

Courthouse News

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of Counties

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January 21, 2008



Message from the President

My family and I thank you for the wonderful time we had at the Inaugural Dinner. Even my grandkids were impressed.

We were touched by all the good wishes from our friends and colleagues. It was great to see everyone having such a good time.

Once again, I would like to congratulate Jan Gardner for doing such a tremendous job as MACo President this past year. As I said at the dinner, she will be a tough act to follow. She was a tireless advocate for MACo.

We can be proud of our special session effort. Under the MACo umbrella, county officials from across the State came together to protect local governments against further cuts in State aid. We made the tough decision to support Governor O'Malley's budget reconciliation plan. We were partners at the table solving the State's structural deficit. It was the right decision, and it gives us credibility as we move forward.

While we took some additional hits during the process, it certainly could have been much worse - just consider the "doomsday budget". That budget could have been a reality had the General Assembly failed to act. MACo's "front and center" support was certainly recognized and appreciated by State leaders.

Having Governor O'Malley install the board of directors at the inaugural dinner was quite an honor. Before dinner that evening, he spent almost an hour with MACo's leadership team discussing legislative priorities. He clearly appreciates the MACo family.

It was touching that during his speech the Governor reached out personally to both staff member Becky Black, who is in the midst of chemotherapy, and Marilyn Praisner, who is recovering from her automobile accident and pneumonia. It was great to see both of them at the Conference. They are passionate about their commitment to MACo and are an inspiration to us all.

We are very fortunate to have good friends like Senator Brian Frosh and Delegate Anne Healey. As Jan highlighted in her inaugural dinner remarks, they were staunch advocates for closing the

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Legislative Committee

January 23 Meeting CANCELLED

Next Meeting:

January 30 - 10:30 a.m.

Tax & Education Committees:

January 30 - 10:15 a.m.

Agenda

- I. Call to Order Wilson Parran,
..... Legislative Committee Chairman
- II. President's Comments Jim Smith
..... President
- III. Guest Speaker Warren Deschenaux,
..... Director, Office of Policy Analysis, DLS
- III. Bill Considerations Staff
- IV. Issues Update Staff

Very Important Dates!

August 13-16, 2008

Annual Summer Conference, Ocean City

October 22-24, 2008

Administrators/Attorneys Fall Conference - Annapolis

January 7-9, 2009

Annual Winter Conference - Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cambridge

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controlling interests loophole and, with MACo's continuing support, finally achieved success during the special session. I know they appreciated the MACo Recognition Awards they received.

Governor O'Malley certainly deserved his Recognition Award. His willingness to sacrifice short-term political gain to preserve the long-term fiscal health of the state was courageous. Jan was right to highlight the Governor's consistent position that passing budget challenges to the counties is not a fair or sensible policy.

The Winter Conference was a great success. It provided an invaluable forum for local government officials to get together and learn from one another. We not only discuss our challenges, but also share our successes, such as Baltimore City's CitiStat program. That program provides government with tools to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of its programs. We also highlighted Charles County's nationally recognized eScheduler program that manages their EMT and 911 communication staff's schedules and leave time. Let's keep looking for ways to promote these successes.

MACo is already very much involved in the 2008 Session. Just this week, Governor O'Malley announced that he will include \$333 million in school construction and renovation funds in his FY 09 capital budget. That is a major MACo victory that will make a real difference for school children across the State. In addition to the school construction funding, it appears as if the Governor's FY 09 budget spares local governments cuts beyond those enacted during the special session. That too is very encouraging. We are now in the process of evaluating cuts to State agencies that may eventually impact local government operations. We will continue to monitor that situation.

These challenges give credence to MACo's mission: We are committed to delivering essential services, resources and opportunities to our residents—young and old, rich and poor. MACo supports this mission by promoting cooperation and teamwork among our members and by representing our concerns as a single, non-partisan unit. Keeping this focus ensures our success.

The MACo staff has certainly gone the distance this past year, under most stressful circumstances. Not only was there a Special Session for them to navigate, but half of our eight-member staff had major surgeries. Please make sure to give them all a well-deserved pat on the back.

Over the next year, I plan to visit Baltimore City and each county seat to hear your thoughts and ideas on how, working together as MACo, we can build stronger individual jurisdictions and a stronger Maryland. I am looking forward to these roadtrips, that will begin soon after the Session concludes.

Serving as your President is a great honor. With your help and support, I know MACo will continue to excel.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.



James T. Smith, Jr.
President

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“Navigating the Storm” in Cambridge

Dorchester County was host to yet another successful Annual Winter Conference, January 2-4, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Hotel in Cambridge. More than 400 persons attended the conference, which also featured 29 tabletop technology exhibits. Of the 144 elected county officials in Maryland, 97 attended the conference.

At the Thursday Inaugural Dinner, Governor Martin O’Malley installed the 2008 MACo Officers and Board of Directors. (See page 4) Another conference highlight was hearing Speaker of the House Mike Busch, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee Chairman Ulysses Currie, and Governor O’Malley’s Senior Policy and Legislative Advisor Joe Bryce address upcoming General Assembly Session issues for local government at the first General Session on Friday.

The conference featured 60 speakers and 16 educational sessions, focusing on the theme, “Navigating the Storm.” Session topics included structural deficit, conducting effective meetings, risk management, program open space, smoking ban implementation, jail overcrowding, infrastructure planning for growth, Pre-K and K challenges for local government, transportation, water resources and others.

Program speakers included: Senators James N. Robey and Richard Colburn, Delegates Michael Smigiel, Jr., Murray Levy, and Melony Griffith, Secretary of Transportation John Porcari, Secretary, Department of Planning Richard Hall, State Superintendent of Schools Nancy Grasmick, Deputy Secretary, Department of the Environment Bob Summers, Executive Director, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials John Horsley, Vice-President, Government Relations, Restaurant Association of America Melvin Thompson and many other speakers from the private and public sectors.

The Annual Summer Conference is set for August 13-16, 2008 in Ocean City. The next Winter Conference is January 7-9, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Hotel in Cambridge.

Contact: *Ellen Clarke*

Your Source for Legislative Information

www.mdcountries.org

[Recent Committee Action](#) - bills and positions taken by the MACo Legislative Committee at their last meeting.

[Bills Position Summary](#) - all positions taken on bills by the Committee.

[Bills Pending Review](#) - bills pending review by the Committee at their next meeting.

