

Courthouse News

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of Counties

Volume 30 Number 5

February 18, 2008

Speaker Busch Addresses Legislative Committee

House Speaker Michael Busch addressed the MACo Legislative Committee on February 13. The Speaker discussed the condition of the State economy and offered his perspective on issues of county concern.

“Speaker Busch is a good friend in a high place,” said Legislative Committee Chairman Wilson Parran in introducing the Speaker. He expressed appreciation for the Speaker’s past support of MACo issues, noting the Speaker’s frequent participation in MACo events, such as conferences and board meetings.

The Speaker advised that the House would support Governor O’Malley’s proposed \$333 million appropriation for public school construction and renovation, saying it was doubtful the House could go much higher. He explained the Governor had already allocated about 75% of the proposed funding and from the remaining \$112 million, approximately \$73 million would be allocated through the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC). The distribution of the remaining \$30 million would be at the discretion of the General Assembly, but the funding could only go to IAC-designated “A” or “B” projects.

The Speaker proudly noted that for FY 2008 and 2009, the State will have provided \$733 million for school construction projects, a rate that exceeds the annual \$250 million contribution recommended by the Task Force to Study Public School Facilities. He also noted that community colleges would be receiving \$81 million in the FY 2009 budget, an amount higher than requested. Allegany County Commissioner Robert Hutcheson thanked Speaker Busch for his commitment to funding school projects.

Speaker Busch said the House would support a statewide bill authorizing a county or municipality to enact a transfer tax, noting six counties still lack such authority. He urged MACo to be aggressive in supporting the bill, noting the MACo-MML accommodation was much welcomed.

The Speaker’s observations about the economy were less favorable. “The economy is not where we would like it,” he advised, cautioning that the State is facing another possible \$100 million write down of projected revenues. He explained that while the

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Legislative Committee Meeting

February 20 - 10:30 a.m.

Tax & Education Subcommittees:

February 20 - 10:15 a.m.

Guest Speaker:

Senate President
Mike Miller

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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revenue from the State sales tax was down, income tax revenue was holding steady and corporate taxes were performing better than expected.

He warned that the counties would likely be more impacted than the State by the real estate slow down because a county's transfer tax revenue goes directly into its general fund. Acknowledging the counties' increasingly dire economic situation and the State aid reductions that counties experienced as a result of the 2007 Special Session, the Speaker stated, "I don't foresee any further cuts to county governments."

Speaker Busch expressed concern about the proliferation of electronic gaming machines in fire halls and similar locations and the impact of the machines on State lottery revenues. He noted that the House would likely study the problem over the interim and consider potential legislation on the issue during the 2009 session. He raised a concern about regional gaming commissions undermining the funding and oversight responsibilities of local governments.

Saint Mary's County Commissioner Thomas

Mattingly raised concern about the Administration's bill to revise the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program (SB 844/HB 1253). He explained the bill would grant new oversight authority to the Critical Area Commission and require increased enforcement duties from the counties.

Commissioner Mattingly noted support for the goals of the Commission but raised concerns about how the bill would impact local land use authority. He raised specific frustration with a St. Mary's school project being rejected by the Commission after two years of intense county planning. Speaker Busch promised to review the bill, noting, "[t] here has to be a balance in there."

Contact: *Leslie Knapp Jr.*

Press Conference Supports \$33m for School Funding

MACo President, Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith and 15 county elected officials held a press conference on February 13 in the Senate East Conference Center to urge the General Assembly to support Governor Martin O'Malley's request for \$333 million for school renovation and construction funding. Earlier this week, the Senate's Budget and Taxation Committee met to consider the Governor's request, and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and Economic Development held a hearing on the school renovation and construction budget.

Speaking in support of the funding, President Smith said, "Quality education in our public schools is the foundation of our future. Maryland's children, from Pre K through grade 12, deserve schools where roofs don't leak. They deserve classrooms where they don't have to wear coats to stay warm. They deserve schools with 21st Century science labs. They deserve schools with computer labs and libraries. They deserve classrooms and not trailers. They deserve our commitment!"

Securing full funding for school renovation and construction is a major legislative priority for MACo in the 2008 General Assembly session. During the press conference, elected officials highlighted the partnership between state and local government.

Commissioner Hutcheson told the media, "Having been able to build our first new high school in over 50

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years, the Board of Education and the County Commissioners are very aware of the importance of this funding. Plans are being made to up-grade two middle schools that are over 40 years old. Projects of this magnitude require funding from the state.”

Other speakers included Calvert County Commission President Wilson Parran, Wicomico County Executive Rick Pollitt, Harford County Executive David Craig, Allegany County Commissioner Bob Hutcheson, Anne Arundel County Council President Cathy Vitale, and Baltimore City Council Member Rikki Spector.

Other county elected officials present included Cecil County Commissioner Wayne Tome, Howard County Council Member Jen Terrasa, Garrett County Commissioner Fred Holliday, St. Mary's County Commissioner Tom Mattingly, Wicomico County Council Members John Cannon and Gail Bartkovich, and Somerset County Commissioner Sam Boston.

In addition to the educational impact of school construction funding, President Smith also emphasized its economic impact. According to protocols established by Maryland's Department of Business and Economic Development, the \$1 billion investment in school infrastructure will generate 8,000 construction jobs and 6,000 secondary employment opportunities across the state. The estimated salary for those 14,000 jobs is \$609 million.

Contact: *Ellen Clarke*

Transit Development Bill Supported

MACo Associate Director Leslie Knapp Jr. testified in support of House Bill 373 before the House Environmental Matters Committee on February 12. This Administration bill would promote State and local government partnerships to make the best use of property around a transit station and enhance the desirability and effectiveness of a mass transit system.

HB 373 would authorize the Secretary of Transportation to designate certain areas for “transit-oriented development.” These areas must be adjacent to, or within one-half mile of, an existing or planned transit station and be targeted for mix-used development. The development must also be planned to maximize the use of transit, walking, and bicycling.

Your Source for Legislative Information

www.mdcounties.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

Before designating an area for transit-oriented development, the Secretary must consult with the Secretaries of Business and Economic Development, General Services, Housing and Community Development, the Environment, and Planning.

