomery, Prince George's, Frederick, Howard and Anne Arundel Counties.



TAYLOR: THRILLED