[All Impact Bills](#) - all bills impacting local government.

[Major Issues Summary](#) – MACo initiative bills and other significant county government legislation.

[Testimony](#) – submitted testimony to G.A. Committees.

[Buddy System](#) – overview of MACo’s grassroots advocacy system.

Issue Areas for Staff

Legislative Director Michael Sanderson:

Taxes & Revenues
Finance
Business Affairs
Intergovernmental Relations
Health
Transportation and Public Works
Human Services
Elections
Parks & Recreation
Employee Benefits

Associate Director Les Knapp:

Planning and Zoning
Community and Economic Development
Environment
Education
Public Safety and Corrections
Government Liability and Courts
Public Ethics and Information
Employee Relations

Proposed State Budget Implements Few Local Government Surprises

As the Governor's proposed budget for FY 2009 has been released, its effect on counties and their budgets will be mixed. While the budget predictably implements the "slowdown" of Thornton school funding as accommodated by the actions of the Special Session, there is not a long list of apparent reductions on top of those already anticipated.

In addition to the budget itself, the Administration's Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (SB 91 and HB 101) has been released, and does not contain dramatic adjustments to any of the various statutory formulas for direct county government funding. Were any proposal for redirection of local highway funding or Program Open Space (major targets for state budget cutting in recent years) to be offered, the BRFA legislation would have been the most likely vehicle for any such proposals.

MACo and county officials are continuing to work with the Administration to assemble and summarize the effects of the proposed budget on county governments and distributions. A link to the "Budget Summary" document, including some 20 pages of local government information, is available on the MACo website at www.mdcounties.org, and MACo will make available any additional summary information as it becomes available.

Contact: Michael Sanderson

President and New Board Installed at Conference

Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith was elected and inaugurated as the 2008 President of the Maryland Association of Counties during the Winter Conference on January 3, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Hotel in Cambridge. President Smith will serve a one-year term, ending January 8, 2009.

President Smith began his career in public service as a member of the Baltimore County Council from 1978 to 1985, when he was appointed Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County. He stepped down from the bench in 2001 to run for County Executive. He

is a life long resident of Baltimore County. He and his wife Sandy have four children and nine grandchildren, and they live in the same Reisterstown neighborhood where they have lived for nearly 40 years.

The remaining newly elected officers include: 1st Vice President Wilson Parran, Commission President, Calvert County; 2nd Vice President David R. Craig, Harford County Executive; Secretary Wayne Cooper, Commission President, Charles County; and Treasurer Robert M. Hutcheson, Commissioner, Allegany County.

The 2008 Board of Directors include Cathleen M. Vitale, Council Chairperson, Anne Arundel County; Rochelle "Rikki" Spector, Council Member, Baltimore City; Fred Holliday, Commissioner, Garrett County; Ken Ulman, Howard County Executive; Marilyn J. Praisner, Council Member, Montgomery County; David Harrington, Chairman, Prince George's County Council; Sam Boston, Commissioner, Somerset County; Thomas A. Mattingly, Commissioner, St. Mary's County; Thomas G. Duncan, Council Member, Talbot County; Richard M. Pollitt, County Executive, Wicomico County; and Immediate Past President Jan Gardner, Commission President, Frederick County.

Contact: Ellen Clarke

Three Recognition Awards Presented at Inaugural Dinner

During the Inaugural and Awards Dinner on January 3, recognition awards were presented to Senator Brian Frosh, Delegate Anne Healey, and Governor Martin O'Malley. The prime focus of the awards was to show appreciation for efforts that resulted in the closing of the controlling interest loophole by which business entity transfers of property can avoid recordation and transfer taxes. Senator Frosh was also recognized for his support of speed camera authorization and Governor O'Malley was thanked for consistently arguing that shifting budget burdens to local governments was not fair or sensible policy.

President Gardner highlighted Delegate Healey's tenacity, noting that "...before th[e] special session, Delegate Healey worked diligently getting the bill passed in the House eight times, only to see it fail in the Senate. Talk about tenacity!"

As Senator Frosh had a conflict, Montgomery County Council Member Marilyn Praisner accepted the

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award on his behalf. She read a letter to MACo President Gardner in which the Senator noted that with both the controlling interests loophole closure and speed camera authorization efforts he had been “impressed with the quality of county staff work and the willingness of county elected officials to engage personally in the required advocacy.” After raising his disappointment with the failure to enact the speed camera authorization in 2003, he stated that “...[i]t is encouraging that both MACo and MML have made securing this authority a 2008 Session priority. I look forward to again working with the two Associations, the law enforcement community, and now, Governor O’Malley, to secure this needed authority.”

In presenting the award to Governor O’Malley, President Gardner emphasized his remaining true to his passions as Mayor, noting MACo’s desire to “energize” his speed camera interest. “For not only your first-hand understanding of local government challenges, but also for continued loyalty to MACo, we want to recognize you,” she explained.

Contact: David S. Bliden

Governor Meets with Officers & Installs New Board

Governor Martin O’Malley met with the MACo Officers and then attended the Winter Conference Inaugural Dinner, where he installed MACo’s new Board and made a brief speech on January 3. Before his speech, then MACo President Jan Gardner presented the Governor a recognition award, acknowledging his support for county government, particularly his advocacy for not shifting budget burdens to the counties. She also highlighted future opportunities for cooperation, such as with MACo’s effort to secure speed camera authority.

At the officers meeting, Commission President Gardner commended the Governor for his “exceptional [Special Session] reach out.” You were “always there,” responded the Governor, explaining he was “sorry about the dings” counties took during the Special Session. “It was not our intent.”

Baltimore County Executive Smith presented the Governor with a chart documenting Special Session county fiscal impact approaching \$400 million. Concerns were then raised about additional county

funding reduction in the 2008 Session arising from the state goal of reducing the budget by \$550 million. As the budget “goes through, we ask you try to protect us,” said President Smith.

Harford County Executive David Craig raised “project management” concerns regarding school projects and County Executive Smith suggested counties would be able to do those projects “cheaper and faster” than school boards. Governor O’Malley expressed frustration with the lack of standard school designs that could be used for school projects throughout the State.