Secretary of Transportation John Porcari testified in support of the bill and offered two amendments. The first would require the State to consult with the affected local government before an area is designated for transit-oriented development. The second would clarify that the provision of the bill could not be construed to supersede a local government's land use authority.

Mr. Knapp testified that mass transit stations are an important factor for a citizen deciding where to live. He stressed that encouraging mixed-use development around these stations can enhance their attractiveness even further. He noted county governments have partnered with the Maryland Department of Transportation in the past on transit-oriented development projects and that the bill simply codifies current practice. He also supported the two amendments proposed by Secretary Porcari.

Secretary of Planning Richard Hall also testified in support of the bill. The Senate crossfile, SB 204, was heard on February 6. Please see Volume 30, Number 4 of the *Courthouse News* for more information on that bill hearing.

Contact: *Leslie Knapp Jr.*

Open Meetings Law Changes Opposed

MACo Associate Director Leslie Knapp Jr. joined with MML and the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) representatives to testify in opposition to House Bill 349 before the House Health and Government Operations Committee on February 14. Mr. Knapp argued that the bill would weaken the ability of the public body to act in the best interests of its citizens.

HB 349 would require that all votes taken by a public body be done in public session, unless otherwise required by law. The voting requirement would extend to issues that a public body can consider in a closed session.

Maryland's Open Meeting Act recognizes 14 issues

that a public body can discuss in closed session. These issues include discussion of personnel issues, acquisition of real property, consultation with staff or others about pending or potential litigation, collective bargaining or contract negotiation strategies, investigation of actual or possible criminal conduct, and certain public security matters.

The bill's sponsor, Delegate Elizabeth Bobo, testified that a public body could still go into closed session to discuss an issue, but that any final vote on the issue would have to be done in public.

Mr. Knapp argued that some votes should be taken in private. He noted holding a public vote on whether or not to fire or discipline an employee could embarrass the employee and expose members of the public body to possible reprisal.

Mr. Knapp also stressed the same problem could apply to a vote concerning a property acquisition strategy. He noted that a public body could vote to acquire a piece of property for up to \$500,000 but that the opening offer would be \$450,000. If the vote were taken in open session, the seller would be aware of exactly how much money the public body was willing to spend to acquire the property, thus defeating the whole purpose of discussing the strategy in closed session. Mr. Knapp noted the same problem would apply to litigation, collective bargaining, and contract negotiation strategies.

Mr. Knapp concluded by noting that the Open Meetings Act already provides for adequate public notice and remedies for closed session activities. If a public body meets in closed session, the minutes of the public body's next open session must include a listing of the topics of discussion, persons present, and each action taken during the closed session. If a member of the public feels that the public body has discussed or voted on items in closed session beyond those permitted by law, then the member may file a complaint with the Open Meetings Compliance Board or petition the circuit court to void the action of the public body.

MML Governmental Relations Director Candace Donoho and MABE Government Relations Director John Woolums also testified in opposition to the bill.

Contact: *Leslie Knapp Jr.*

Clarifying Bill on Tax Refund Interest Supported

House Bill 429, introduced by the Harford County Delegation, would clarify that a county providing a personal property tax refund due to the taxpayer's oversight or error will not be responsible for interest on the overpayment. The House Ways and Means Committee heard the bill on February 12. MACo Legislative Director Michael Sanderson and Harford County Attorney Robert McCord testified in support of the bill.

Mr. McCord indicated the bill arises from a recent court decision where the Court of Appeals required Harford County to pay full "redemption" interest (at the rate applied for overdue taxes) on a substantial multi-year overpayment made from a taxpayer error. Language in that decision indicated the court looked at provisions in law amended in 2002, and suggested that future cases might require county interest payments as well, as one amended section only mentioned "municipal corporations" and not counties.

Mr. Sanderson suggested that, "the bill passed in 2002 we hoped would clarify all this, but this opinion tells us we need to set it straight." He acknowledged amendment language sought by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, and suggested, "we are all testifying to the same end here."

Since the hearing, MACo has worked with the several interested parties on a clarifying amendment to HB 429, and hopes to see the amended version of the bill considered by the Committee soon.

Contact: Michael Sanderson

Counties Oppose Eliminating Special Taxing Districts

Senate Bill 381, heard before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee on February 13, would eliminate counties' authority to establish special taxing districts that include any residential property. The sponsor, Senator Jim Rosapepe, was joined by numerous residents of one community in claiming that a special taxing district was created in their area without proper notice to the new residents.

MACo Legislative Director Michael Sanderson was

among several bill opponents, raising concerns with the bill as "overbroad." He commented on "the nature of county government in Maryland" noting that "practically necessitates districts like these to allow service delivery to a range of communities within a county." He also predicted, "the practical effect of [the bill] would be to force all the other county taxpayers to provide these localized services."

Several individual county representatives joined MACo in opposition, presenting the merits of current or proposed special taxing districts. The Maryland Homebuilders Association and the Maryland Association of Realtors also opposed the bill.

"If this were a bill about the process for notifying the public," Mr. Sanderson offered, "or a bill that dealt with just the situation you have heard about, we might not be here. But this bill jeopardizes a wide range of effective and popular programs."

Contact: Michael Sanderson

Fix to Tax Sale is "Ripe"

Testifying before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee on SB 406, MACo Legislative Director Michael Sanderson suggested that a remedy to several problems facing tax sales was "ripe," and pledged MACo's help toward a resolution. "Counties are in the middle on tax sales," he explained, "we don't want the property owner to be unfairly hit by fees... and we want the process to be fair to the bidders and certificate holders."

Senate Bill 406 is one of several bills introduced this Session to alter provisions of law governing charges levied on a tax sale, and the fees and procedures that occur after a property has been through the tax sale process. Much of the focus has been on attorney fees assessed when the property owner seeks the property subject to the tax sale. Tax sale bidders and citizen advocates similarly expressed an interest in working toward a mutually agreeable resolution.

Committee Chairman Ulysses Currie indicated interest in a "work group" approach to address the multiple issues raised by SB 406 and several other pending bills.