Allegany County Commissioner Bob Hutcheson thanked the Governor for school construction and renovation funding, noting that his county would be building its first high school in 52 years. President Smith urged the Governor to include \$325 million for school construction and renovation in his FY09 budget, noting that this amount was the present value of the Kopp Commission target, \$250 million annually. Charles County Commission President Wayne Cooper asked the Governor to support speed camera authority, citing recent tragedies in Charles County resulting from speed limit violations. “I’m taking it a little personal,” he explained, recalling then Mayor O’Malley’s passionate support for MACo-supported 2003 authorizing legislation, which was vetoed by Governor Ehrlich.

“I’m for them,” responded the Governor, raising the need for the cameras not to be perceived as primarily for revenue generation, but for “saving lives.” County Executive Smith suggested a hiatus period after a local enactment during which only warning tickets would be issued.

“It’s as good as it gets,” observed President Smith at the meeting’s conclusion, referring to the working relationship between the Governor and MACo. Governor O’Malley then proceeded to the Inaugural Dinner, where he installed the Board and offered comments.

“Marty, honey, you have to get to MACo,” said the Governor during his Dinner remarks, recalling a conversation with Baltimore City Council Member Rikki Spector when he first became a City council member. “Once MACo, always MACo,” observed Commission President Gardner.

MACo “brings a tremendous amount of leadership,” explained Governor O’Malley, noting that “...because

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you were there, backing up Senators and Delegates,” the Special Session succeeded. “It’s all about partnership” and the Association’s “courage and consensus.”

Contact: David S. Bliden

Speaker Busch Addresses Board of Directors

House Speaker Michael Busch met with the MACo Board of Directors during MACo’s 2008 Winter Conference on January 4. The Speaker addressed county concerns about budget actions taken during the 2007 Special Session and made some predictions about the 2008 Session.

MACo President and Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith thanked Speaker Busch for his past support but cautioned that there was “still a lot left to be done.” The Speaker concurred, noting that it had been a “very challenging Special Session.” He cited the difficulty the Legislature had in freezing the Thornton inflation factor after many of its members had run on education issues. “It was an endeavor I never want to go through again.”

Speaker Busch warned that the State must still find \$250 million in cuts this Session. He stated that most local “cuts” suggested during the Special Session by the House Appropriations Committee dealt with the de-escalation of formula increases rather than actual cuts. He also argued that placing the \$82 million personal income tax exemption on the counties was the only way for the General Assembly to stay within Governor O’Malley’s budget plan while still helping the middle-class. He noted that the General Assembly did not want to reduce the State property tax as that funded the State’s capital budget.

President Smith responded that while “everybody participated in the pain, the counties participated a little more than we thought in the cuts and did not participate as much as we thought in the revenues, based on how the Transportation Trust funding worked out. [The counties] have contributed significantly already.”

Saint Mary’s County Commissioner Tom Mattingly expressed concern about the \$21 million transfer of local Program Open Space funds to run State parks. Speaker Busch suggested that the transfer was offset by the closure of the controlling interest loophole.

While recognizing that county transfer and

recordation taxes were not strong revenue sources now because of the flat real estate market, the Speaker argued that the counties would still gain when the market rebounded. Montgomery Council Member Marilyn Praisner observed that, “The idea that counties will be getting a controlling interest windfall is based on assumptions. I am concerned that the General Assembly will make further county cuts based on those assumptions.”

Speaker Busch reaffirmed the State’s commitment to school construction, noting that the House is committed to \$300 million for the FY 2009 capital budget but that it would work towards a goal of \$325 million. He also noted that if the General Assembly cuts more than \$250 million from the operating budget, some of that funding would be recycled into PAYGO funding, perhaps for school projects or higher education.

President Smith concluded, noting, “[The counties] really appreciate our access to you.”

“You are where the rubber meets the road,” responded Speaker Busch.

Contact: Leslie Knapp Jr.

Legislative Leaders Reflect and Look Ahead

During each Winter Conference, tradition holds that legislative leaders are invited to offer a perspective on the forthcoming General Assembly Session, and share their views on anticipated major issues. For the 2008 renewal of this tradition, House Speaker Mike Busch, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee Chairman Ulysses Currie, and Governor O’Malley’s Chief Legislative Officer Joe Bryce presented.

Newly installed MACo President Jim Smith welcomed Speaker Busch to share his thoughts on both the recent Special Session and the year ahead. Speaker Busch spoke about the varied and difficult challenges he faced, detailing the complex issues in mustering the consensus needed to pass the several pieces of legislation. “We needed delegates from different counties to get together on this,” he observed, “and the politics of it were very hard.” He followed up, observing, “[at one point] we were not sure we would have it together.”

Speaker Busch continued with observations about

the difficulty of addressing the long-standing “structural deficit” during the Special Session. “We didn’t have a budget in front of us,” he observed, “which made this even harder for many delegates.” He detailed the legislature’s interest in “identifying some possible budget cuts” and directing the Governor to reduce the anticipated FY 2009 budget from baseline figures.

Looking ahead to the 2008 Session, Speaker Busch commented on the continued fallout from economic uncertainty. He pointed out that “the transfer tax and Program Open Space is one sign of that.”

Chairman Currie followed the Speaker, offering his reflections on the Special Session as well. “We were very appreciative of the leadership we saw from MACo and the counties,” he offered, “you were there, we knew you were there.”

Chairman Currie discussed some of the difficult issues that eventually became part of the fiscal package, mentioning the “struggles” that the fiscal leaders had in working with various proposals for hotel taxes, transportation revenues, and sales tax expansion. The “computer tax (extending the state sales tax to cover certain computer services) was one of the hardest” items, he indicated, noting the likely vigorous effort to repeal the tax. He commented that a “hole in the budget” would occur if major components of the fiscal package were revisited or repealed.

Joe Bryce agreed with his fellow panelists on the Special Session’s many challenges. “I don’t think I want to ever go through that again.”

Mr. Bryce mentioned a few of the anticipated Governor’s legislative initiatives, mentioning legislation to address an anticipated rise in home foreclosures, and an expansion of the DNA database for offenders. He commented that the 2008 Session “can be a time to focus on other issues, with much of this [fiscal problem] behind us.”

Asked about details of the pending Governor’s budget, Mr. Bryce deferred, noting that “the Governor understands local governments and knows their importance.”

President Smith congratulated Mr. Bryce and the other panelists for their efforts and successes during the Special Session, and thanked each for his attendance and contribution to the conference.

Contact: Michael Sanderson

Governor Addresses County Planning Directors

Governor O’Malley addressed county, municipal, and State planners at their Fall Planning Directors Meeting on December 13. He asked local planners to provide some of the solutions to the State’s Smart Growth and planning challenges.

Noting the ongoing planning differences between different levels of government, Governor O’Malley was pleased that planning directors from all levels of government were meeting together. “It’s an amazing thing – cooperation and communication,” he stressed.

The Governor also stressed the “necessity of trying to preserve the beauty” of the State by “reawakening” a commitment to Smart Growth. He argued that this could be accomplished by building higher and denser neighborhoods close to employment centers and mass transit facilities. Noting that local land use authority is something that is “closely guarded,” Governor O’Malley expressed hope that some of the solutions could come from local planners. “I want to work with you and I hope you take advantage of this opportunity,” he said.

He acknowledged that local governments are already struggling under the burdens of recent land use legislation, including implementation of the municipal growth, water, and sensitive area elements of HB 1141 of 2006; the priority preservation area element of HB 2 of 2006; and the stormwater management practices of HB 786 of 2007.

Governor O’Malley also asked local governments to help the State collect the data necessary to construct a single statewide map that can be used by all jurisdictions for planning purposes. “If we are all working off the same map,” he stated, “we all know where we are going. None of us has been operating off the same map... Any help you can give us [for building a map] will be reciprocated by the State.”

When a Mount Airy planner questioned how the town could grow with no further water allocation, the Governor said new reservoirs would need to be considered. He stressed that the State had not been “keeping with the broken promise of Smart Growth – State infrastructure.” He noted that lack of infrastructure could further compound growth problems.

Contact: Leslie Knapp Jr.

MACo Legislative Initiatives Ready for Final Approval

MACo's annual slate of proposed legislative initiatives will be before the Legislative Committee for its first meeting of the Session. In the fall, the Legislative Committee made tentative decisions on the list of initiatives, with conditional approvals pending the outcome of a Special Session (at that time an uncertainty). In the wake of the November Special Session, the list has been refined and will be brought before the Committee once again for final approval.

The initiatives listed on the next page (page 9) for the 2008 Session are each familiar to county officials.

Contact: Michael Sanderson

Report From NACo

(Submitted by the MACo Board-designated members of the Board of the National Association of Counties, Julia Gouge and Marilyn Praisner.)

The NACo Board meets three times per year at the NACo meetings, including the Legislative Conference, the Annual Conference and the Western Regional Conference and at a separate Board-only meeting in December. At their December meeting, the Board reviewed NACo's fiscal situation and discussed the most recent NACo election cycle. NACo President Eric Coleman has appointed a committee to review the election process.

Maryland has two representatives because we are a 100% state, meaning all counties belong to NACo. That is important for a small state like Maryland and has served us well at the national level. Maryland has held many leadership positions on steering committees and NACo has elected three Presidents from Maryland, the most recent being former Howard County Councilmember C. Vernon Gray.

There is still an opportunity for others to join a NACo steering committee of your choice. Please consult the NACo website (www.naco.org) for committees. It's a wonderful opportunity to get more active in NACo, learn about issues, help shape NACo policies and make friends across this country. If you are interested, the application form must be submitted to MACo for the current MACo president to sign off (a fairly perform process) before it is submitted to NACo.

A good opportunity to learn more about federal issues and NACo's legislative objectives would be to attend the NACo Legislative Conference March 1-5 in Washington, D.C., where there are usually opportunities to hear from federal staff and federal elected officials. The steering committee meetings usually occur on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The NACo website includes a tentative agenda so you can plan your schedule, whether you commute or stay at a hotel.

We are always available to answer questions and provide additional information regarding our organization.

Contact: Julia Gouge, Carroll County Commission President (410) 386-2043

Marilyn Praisner, Council Member, Montgomery County Council member (240) 777-7968

Maryland Nonprofits Addressed by Staff

MACo Associate Director Leslie Knapp Jr. was a guest speaker for the Maryland Nonprofits Leaders program on December 19. The Leaders program is an annual series of classes designed to help nonprofit organizations become more knowledgeable about the State and local governments and be better advocates.

Mr. Knapp provided an overview of MACo and then discussed the composition and powers of the three forms of county governments: (1) commission; (2) charter; and (3) code. Mr. Knapp noted that while having three forms of county government lacks uniformity, it does allow the people of a county to choose the form of government that works best for them.

Mr. Knapp also discussed the county budget process and revenue sources, noting that county property and income taxes were the two largest sources of local revenue. He outlined State aid to counties, noting that \$248 million in State aid was cut during the 2007 Special Session.

Finally, Mr. Knapp offered some advice on how to best advocate interests with State and county officials. He stressed the need to be polite, honest, and offer practical solutions to identified problems. He noted that MACo was always willing to serve as a forum to hear any proposal that affected more than one county.

2008 Legislative Initiatives

County Budget Security - The State government, by all accounts, faces a substantial structural fiscal imbalance, with forecasts envisioning an approaching imbalance of over one billion dollars. Reducing "local aid" to solve the State's budget woes amounts to an unfair shift of burden - balancing the state budget on the backs of local tax increases, past and future. The State should maintain its commitments to public education, and to its modest share of costs for programs like police protection, local health departments, and targeted grant programs. Where state support has been abridged, a plan to reinstate appropriate support should be established.

School Construction & Renovation Funding - The State has pledged an eight-year commitment to fund the wide-ranging school construction and renovation needs inventoried in the School Facilities Act of 2004. However, rapidly escalating construction costs and an increasing student population continue to make the funding for these needed projects a challenge. Recently, the State has laudably increased its school construction and renovation funding and the counties have responded by providing their significant share of funding for local projects. But seeing these needed projects to completion requires a continued commitment. MACo urges the General Assembly to continue to make school construction and renovation funding a high priority through the duration of the School Facilities Act commitment.

3. Post-Employment Benefit Funding Options - With new GASB accounting rules requiring greater disclosure of long-term employee obligations (such as retiree health benefits and other post-employment benefits), governments are approaching this monumental fiscal challenge in a variety of ways. State law currently authorizes limited methods of use and investment of public funds - counties seek broader statutory authority to engage in some joint investment of their funding for these long-term purposes. Additionally, counties seek authority to ensure that county funding for related long-term liabilities for public school employees are properly accommodated within the funding structure for public schools.