Contact: Michael Sanderson

Zoning Standing Bill Opposed

MACo Executive Director David Bliden and Associate Director Les Knapp testified against HB 246, which would essentially extend standing in charter counties for appeals from boards of appeals to all property taxpayers in the county. Under present law, the person appealing has to be aggrieved, meaning, as Maryland's highest court has stated, that "...[t] he decision must not only affect a matter in which the...[person appealing]... has a specific interest or property right but...[that] interest ... must be such that ...[the person appealing] is personally and specially affected in a way different from that suffered by the public generally." *Bryniarski v. Montgomery County*, 247 Md. 137,144 (1966)

Bill sponsors argued the bill would promote equity by placing charter counties in the same status as other counties where by existing law, property taxpayers do have standing to appeals boards of appeals decisions to circuit court. Mr. Bliden explained that in practice, the bill would affect seven of the ten charter counties, since Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and Baltimore City have broader standing due to their unique status in State law.

"It's a cost and prioritization issue," said Mr. Bliden, arguing that the bill would increase litigation expenses and force other priorities aside, such as enforcement actions. He explained that the increase in appeals would require additional county attorneys and "...lawyers are expensive...with one lawyer equal to two police officers or teachers." With the court docket dictating a county attorney's office schedule, he argued the new appeals would require other priorities to "...go to the bottom of the in-box."

Mr. Bliden suggested the aggrieved person standards makes sense as it assures "there is a true beef between litigants," which is "...what a court action is about." Extending standing beyond the "see, hear, or smell" vision of aggrievement would promote esoteric litigation since the person appealing might not have a true stake in the outcome. He presented a practical example where a taxpayer living almost 25 miles from the site of a proposed development could appeal a board of appeals decision, for whatever reason.

Mr. Bliden argued that in a home rule county, the issue of standing should be left to the county councils, noting that if citizens were not satisfied, a charter amendment could be sought. In response to Committee

member questions about this authority, he offered MACo support for statutory clarification of that power.

Several Committee members raised issue with the disparity among the counties insofar as standing. In this regard, Mr. Bliden noted that the State Administrative Procedures Act also limits standing to aggrieved persons.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce and State Homebuilders Association also opposed the bill. Several environmental groups urged the bill's passage.

Contact: David S. Bliden

MDOT Offers Local Road Needs Survey

During the transportation panel presentation at the MACo Winter Conference, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Secretary John Porcari offered to have MDOT work with local governments in documenting local transportation needs. The offer was in response to frustration with county losses in transportation funding opportunities during the Special Session.

During the Special Session the General Assembly chose not to honor the traditional sharing of transportation revenues, as Governor O'Malley proposed, with his transportation-funding bill allocating approximately \$80 million to local governments. Not only was the \$80 million lost, but the grant of an exemption from the titling tax for the trade-in value of a vehicle resulted in an additional loss of \$16 million.

As a follow-up to Secretary Porcari's offer, a meeting of MDOT representatives and county engineers was convened at the MACo offices on February 11. MACo Executive Director David Bliden and MML Executive Director Scott Hancock also participated. Representing MDOT was Director, Office of Finance, Fred Rappe and Michelle Martin and Heather Murphy from the MDOT planning office.

"Obviously you were all hurt," observed Mr. Rappe, referring to the Special Session actions. He explained Secretary Porcari's goal as finding "...what can we do to help the locals articulate..." their transportation needs to help "build the case" for local revenues. At the minimum "...we want to make sure it does not happen again."

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“The key work is system preservation,” said County Engineers Association (CEAM) President and Prince George’s County Dept. of Public Works and Transportation Chief of Highways and Bridges, Jim Wilson, noting that only three to four percent of his county’s budget was directed to new construction. “Our backlog is measured, not in years, but decades.” “It’s strictly preservation,” added Harford County Land Use and Transportation Section Planner Alex Rawls.

Mr. Bliden suggested working with MDOT to create a “template” for a needs survey, which could be “packaged” by MDOT. He predicted the MDOT presentation would lend credence to the local government needs presentations previously offered to the General Assembly.

Mr. Rappe emphasized the need to document how the State distributions were used and the needs backlog. “How do we define the backlog,” he queried. “We need to identify what projects are sitting on the shelf,” suggested Mr. Hancock.

At the meeting’s conclusion it was suggested that CEAM President Wilson designate members to work with MDOT in crafting the survey. It was agreed that those members would include municipal representatives and reflect a regional balance.

Contact: David S. Bliden

Job Openings

GENERAL ROADS SUPERINTENDENT – ROADS DEPT. - GARRETT COUNTY - This is an executive position for the administration of the daily operation of the Garrett Co. Roads Dept. consisting of 130 employees. Essential Duties and Responsibilities: Administer daily operation of Co. Roads Dept.; Develop and implement policies/procedures to improve operations; Effectively provide management of Human Resources; Develop/implement long range goals and objectives to ensure longevity of Co. Roads Systems and Bridge structures, as well as a replacement program for equipment; Prepare Co. Roads fiscal budget and insure compliance within the approved budget through provisions of the cost estimates and analysis; Knowledge and development of financial reports for Board of Co. Commissioners and Co. Adm.; Determine and plan for the most cost effective method of construction and maintenance for Co. Roads, Bridge Structures, and Equipment; Address public concerns

and complaints via oral or written form; Assist Co. Administrator in negotiation of the Union Contract; Provide for application of terms within the bargaining unit agreement; Conduct informative meetings conducive to addressing and resolving concerns with the Co. Roads workforce; Strong knowledge of construction management to supervise and/or understand various road and bridge projects; and other duties may be assigned. Qualifications: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty exceptionally. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. Education and/or Experience: Bachelor’s degree (B.A or B.S) from a four-year college or university in Engineering, Business Adm., or related discipline is required; and Ten (10) years Management experience (outside of government) dealing with non-union/union personnel is preferred. Work Environment: This position requires outdoor activities approximately 75% of the time during a workday. Outside conditions will vary widely depending upon weather conditions. Weather conditions encountered will be extreme heat, cold, snow, ice, rain, wet/humid, dry/dusty, wind, sunshine, and various odors. Work tasks may be performed in close proximity to moving equipment, vehicles and parts with times of noisy conditions. Safety of staff and the public is first priority. The work environment characteristics described are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. Application Process: A Garrett Co. Gov’t. application along with a letter of interest and resume is required. Qualified individuals may apply by forwarding all required documentation to Garrett Co. Gov’t, Office of Human Resources, 203 South 4th Street, Room 206, Oakland, MD 21550. Applications are available at this address or will be mailed by calling (301) 334-8975. Applications are also available on our website at www.garrettcounty.org. Application Deadline: **March 28, 2008**. EOE. Qualified applicants are considered without regard to race, color, creed, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, or the presence of a non-job related medical condition or handicap.