4. Traffic Speed Monitoring Technology - Enforcement Authority - Maryland's use of traffic signal monitoring technology has been shown to reduce violations, accidents, and injuries at affected intersections. Similar technology in limited use in deterring speed violations on public roadways, with a goal of reducing dangerous speed violations, reducing accidents and injuries. Similar protections for special vehicle classes and/or non-owner operation may be implemented to recognize the nature of the enforcement technology. The State should authorize local governments to implement speed monitoring cameras, and issue civil citations to vehicle owners for registered violations.

Contact: Leslie Knapp Jr.

Briefly

Facilitation Services Available to Government

During Spring 2008, the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO) will offer a new free service to help resolve government and public policy disputes. Two experienced facilitators will be on contract with MACRO to coordinate collaborative consensus building processes and/or planning efforts in complex multi-party cases. Examples of the kinds of issues which would be appropriate include: community development disputes; BRAC related community planning; permitting and facility siting disputes; immigration issues; transportation planning; farming and community conflicts; and environmental protection conflicts. Government agencies or communities that are interested in discussing possible MACRO sponsored facilitation should contact: Ramona Buck, Public Policy Director, MACRO, ramona.buck@courts.state.md.us or call 410-260-3540.

Carroll County Wins Award in Energy Efficiency

Carroll County is one of six counties are being recognized by NACo, the U.S. EPA, Office Depot, and Wal Mart for their leading efforts in promoting energy efficiency among their county employees and residents. Carroll County won in the medium (population-sized) county) in the second year of the County ENERGY STAR Change a Light Campaign. This year, nationwide, more than 14,700 county employees and residents country pledged to replace incandescent bulbs or fixtures in their homes with one that has earned the government's ENERGY STAR label. This effort will help to prevent more than 6.1 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions, and save more than 4 million kilowatts per hour in energy and more than \$300,000 in energy costs. The campaign was conducted in two phases – one for county employees and one for county residents. Winning counties were determined by the percentage of their employees or percentage of the county population taking the pledge. Each winning county will receive 1,000 free compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) to distribute throughout their respective communities next year. Visit www.greencounties.org or contact Kelly Zonderwyk at kzonderwyk@naco.org or 202.942.4224.

PRINCIPAL ANALYST - FISCAL & POLICY ANALYSIS UNIT, OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR, BALTIMORE COUNTY - \$77,250+ DOQ. Seeks to fill an interesting and challenging principal-level analyst position. The Office of the County Auditor operates as part of the legislative branch of County Government and serves the Baltimore County Council in its legislative oversight function by providing independent auditing and other fiscal services such as economic analysis, revenue forecasting, fiscal impact analysis, budget analysis, and legislative research. The Fiscal & Policy Analysis Unit is responsible for a wide variety of activities, including: staffing the Council's Spending Affordability and Economic Advisory Committees; reporting on the County's economic indicators and revenue/expenditure projections; completing special projects, including policy research, at the request of the County Council; analyzing agency budget requests and the fiscal impact of proposed legislation; and other varied and challenging assignments. The principal-level analyst position reports to the Director of the Fiscal and Policy Analysis Unit and is responsible for performing, organizing, and managing independent economic analysis, revenue/expenditure forecasting, fiscal impact studies, and budget analysis, as well as supervising and reviewing the work of senior and staff analysts. The duties of the position include complex report writing and documentation of methodology. Required Qualifications: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in economics, math, public policy, or a related field; 7 years experience in the field of economics, forecasting, or fiscal/policy analysis, (progressive graduate degrees earned beyond bachelor's degree in economics, public policy, or related field may be substituted on a year-for-year basis for up to 5 years of the required experience); excellent written and oral communication skills; Enthusiasm for public service; strong attention to detail, with the ability to remain focused on the big picture; and advanced proficiency in performing spreadsheet and database analysis. Preferred Qualifications: Graduate degree in economics, public policy, or a related field; relevant government or forecasting experience; supervisory experience a plus. The position offers generous benefits, including health insurance, retirement plan, leave time, and educational assistance, as well as a convenient, suburban location in the heart of Towson, Maryland. Please send resume & cover letter to principalanalystposition@baltimorecountymd.gov or P.O. Box 6792, Towson, MD 21285-6792. Responses

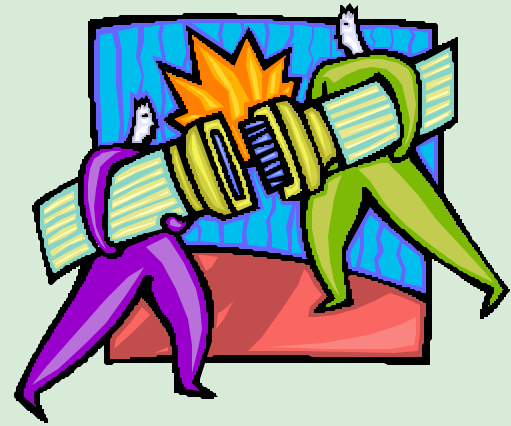
Job Openings

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received by **February 1, 2008** will receive first consideration. EOE

STAFF ANALYST - THE FISCAL & POLICY ANALYSIS UNIT, OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR, BALTIMORE COUNTY - \$40,000+ DOQ
- Seeks to fill an interesting and challenging staff-level analyst position. The Office of the County Auditor operates as part of the legislative branch of County Government and serves the Baltimore County Council in its legislative oversight function by providing independent auditing and other fiscal services such as economic analysis, revenue forecasting, fiscal impact analysis, budget analysis, and legislative research. The Fiscal & Policy Analysis Unit is responsible for a wide variety of activities, including: staffing the Council's Spending Affordability and Economic Advisory Committees; reporting on the County's economic indicators and revenue/expenditure projections; completing special projects, including policy research, at the request of the County Council; analyzing agency budget requests and the fiscal impact of proposed legislation; and other varied and challenging assignments. The staff analyst position is responsible for performing fiscal, policy, and budget analysis and research, as well as completing other projects, as assigned. The duties of the position include thoroughly documenting work methodology and assisting with report drafting. Required Qualifications: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in public policy, public administration, economics, or a related field; strong quantitative and analytical skills; excellent written and oral communication skills; enthusiasm for public service; strong attention to detail, with the ability to remain focused on the big picture; and computer proficiency, including proficiency in performing spreadsheet analysis. Preferred Qualifications: graduate degree in public policy or a related field; relevant government experience a plus. The position offers generous benefits, including health insurance, retirement plan, leave time, and educational assistance, as well as a convenient, suburban location in the heart of Towson. Please send resume & cover letter to staffanalystposition@baltimorecountymd.gov or P.O. Box 6792, Towson, MD 21285-6792. Responses received by **February 1, 2008** will receive first consideration. EOE



"Promoting County
Government Through
Technology"

August 13-16, 2008

**MACo
Annual Summer
Conference**

Convention Center
Ocean City

Watch for Details!