PLANNING DIRECTOR - CHARLES COUNTY - Located in Southern Maryland (pop. 145,000), 71 miles south of Baltimore and 32 miles southeast of

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Washington, D.C., is seeking applicants for a Planning Capital annual budget of \$519 million with 700 full time employees. The Planning Director will manage the Planning Division and serve as a Division Chief in the Co.'s Dept. of Planning & Growth Management. The Planning Director will manage and direct the county's land use planning and related issues. This position provides advice to the Board of Co. Commissioners, Board of Appeals, and Planning Commission on planning/zoning issues. This individual will assist in the decision making process; provide leadership and direction for planning, zoning and code enforcement activities for local County government; manage the review of all development-related proposals for conformance with the Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Regulations, Critical Areas, Forest Conservation and Historic Preservation regulations. Interpret, administer and negotiate issues related to comprehensive planning, facilities planning and environmental regulations and policy. This individual will serve on various committees and represent the County Commissioners in presentations. The county government is implementing plans and policies that will focus future growth in the Waldorf Development District, favor future passenger rail transit and mixed-use, transit-oriented development, and protect the rural areas of the County from sprawl development. Minimum qualifications include a Master's Degree in Planning and six years of progressively responsible professional planning experience, or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience. Knowledge of principles and practices of land use planning required. Salary range: \$76,367 to \$123,186. Starting salary based on qualifications. Offering excellent benefits including a defined benefit pension plan, deferred compensation, generous leave and health care programs. Employee Pension Plan honors portability of prior eligible Maryland State and local government service in other defined benefit pension plans. Apply on line at www.charlescounty.org, or submit application and resume to the HR Dept., Charles Co. Gov't. Building, POB 2150, La Plata, MD 20646. Position is open until filled; for best consideration apply by **February 29, 2008**. Prior applicants do not need to reapply. EOE; minority and female applicants are encouraged to apply.

ENGINEER II (SOLID WASTE) BUREAU OF SOLID WASTE MGMT., DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS, BALTIMORE COUNTY - Min. Qual.:

Bachelor's Degree in Engineering and two years engineering experience (Qualifying education may be

substituted for experience) or P.E. license. Various and diverse office and field duties involving engineering, environmental monitoring, and regulatory compliance associated with operations and construction projects at one active sanitary landfill, as well as at closed landfills and other solid waste facilities. 35 hour work week. \$46,684 to \$58,032, with longevity steps to \$74,142.

Open until filled. For more information about County benefits, or to obtain a job description and/or an application, please visit our website at <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/humanresources/jobs/index.html> . Contact Stephen G. Lippy, P.E., DEE, 410-887-2009, or email slippy@baltimorecountymd.gov (r7/08)

COUNTY ENGINEER - DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS - WORCESTER COUNTY - \$85,000 – \$100,000 / DOQ

The Worcester County Commissioners are accepting applications for the County Engineer position in Snow Hill, MD. Reporting to the Public Works Director, this full-time, salaried position provides direct oversight of the newly created Engineering & Construction Division of Public Works, tasked with directing all technical design and construction quality aspects of improvements (including capital) for departments within County (except for the Board of Education). The successful candidate will be a Registered Professional Engineer (MD) with a minimum of 5 years progressively responsible management experience in an engineering/construction field; have working knowledge of laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to Public Works and possess above average oral and written communication skills necessary to prepare reports, prepare and deliver public presentations, provide leadership and motivation to division employees, communicate effectively and courteously with coworkers and the general public. Additional requirements include a valid driver's license and driving record of less than 4 points (MD) with the ability to travel to countywide locations and satisfactory background check. In addition to salary we offer an exceptional benefits package. A job description is available at www.co.worcester.md.us. Qualified candidates may apply in confidence on or before **February 29, 2008**, by submitting a resume with cover letter summarizing experience and salary requirement to Worcester County Human Resources Department, Government Center, Room 1301, 1 West Market Street, Snow Hill, MD 21863 or email to humanresources@co.worcester.md.us . EOE.

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Legislative Committee Action Report

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TAXES AND REVENUES

HB 612/ SB 676 - PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT – COMMERCIAL WATERFRONT PROPERTY (Delegate Kullen, et al) (Ways and Means) (Senator Stoltzfus, et al) (Budget and Taxation) -SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

SB 527 - SPENDING MANDATE RELIEF ACT (Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee) (Budget and Taxation) – SUPPORT

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 625 - FORESTS AND PARKS – SPECIAL FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS – PAYMENTS TO COUNTIES (Delegate Niemann, et al) (Environmental Matters) – OPPOSE

HB 838 - PROPERTY TAX – ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITIES (Delegate G. Clagett) (Ways and Means) – OPPOSE

HB 865 - GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND STREAMLINING OPERATIONS (Delegate Morhaim, et al) (Health and Government Operations) – SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

SB 662 - AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSFER TAX – RATES AND DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE (Senator Middleton) (Budget and Taxation) – SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

SB 688 - FORECLOSURES – UNPAID WATER AND SANITARY CHARGES – PROHIBITION (Senator Brochin) (Judicial Proceedings) – OPPOSE

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

SB 521 - JUNK DEALERS AND SCRAP METAL PROCESSORS – REQUIRED RECORDS (Senator DeGrange, et al) (Finance) - SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

HB 855/ SB 743 - WORKERS' COMPENSATION – LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS – LYME DISEASE PRESUMPTION (Delegates Davis and Ramirez) (Economic Matters) (Senator Pugh) (Finance) – OPPOSE

GOVERNMENT LIABILITY & COURTS

HB 1134/ SB 579 - IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY – MEDICAL EMERGENCY – USE OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (Delegate Lee, et al) (Judiciary) (Senator Forehand) (Judicial Proceedings) – SUPPORT

SB 596 - COURTS – NONPROFIT ASSOCIATIONS – STANDING TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENTAL PROCEEDINGS (Senator Brochin, et al) (Judicial Proceedings) – OPPOSE

SB 687 - COURTS – NONPROFIT ASSOCIATIONS AND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS – STANDING (Senator Brochin) (Judicial Proceedings) – OPPOSE

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

HB 611/ SB 445 - UNDERGROUND FACILITIES – DETERMINATION OF MARKING – INITIAL FEES (Delegate Anderson (By Request – Baltimore City Administration), et al) (Economic Matters) (Senators Pugh and McFadden (By Request – Baltimore City Administration), et al) (Finance) – NO POSITION

Impact Bills

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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.mdcountries.org for daily updates about legislation impacting county government.

TAXES AND REVENUES

HB 1159 - HOMEOWNERS' TAX FAIRNESS IN EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS ACT (Delegate Manno, et al) (Ways and Means) - Exempting from recordation tax and State transfer tax an instrument of writing that transfers specified improved residential real property to individuals who previously owned property that was acquired for public use; providing for specified limitations for the exemption from recordation tax and State transfer tax; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 1268 - BUDGET – LIMITS ON GROWTH OF STATE SPENDING (Delegate Impallaria, et al) (Appropriations) - Prohibiting any increase in the total of State budget appropriations for specified fiscal years over the total appropriations for the preceding fiscal year; limiting the increase in the total of State budget appropriations in specified fiscal years to no more than the growth in inflation and in the State's population over a specified period; submitting the amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection; etc. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

HB 1299 - TAXPAYERS' BILL OF RIGHTS (Delegate Miller, et al) (Ways and Means) - Proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution that establishes a Bill of Rights for State individual income taxpayers; requiring voter approval for new State or local taxes, tax rate increases, and repeal of tax exemptions; imposing specified spending limits on the State; requiring that specified revenues received in excess of specified estimates be paid to individual income taxpayers; and submitting the amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection. CONTINGENT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

HB 1302 - PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTATS (Delegates Jennings and Morhaim) (Ways and Means) - Requiring the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a

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county or of a municipal corporation to grant, by law, a tax credit in a specified amount against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on real property equipped with programmable thermostats; applying the Act to tax years beginning after June 30, 2008; etc. EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2008

HB 1424 - COUNTIES AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS – TRANSFER TAX (Delegate Barve, et al) (Ways and Means) - Authorizing specified counties to impose a transfer tax; authorizing municipal corporations to impose a transfer tax on properties transferred within a municipal corporation; limiting the rate of the transfer tax to be imposed by a county or municipal corporation; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2010

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 1172 - HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT – APPLICATIONS (Delegate Kach) (Ways and Means) - Requiring the Department of Assessments and Taxation to provide homeowners in a specified manner notice of a requirement to submit applications for the homestead credit and an application form; prohibiting the Department from including a notice or application form with an assessment notice or tax bill; requiring the Department to send an additional notice and application form to specified homeowners in December of 2011 and December of 2012; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 1180 - HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – APPLICATIONS (Delegate Kach) (Ways and Mean) - Providing that a requirement for homeowners to file applications to the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to qualify for the homestead property tax credit does not apply to a dwelling for which the credit was received for any taxable year beginning on or before July 1, 2007, unless the dwelling is transferred for consideration to new ownership on or after December 31, 2007. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 1211/ SB 854 - TAX SALES – MINIMUM TAX DUE – REDEMPTION PAYMENTS – REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES ON REDEMPTION (Delegates Oaks and McIntosh) (Ways and Means) (Senator Jones, et al) (Senate Rules) - Altering from \$100 to \$250 the minimum amount of total annual taxes due on a property that a collector may withhold from a tax sale; altering the manner by which a person redeeming a property shall pay the collector specified expenses and fees; and altering the types and amounts of expenses for which a plaintiff or holder of a certificate of sale is entitled to be reimbursed on redemption. EMERGENCY BILL

HB 1269 - PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – DWELLINGS OWNED BY DISABLED OR INJURED POLICE OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS, AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS (Delegate Impallaria, et al) (Ways and Means) - Authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county or municipal corporation to grant, by law, a specified property tax credit against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on specified dwellings owned by retired police officers, firefighters, or correctional officers under specified circumstances; providing for the calculation of the property tax credit; and applying the Act to tax years after June 30, 2008. EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2008

HB 1278 - MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS – GREEN TAX REFORM (Delegate Carr, et al) (Ways and Means) - Exempting the stock in business of a person engaged in a manufacturing or commercial business from the municipal corporation property tax; authorizing a municipal corporation to impose a sales and use tax on specified fuel or energy used by commercial or industrial businesses in the municipal corporation; etc. Preliminary analysis: local government mandate EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 1282 - STATE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS – CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS – EMPLOYER-PAID HEALTH CARE REQUIRED (Delegate Hucker, et al) (Economic Matters and Health and Government Operations) - Requiring a contractor and subcontractor under a public work contract to provide employer-paid health care or health insurance to its employees for medical care, prescription drugs, and vision care. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

EDUCATION

HB 1158 - SAFE SCHOOLS REPORTING ACT (Delegate Stein, et al) (Ways and Means) - Authorizing a school staff member to report an incident of harassment or intimidation against a student; and repealing the sunset provision for the Safe Schools Reporting Act. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 1209 - SAFE SCHOOLS REPORTING ACT OF 2005 – SUNSET REPEAL (Delegate Simmons) (Ways and Means) - Repealing the termination date for a provision of law that requires the State Department of Education to require a county board of education to report incidents of harassment or intimidation against specified students. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 1239 - EDUCATION – FOSTER CHILD INCENTIVE PROGRAM (Delegate Stocksdales, et al) (Ways and Means) - Establishing a Foster Child Incentive Program; authorizing a foster parent or legal guardian of an eligible student to enroll the eligible student in a participating school and use scholarship funds to offset specified costs relating to the attendance at the participating school of the eligible student; establishing eligibility to participate in the Program; etc. EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2008