Impact Bills

January 17, 2008

NOTES: - The summaries of the bills listed below are taken directly from the synopsis provided by the Department of Legislative Services. When reporting on specific bills to the Legislative Committee, staff will make clarifications to the synopsis. MACo refines the list each week, consistent with the organization's by-laws, to bring before the Legislative Committee a list of Action Bills that represent opportunities for county input and effect. Visit www.mdcounties.org for daily updates about legislation impacting county government.

TAXES AND REVENUES

HB 54 - PROPERTY TAX – CREDIT – ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES (Delegate Guzzone) (Ways and Means) - Authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county or of a municipal corporation to grant, by law, a tax credit against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on real property equipped with specified accessibility features; authorizing the county or municipal corporation to provide, by law, for the amount and duration of the credit; applying the Act to taxable years beginning after June 30, 2008; etc. EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2008

HB 101/ SB 91 - BUDGET RECONCILIATION AND FINANCING ACT OF 2008 (The Speaker (By Request – Administration)) (Appropriations) (By Request – Administration)) (Budget and Taxation) - Increasing the program fee imposed on supervisees in the Drinking Driver Monitor Program; altering a requirement that the State budget include an appropriation to pay rent to counties for space occupied by court clerks; altering the calculation of specified State aid to private institutions of higher education and libraries; authorizing the use of specified funds for specified purposes; authorizing the transfer of specified funds; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

SB 8 - MARYLAND TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT (Senator Harris) (Budget and Taxation) - Proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution to require the approval of two-thirds of the members elected to each House of the General Assembly to pass legislation to increase the rate of an existing tax or to impose a tax on an individual or entity not subject to the tax at the time of consideration of the legislation; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection. CONTINGENT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 23 - MARYLAND GREEN BUILDINGS STANDARDS ACT OF 2008 (Delegate Manno) (Health and Government Operations and Appropriations) - Requiring specified buildings to be high performance buildings under specified circumstances; requiring the Department of Budget and Management to conduct a specified analysis of the costs and benefits of requiring specified buildings to be high performance buildings; requiring the Department to waive specified high performance building requirements under specified circumstances; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 28 - PROCUREMENT – PURCHASE OF APPAREL PRODUCED IN

THE UNITED STATES (Delegate Benson) (Health and Government Operations) - Requiring a public body to require that specified apparel production be performed in the United States; requiring that bidders for specified apparel contracts provide contracting public bodies with specified information; requiring that apparel contracts and bid application documents contain specified information; authorizing a public body to waive specified requirements of the Act under specified conditions; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 106 - STATE PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS – LIVING WAGE (Delegate Davis) (Economic Matters) - Altering a specified minimum wage rate that contractors and subcontractors under specified State contracts must pay to specified employees so that one specified rate applies to contracts in all areas of the State; repealing specified definitions; repealing the requirement that specified determinations be made about the location of contract services; altering the requirements for the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to make a specified assessment; and making specified conforming changes. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 125 - PROPERTY TAX – CHARTER COUNTIES – LIMITS (Delegates Hixson and McIntosh) (Ways and Means) - Authorizing the county council of a charter county, by a two-thirds vote of the full membership of the council, to set a property tax rate that is higher than the rate authorized under the county's charter or collect more property tax revenues than the revenues authorized under the county's charter, notwithstanding any provision of a county charter that places a limit on that county's property tax rate or revenues; and applying the Act to tax years beginning after June 30, 2008. EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2008

SB 17 - REAL PROPERTY – FORECLOSURES – NOTICES TO RECORD OWNERS (Senator Conway) (Judicial Proceedings) - Altering the times by which specified notices of foreclosure are required to be sent to a record owner. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

SB 79 - CREDIT UNIONS – DEPOSITS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MONEY (Senator Kelley, et al) (Budget and Taxation) - Authorizing specified local governmental units to deposit unexpended or surplus money in specified accounts at federally insured credit unions; requiring that specified collateral be given as security for deposits made in accounts at the credit unions; authorizing the local governmental units to make deposits in accounts at the credit unions without the specified collateral under specified circumstances; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

SB 113 - HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – APPLICATIONS – USE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS (Senator Haines, et al) (Budget and Taxation) - Prohibiting the State Department of Assessments and Taxation from requiring homeowner Social Security numbers on applications for qualification for the homestead property tax credit; etc. EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2008

EDUCATION

HB 8 - LOTTERY FOR SCHOOLS ACT OF 2008 (Delegate Holmes) (Ways and Means) - Requiring the Comptroller to distribute 25% of specified lottery proceeds to public school systems for classroom staff and instructional materials; requiring that 75% of specified lottery

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proceeds be distributed to the General Fund of the State and used for the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Program; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 15 - TASK FORCE ON CLASSROOM INDOOR AIR QUALITY STANDARDS (Delegate Rice) (Ways and Means) - Establishing a Task Force on Classroom Indoor Air Quality Standards; establishing the membership and staffing of the Task Force; providing for the designation of the chair of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to evaluate and make recommendations regarding specified issues; etc. EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2008

HB 21 - EDUCATION – COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE – AGE OF WITHDRAWAL (Delegate Braveboy) (Ways and Means) - Altering the age at which a child may withdraw from required schooling to 18 years old; requiring specified individuals with the legal custody or care and control of children between the ages of 5 and 18 years old to see that the children attend school or receive specified instruction; and providing for a delayed effective date. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2010

HB 49 - EDUCATION – MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT TEST RESULTS (Delegate Ross) (Ways and Means) - Requiring the State Board of Education to report to each county board on or before July 1 each year on the performance of each student in the local school system on the Maryland High School Assessment. EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2008