HB 1249 - PUBLIC SCHOOLS – CLASSES AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS (Delegate Smigiel, et al) (Ways and Means) - Including specified home-schooled students in the calculation of specified funding formulas; authorizing a public elementary or secondary school to allow specified students who are not enrolled in the school to participate in specified academic classes and extracurricular activities at the school to a specified extent; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 1272 - HIGHER EDUCATION – DISCLOSURE OF EDUCATION RECORDS – NOTICE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS (Delegate Bates, et al) (Appropriations) - Requiring public institutions of higher education in the State to enclose with letters of admission specified information regarding disclosure of education records; requiring public institutions of higher education to send specified information to the mailing address of specified parents or guardians; requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to adopt regulations; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

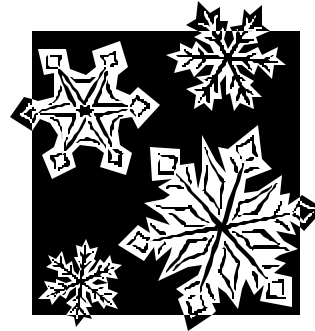
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HB 1319 - EXPANDED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (Delegate Hucker, et al) (Ways and Means) - Expanding eligibility for publicly funded prekindergarten programs to children who meet specified criteria; etc. Preliminary analysis: local government mandate EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 1346 - EDUCATION – STUDENT HEALTH AND NUTRITION – SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND POLICIES (Delegate Glenn, et al) (Ways and Means) - Requiring public schools to offer a program of physical education meeting specified requirements to students in grades 9 through 12; requiring specified schools to include information concerning anorexia and bulimia in a specified program of instruction; and requiring each county board of education to adopt specified policies concerning the contents of specified meals. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 1411/SB 849 - FITNESS AND ATHLETICS EQUITY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (Delegate Kaiser, et al) (Ways and Means) (Senator Rosapepe) (Senate Rules) - Requiring county school systems to ensure the participation of students with disabilities in specified physical education and athletic programs; requiring county school systems to provide specified accommodations; requiring county school systems to develop specified programs, policies, and procedures; requiring county school systems to provide opportunities meeting specified criteria to students; etc. Preliminary analysis: local government mandate EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008



MACo Annual Winter Conference

January 7-9, 2009

***Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Hotel
Cambridge - Dorchester County***

Have you notified MACo to be paired with a state legislator buddy yet? There are still many legislators who need a county buddy.

A follow-up email will shortly be sent to county elected officials, county administrators, and legislative staffers, again asking for county buddies for legislators.

The system pairs county officials with a “legislative buddy” for whom the county “buddy” is asked to contact during the General Assembly Session just prior to a major issue vote impacting county government. The contacts made by county officials are highly effective in communicating MACo legislative positions.

The Buddy System is only enacted whenever there is a key vote on legislation impacting a major issue for county government, either in a House or Senate Committee or the full legislative body (the House or the Senate). County officials are notified with a “Buddy Alert” via email, fax or telephone call from MACo and asked to contact and discuss the issue with their designated legislator buddy (ies.)

Who’s Your Buddy?



Legislative Grassroots System Needs County Elected Officials!

At that time, MACo provides the county buddy with contact information, and “talking points.” As the legislature often acts swiftly on votes, a quick contact to the legislative buddy is necessary.

If you have questions or wish to volunteer for the Buddy System, contact Ellen Clarke at eclarke@mdcounties.org or call (410) 269-0043.

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HB 1451 - TASK FORCE TO STUDY STANDARDIZING INTRODUCTORY COURSES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN MARYLAND (Delegate Heller) (House Rules and Executive Nominations) - Establishing the Task Force to Study Standardizing Introductory Courses in Higher Education in Maryland; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting members of the Task Force from receiving compensation but entitling members to reimbursement for expenses under specified regulations; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding the standardization of introductory level courses at public institutions of higher education and community colleges; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

SB 824 - EDUCATION – ALCOHOL AND DRUG TESTING FOR PUPILS IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS (Senator Conway) (Senate Rules) - Requiring specified public school and private or parochial school officials to implement a policy of alcohol and drug testing, under specified conditions, for high school pupils; specifying that the testing is permitted only on the basis of a reasonable suspicion of unlawful use; requiring school officials to provide notice to specified persons of the alcohol and drug testing policy, to maintain specified test results as confidential medical records, and to grant access to the records only to specified persons; etc. Preliminary analysis: local government mandate EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

SB 850 - EDUCATION – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING – PUBLIC SCHOOL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD (Senator Pugh, et al) (Senate Rules) - Establishing a Public School Labor Relations Board; providing for the appointment, membership, duties, responsibilities, and staff of the Board; authorizing the Board to adopt and enforce regulations, guidelines, and policies, as specified; permitting the Board to petition a circuit court to seek enforcement of an order of the Board; providing that a hearing and determination under the Act is a contested case; specifying requirements and procedures for the use of mediation, fact-finding, and arbitration in dispute resolution; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

HB 1305 - BURGLARY AND ROBBERY ALARM SYSTEMS – RESPONSE VERIFICATION – REQUIREMENTS (Delegate Hubbard, et al) (Economic Matters) - Requiring alarm system contractors to call specified persons within 2 minutes to attempt to verify whether an activated signal from a burglary or robbery alarm requires a law enforcement response to an emergency situation except in specified circumstances; authorizing a local law enforcement unit to establish standards for an exemption from response verification requirements, issue a written exemption, and maintain a list of alarm users issued an exemption; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HB 1415 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – ONE MARYLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDITS – ELIGIBILITY (Delegate Cane, et al) (Ways and Means) - Specifying that in order to be eligible for specified One Maryland Economic Development tax credits, a person must establish or expand a business facility that is located in a county that is a qualified distressed county or has been designated a qualified

distressed county within the past 12 months. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

ELECTIONS

HB 1199 - ELECTION LAW – VOTING PROCEDURES – IDENTIFICATION (Delegate Myers, et al) (Ways and Means) - Requiring an individual seeking to vote at a polling place either to present a specified photo identification or to sign a specified affidavit. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 1288 - ELECTION LAW – VOTING PROCEDURES – IDENTIFICATION (Delegate Jennings, et al) (Ways and Means) - Requiring an individual seeking to vote at a polling place to present to the election judge a current and valid photo identification. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 1355 - ELECTION LAW – IDENTIFICATION OF VOTERS (Delegate Dwyer, et al) (Ways and Means) - Altering the requirements for the identification of voters by election judges at the polling place; requiring a voter to present to an election judge specified identification or specified identifying documents; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

HB 1181 - TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND TEACHERS' PENSION SYSTEM – REEMPLOYMENT OF RETIREES – BRAC (Delegates Rudolph and James) (Appropriations) - Altering the criteria for hiring specified retirees of the Teachers' Retirement System or the Teachers' Pension System who are exempt from a specified offset of a retirement allowance; and altering a specified reporting requirement. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

HB 1220 - STATE PERSONNEL – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING – PROCEDURES (Delegate G. Clagett, et al) (Appropriations) - Clarifying the application of specified provisions of law relating to the failure to comply with orders of the State Labor Relations Board and the State Higher Education Labor Relations Board; altering specified dates by which specified actions relating to collective bargaining negotiations must be taken; clarifying that specified fact finders must make specified written recommendations to specified representatives; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

GOVERNMENT LIABILITY & COURTS

HB 1232 - CITIZENS RIGHTS ACT (Delegate McDonough, et al) (Judiciary) - Providing that a person may file a complaint against officers and employees alleging actions in violation of law and seeking declaratory judgment and injunctive relief, as specified; specifying that a person has standing to file an action against officers and employees, under specified circumstances; authorizing a court to direct specified officers and employees to reimburse a specified person for fees and costs under specified circumstances; providing that specified persons may not avail themselves of specified remedies; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 1383 - GOOD SAMARITAN – STATE OF EMERGENCY – LIABILITY PROTECTION (Delegate Schuh) (Judiciary) - Providing that specified persons who provide services or goods in response to a state of

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emergency proclaimed by the Governor are not liable in damages, under specified circumstances, for personal injury, wrongful death, property damage, or other loss caused by an act, error, or omission in providing the services or goods; and providing for the construction and application of the Act. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HEALTH

HB 1196 - MARYLAND HEALTHY PLACES ACT (Delegate Oaks, et al) (Health and Government Operations) - Requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish a specified pilot program subject to the availability and appropriation of specified funding; requiring that a specified pilot program provide funding and technical assistance to specified eligible entities to prepare specified health impact assessments; establishing that applications for specified grants include specified information; etc. Preliminary analysis: local government mandate EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2008

HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1327 - CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT – MONITORING OF ABUSERS (Delegates Waldstreicher and Dumais) (Judiciary) - Requiring a local department of social services, if a court terminates the parental rights of an individual due to abuse or neglect, to file with the court an affidavit setting forth specified findings, to monitor the individual and any children in the care or custody of the individual in a specified manner and for a specified period of time, and forward the name of the monitored individual to the Social Services Administration for a specified purpose; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

PLANNING & ZONING

HB 1192 - LAND USE – DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AGREEMENTS (Delegate G. Clagett) (Environmental Matters) - Increasing from 5 to 10 years the time period after which a specified development rights and responsibilities agreement will be void under specified circumstances; and providing that a specified local jurisdiction may not enforce specified laws, rules, regulations, or policies governing the use, density, or intensity of specified real property that is subject to development rights and responsibilities agreements unless specified circumstances exist. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 1253/ SB 844 - CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS CRITICAL AREA PROTECTION PROGRAM – ADMINISTRATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS (The Speaker (By Request – Administration), et al) (Environmental Matters) (The President (By Request – Administration), et al) (Senate Rules) - Authorizing the Maryland Home Improvement Commission to deny, reprimand, suspend, or revoke home improvement licenses for failure to comply with specified requirements in the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays; authorizing the Critical Area Commission to adopt and amend specified regulations; requiring the Commission to adopt and amend specified regulations; etc. CONTINGENT EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 1418 - TASK FORCE TO STUDY OCCUPANCY LIMITS ON RENTAL HOUSING NEAR UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES (Delegate Aumann, et al) (Environmental Matters) - Establishing a Task Force to Study Occupancy Limits on Rental Housing Near University Campuses; providing for the composition of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to elect a chair from among its members; requiring the Maryland Higher Education

Commission to provide staff for the Task Force; prohibiting a member from receiving compensation, but entitling a member to reimbursement for specified expenses; providing for the duties of the Task Force; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS

HB 1213 - YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION AND DIVERSION PAROLE FUND (Delegate Haynes, et al) (Judiciary) - Establishing the Youth Crime Prevention and Diversion Parole Fund; requiring the Director of the Division of Parole and Probation to administer the Fund, establish procedures, and make grant awards; providing that the Fund consists of money appropriated in the State budget, investment earnings, and specified other money; requiring a local law enforcement agency or Police Athletic League center that applies for money from the Fund to provide specified information; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 1292/ SB 507 - STATE AID FOR POLICE PROTECTION – GRANTS (Delegate Barnes, et al) (Appropriations) (Senator Rosapepe) (Budget and Taxation) - Requiring a specified grant for police protection to be paid from the State to each municipality that contains a specified institution of higher education with a full-time undergraduate enrollment of at least 20,000; and requiring a municipality to provide a specified matching fund for a grant received under the Act. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 1332/ SB 441 - CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – OFFENDER REGISTRY – MINORS (Delegate Dumais) (Judiciary) (Senator Frosh, et al) (Judicial Proceedings) - Establishing that a specified part of a police or court record pertaining to a child may be accessed and used by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and offender registry supervising authorities for specified purposes relating to the offender registry; altering the definitions of “child sexual offender” and “sexually violent offender” for purposes of the offender registry; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 1396 - PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS – SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM – SELF- DEFENSE TRAINING (Delegate Valderrama, et al) (Ways and Means) - Requiring each public high school program of safety education to include a self-defense training course; and requiring each student in a public high school to take the self-defense training course. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 1439 - REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS – RESIDENCE ADJACENT TO LOCATIONS WHERE CHILDREN CONGREGATE – PROHIBITION (Delegates Bromwell and Olszewski) (House Rules and Executive Nominations) - Prohibiting a registered sex offender from residing within 2,000 feet of a school, child care facility, or other location where children congregate; establishing criminal penalties for a violation of the Act; specifying how distance shall be measured for purposes of the Act; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