HB 75 - JUVENILES – ARRESTS FOR REPORTABLE OFFENSES – EXPANSION OF NOTIFICATION (Delegate Shewell, et al) (Judiciary) - Expanding provisions relating to the required notification to a local public school superintendent of the arrest of a public school student for a reportable offense to apply to the notification to a specified nonpublic school official of the arrest of a nonpublic school student for a reportable offense; and providing for the confidentiality of information obtained by the nonpublic school official. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 119 - EDUCATION – REPORTING REQUIREMENT – CLASS SIZE (Delegate Cardin, et al) (Ways and Means) - Requiring the State Department of Education to develop a uniform data collection method to track the number of students who regularly participate in a classroom teacher's class; requiring the method to reflect the number of these students in a classroom teacher's class as of September 30 of each year; requiring each county board of education to implement the method and report the results to the Department on or before November 1 of each year; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 121/ SB 50 - EDUCATION – SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES – CHILDREN IN A HOME SCHOOL SETTING (Delegate Lafferty, et al) (Ways and Means) (Senator Brochin) (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) - Requiring that a child with a disability in a home school setting be given the same consideration as a child with a disability in a private school setting for the purpose of passing through federal funds for the provision of specified federally authorized special education services; and defining "child in a home school setting". Preliminary analysis: local government mandate EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

SB 77 - EDUCATION – CHILDREN IN INFORMAL KINSHIP CARE

RELATIONSHIPS (Senator Kelley, et al) (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) - Requiring a superintendent of schools of a county to allow a child to attend a public school in a school attendance area other than the school in the school attendance area where the child is domiciled with the child's parent or legal guardian if the child lives with a relative in the school attendance area in an informal kinship care relationship due to a serious family hardship; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

SB 78 - TASK FORCE TO STUDY SYSTEM VARIABLES THAT IMPACT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN UNDERPERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Senator Kelley, et al) (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) - Establishing the Task Force to Study System Variables That Impact Student Achievement in Underperforming Public Schools; providing for the membership, purposes, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving compensation but entitling members to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations in the State budget; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

SB 85 - SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION – STATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL – EXEMPTION (Senator Glassman) (Budget and Taxation) - Exempting specified school construction projects funded without State funds from the requirement of approval by the State Superintendent of Schools. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

SB 96 - EDUCATION – TRUANCY RATES – POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION PROGRAMS (Senator Pugh, et al) (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) - Requiring a county board of education to require a school that has a truancy rate that exceeds specified standards to implement a positive behavioral interventions and support program or an alternative, research-based, positive, and effective behavior modification program in collaboration with the State Department of Education; etc. Preliminary analysis: local government mandate EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

HB 33 - JUNK DEALERS AND SCRAP METAL PROCESSORS – COPPER SCRAP METAL – REQUIRED RECORDS (Delegate Sophocleus) (Economic Matters) - Requiring junk dealers and scrap metal processors to keep records of purchases of copper scrap metal; requiring junk dealers and scrap metal processors who are residents of the State to keep the records for 3 years; providing that the records shall be open to inspection by law enforcement personnel; requiring nonresident junk dealers and scrap metal processors to submit the records to the sheriff of the county where the copper scrap metal was purchased before leaving the State; establishing specified penalties; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 82 - PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES – ELECTRIC COMPANIES AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLIERS – REGULATION (Delegate Stukes, et al) (Economic Matters) - Returning electric generation to the status of a utility service subject to regulation by the Public Service Commission; requiring a public service company to charge just and reasonable rates for its utility services; requiring a public service company to file a specified tariff schedule of specified rates and charges with the Commission; providing that a specified electric company or electricity supplier may

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apply to the Commission to adjust specified rates and charges; etc. VARIOUS EFFECTIVE DATES

ELECTIONS

HB 48 - ELECTION JUDGES TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM (Delegate Ross) (Ways and Means) - Establishing the Election Judges Training Pilot Program to be administered by the Center for American Politics and Citizenship and the Center for the Study of Democracy; requiring that the pilot program be administered in conjunction with the State Board of Elections; specifying the purpose of the pilot program; requiring the Governor to include specified funds in the State budget to pay for the pilot program; requiring the Centers to submit a specified report; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 102/SB 54 - VOTER'S RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT OF 2008 (Delegate Rosenberg, et al) (Ways and Means) (Senator Gladden, et al) (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) - Altering the circumstances under which an individual may be offered the opportunity to cast a provisional ballot; requiring the State Board of Elections to ensure that the program of instruction for election judges incorporates a thorough and detailed treatment of specified information; prohibiting a vacancy in polling place staff from delaying the opening of the polling place; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

SB 73 - ELECTION LAW – ROTATION OF CANDIDATES NAMES ON THE BALLOT (Senator Kelley, et al) (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) - Requiring that the names of specified candidates be listed on the ballot in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board of Elections; requiring the regulations to include a protocol for the rotation of the names of specified candidates; and providing that the Act applies to each election beginning with the 2010 primary and general elections. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

SB 92 - ELECTIVE FRANCHISE – YOUTH VOTER REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS (Senator Raskin, et al) (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) - Authorizing specified citizens who are less than 18 years old to register to vote; authorizing specified citizens who are less than 18 years old to vote in specified primary or special elections under specified circumstances; making stylistic changes; and submitting the amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection. CONTINGENT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

HB 40 - FLEXIBLE LEAVE ACT (Delegate Doory) (Economic Matters) - Authorizing employees of specified employers to use leave with pay for the illness of the employee's immediate family; providing that an employee may only use leave with pay that has been earned; providing that an employee who earns more than one type of leave with pay may elect the type and amount of leave with pay to be used; requiring an employee who uses leave with pay under the Act to comply with the terms of a collective bargaining agreement or employment policy with a certain exception; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

ENVIRONMENT

SB 106 - NATURAL RESOURCES – ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND – USES (Senator Astle) (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) - Expanding the uses of the Environmental Trust Fund to include grants to counties in which a power plant is located for research on the localized environmental impacts caused by the power plant. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

GOVERNMENT LIABILITY & COURTS

SB 114 - CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – POSTCONVICTION PROCEEDING – VENUE (Senators Brochin and Stone) (Judicial Proceedings) - Altering the venue for a postconviction proceeding. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HEALTH

SB 86 - CRIMES – POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES – PENALTIES – DISTRIBUTION TO COUNTY RESIDENTIAL DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES FUNDS (Senator Brochin) (Judicial Proceedings) - Altering the penalties for crimes relating to the possession of controlled dangerous substances; establishing minimum and maximum fines for possession crimes; requiring District Court clerks and circuit courts to remit specified fines to the counties to be distributed into specified funds established in each county; requiring establishment of a county residential drug abuse treatment services fund in each county; providing that a county fund may be used only to fund residential drug treatment services in the county; etc. Preliminary analysis: local government mandate EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

PLANNING & ZONING

SB 80 - RADIO COMMUNICATIONS – REGULATION OF AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT – LIMITATIONS (Senator Klausmeier, et al) (Judicial Proceedings) - Requiring local zoning authorities to comply with specified federal regulations governing amateur radio service; prohibiting specified homeowners associations from restricting or prohibiting the design, placement, screening, height, or use of specified amateur radio equipment; prohibiting specified exempt homeowners associations from amending, on or after October 1, 2008, specified governing documents to further restrict or prohibit amateur radio equipment on the property of lot owners; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS

HB 6/ SB 76 - CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION – ELECTRONIC RECORDATION (Delegate Anderson, et al) (Judiciary) (Senator Conway, et al) (Judicial Proceeding) - Establishing that it is the public policy of the State that custodial interrogations of criminal suspects be recorded whenever practicable; requiring that an electronic recording be made of specified custodial interrogations except under specified circumstances; establishing that the State shall bear the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, that a specified exception to the requirement to record a custodial interrogation is applicable; requiring the State to file a specified notice under specified circumstances; etc. Preliminary analysis: local government mandate EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2010

HB 18 - SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY – FORMER NAMES, NICKNAMES, AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION IDENTIFIERS (Delegate

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Smigiel) (Judiciary) - Requiring that the registration statement of an individual required to register as a sex offender include the registrant's former names, nicknames, electronic mail addresses, computer log-in or screen names or identities, instant-messaging identities, and electronic chat room identities that the registrant has used. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 61/SB 24 - SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION ACT TASK FORCE (Delegate Stifler) (Judiciary) (Senator Simonaire, et al) (Judicial Proceedings) - Establishing a Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act Task Force; providing for the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for the appointment of the chair and for the staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving specified compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive reimbursement for specified expenses; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 107 - PUBLIC SAFETY – DNA DATA BASE SYSTEM – SAMPLE COLLECTION ON ARREST (Delegate Kramer, et al) (Judiciary) - Requiring the collection of a DNA sample from an individual arrested for a felony or specified burglary offenses; requiring the sample to be collected at the facility where the arrest is processed; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

SB 43 - SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRATION INFORMATION – RE-INCARCERATION FOR NEW CRIME (Senator Stone) (Judicial Proceedings) - Requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to make available to the public a registration statement or information about the registration statement of a registrant of the State sexual offender registry who is re-incarcerated due to a conviction for a new crime during the term of the registrant's registration; and requiring information about the registration statement of a specified registrant to include a notation indicating that the registrant is incarcerated. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

SB 51 - PUBLIC SAFETY – STATEWIDE DNA DATA BASE SYSTEM – SAMPLE COLLECTION ON ARREST – FIRST AND SECOND DEGREE RAPE (Senator Stone, et al) (Judicial Proceedings) - Requiring the collection of a DNA sample from an individual under arrest for first or second degree rape; altering a definition; requiring a DNA sample to be collected at the facility where a specified arrest is processed; authorizing a specified individual to request expungement of specified DNA-related information if the individual's arrest meets specified criteria; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

SB 56 - SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY – IDENTIFYING INFORMATION (Senator Zirkin, et al) (Judicial Proceedings) - Requiring that the registration statement of an individual required to register as a sex offender include the registrant's current or former aliases, names, nicknames, chat room identities, computer log-in or screen names, Internet identities, and instant-messaging identities that the registrant has used. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

HB 78 - STATE REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION – MASS TRANSIT – REQUIRED ELEMENT (Delegate Holmes) (Environmental Matters) -

Requiring the State Department of Transportation to include in the Consolidated Transportation Program the projected mass transit needs of the State and a list of any mass transit projects planned for specified years; requiring the Department to include a 20-year forecast of the State's transportation needs for each modal administration and a summary of projects and programs proposed to accomplish specified goals and objectives for each modal administration in the Maryland Transportation Plan; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SB 12 - INCOME TAX – SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION – UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY – REQUIREMENTS (Senator McFadden) (Budget and Taxation) - Altering the required length of active membership for an individual to be eligible for a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for service in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary; repealing obsolete language; applying the Act to tax years after 2007; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 37 - MEDICARE PART D “DONUT HOLE” TAX ASSISTANCE ACT (Delegate Manno) (Ways and Means) - Providing for a Maryland income tax subtraction modification of 50% of qualified prescription drug expenses of an individual eligible for prescription drug coverage under Part D of the Medicare Program and is enrolled in the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program; limiting the subtraction to 7.5% of an individual's federal adjusted gross income if the individual itemizes deductions; applying the Act to tax years after 2007; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 46 - INCOME TAX – ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS – TREATMENT OF GAMBLING LOSSES (Delegate Ross) (Ways and Means) - Providing for the Maryland income tax treatment of losses from gambling claimed as a federal itemized deduction; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 79 - INCOME TAX EXEMPTION AMOUNTS – BLIND AND ELDERLY INDIVIDUALS (Delegate Holmes) (Ways and Means) - Increasing the amount allowed as a deduction for additional exemptions under the Maryland income tax for individuals who, as of the last day of the taxable year, are blind or are at least 65 years old, from \$1,000 to \$3,200 for tax years 2008 and beyond; making the additional exemption amounts subject to specified reductions based on the federal adjusted gross income of the individual; applying the Act to tax years beginning after December 31, 2007; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 100/ SB 90 - BUDGET BILL (FISCAL YEAR 2009) (The Speaker (By Request – Administration)) (Appropriations) (The President (By Request – Administration)) (Budget and Taxation) - Making the proposed appropriations contained in the State Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, in accordance with Article III, Section 52 of the Maryland Constitution; etc.

HB 122 - INCOME TAX – SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION – RETIREMENT INCOME (Delegate Costa, et al) (Ways and Means) - Including income from specified retirement plans within a subtraction modification allowed under the income tax for retired individuals who are at least 65 years old or who are disabled or whose spouse is disabled; applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008