HB 1450 - CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – SEXUAL OFFENDERS – HOMELESS REGISTRANTS, SUPERVISION, AND PENALTIES (Chair, Judiciary Committee (By Request – Departmental – Public Safety and Correctional Services)) (House Rules and Executive Nominations) - Establishing that a person is a resident for purposes of a specified offender registry if the person has a home or other place that the person habitually

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lives located in the State at the time of a specified event; establishing that a specified registrant shall register with a specified supervising authority within a specified period of time after the registrant begins to habitually live in the State; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

HB 1185 - MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION – PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICES – EFFICIENCY AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (Chair, Ways and Means Committee and Chair, Appropriations Committee (By Request – Departmental – Transportation)) (Ways and Means) - Repealing provisions of law relating to the percentage of operating costs that must be recovered from specified revenues for specified public transit services; requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to implement performance indicators to track transit service efficiency; requiring the Administration to submit an annual report to specified committees of the General Assembly; providing for periodic management audits to evaluate performance of transit services; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 1263 - VEHICLE LAWS – EMERGENCY AND POLICE VEHICLE AND PERSONNEL PROTECTION ACT (Delegate Bates, et al) (Environmental Matters) - Requiring drivers approaching emergency or police vehicles stopped, standing, or parked on a highway and using any visual signals, except when otherwise directed by a police officer, to vacate the lane closest to the emergency or police vehicle under specified circumstances and to slow to a speed that is sufficient to ensure the safety of police officers or emergency services personnel in the vicinity of the emergency or police vehicle under specified circumstances; establishing a penalty; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

HB 1216 - INCOME TAX – SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION – CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES (Delegate Stein, et al) (Ways and Means) - Providing a subtraction modification under the State income tax for specified contributions by a corporation to a volunteer fire company; requiring that the Comptroller may not issue more than \$3,000,000 in donation certificates for any taxable year; authorizing specified volunteer fire companies to provide specified donation certificates to corporations for specified charitable contributions; providing that a donation certificate may not be carried forward; applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

HB 1343 - INCOME TAX – CREDIT AND SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION FOR LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE (Delegate Healey, et al) (Ways and Means) - Altering a limitation on claiming the income tax credit for eligible long-term care premiums for more than 1 year with respect to the same insured individual; allowing a credit for a specified individual insured prior to July 1, 2000; providing an income tax subtraction modification for specified eligible long-term care premiums paid in specified tax years; applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007; etc. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

Statewide Hearing Schedule

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

1:00 p.m. JPR – MSW 2E – SB 269 – Vehicle Laws – Speed Monitoring Systems – Statewide Authorization and Use in Highway Work Zones

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

1:00 p.m. ENV – House 250 – HB 364 – Vehicle Laws – Speed Monitoring Systems – Statewide Authorization and Use in Highway Work Zones

11:00 a.m. W&M and ECM – House 130 – HB 366 – BRAC Community Enhancement Act

1:00 p.m. ECM – House 230 – HB 855 – Workers' Compensation – Law Enforcement Officers – Lyme Disease Presumption

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

1:00 p.m. FIN – MSB 3E – SB 521 – Junk Dealers and Scrap Metal Processors – Required Records

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

1:00 p.m. APP – House 120 – HB 359 – Local Correctional Facilities – Inmate Health Care Expenses – Payment Rates to Health Care Providers

1:00 p.m. JUD – House 100 – HB 643 – Costs – Circuit Courts and District Court – Failure to Appear or Violation of Probation

1:00 p.m. FIN – MSB 3E – SB 743 – Workers' Compensation – Law Enforcement Officers – Lyme Disease Presumption

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

1:00 p.m. ENV – House 250 – HB 369 – Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund and Nonpoint Source Fund

1:00 p.m. HGO – House 240 – HB 865 – Government Efficiency and Streamlining Operations

1:00 p.m. B&T – MSB 3W – SB 91 – Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2008

1:00 p.m. B&T – MSB 3W – SB 206 – BRAC Community Enhancement Act

1:00 p.m. B&T – MSB 3W – SB 527 – Spending Mandate Relief Act

1:00 p.m. JPR – MSW 2E – SB 688 – Foreclosures – Unpaid Water and Sanitary Charges - Prohibition

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

11:00 a.m. APP – House 120 – HB 101 – Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2008

1:00 p.m. W&M – House 130 – HB 612 – Property Tax Assessment – Commercial Waterfront Property

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

1:00 p.m. JUD – House 100 – HB 1134 – Immunity from Liability – Medical Emergency – Use of Automated External Defibrillator

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

1:00 p.m. ENV – House 250 – HB 625 – Forests and Parks – Special Funds and Accounts – Payments to Counties

1:00 p.m. W&M – House 130 – HB 891 – Property Tax – Assessment Appeal Procedures

1:00 p.m. W&M – House 130 – HB 892 – Property Tax Assessment

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Appeals – Due date for Payment and Stay of Collection
1:00 p.m. W&M – House 130 – HB 1058 – Homestead Tax Credit –
Adjacent Lots

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

1:00 p.m. W&M – House 130 – HB 838 – Property Tax – Electric
Generating Facilities

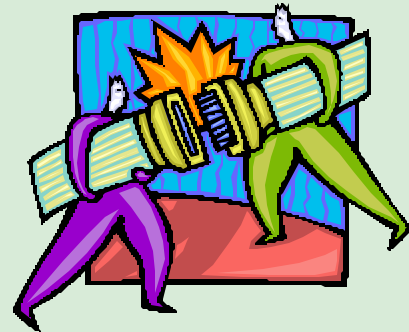
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

1:00 p.m. HGO – House 240 – HB 319 – Local Government – Procurement
– Resident Preferences

1:00 p.m. JPR – MSW 2E – SB 579 – Immunity from Liability – Medical
Emergency – Use of Automated Defibrillator

1:00 p.m. JPR – MSW 2E – SB 596 - Courts – Nonprofit Associations –
Standing to Participate in Governmental Proceedings

1:00 p.m. JPR – MSW 2E – SB 687 – Courts – Nonprofit Associations and
Homeowners Associations - Standing



"Promoting County
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Technology"

August 13-16, 2008

**MACo
Annual Summer
Conference**

Convention Center
Ocean City

Watch for Details!