



Dear Constituents and Friends,

It is a true privilege to represent my fellow District 12 Baltimore and Howard County residents in the House of Delegates and I would like to acknowledge all of the terrific legislative support staff in Annapolis including the bill drafters, policy analysts and committee staff. I want to particularly thank my Administrative Assistant, **Ann Goldscher**, Legislative Aide **Rachel Boos**, Legacy Leadership Volunteer **Graham Clarke**, Intern **Melody Barger** (Howard Community College) and **Simone Van der Pool** our Interim District Intern for sharing in the heavy lifting; to volunteer Social Media Director **Lindsay Staton** for her assistance with constituent communications; and to the three community liaisons volunteers - **Gayle Young**, **Angeline Nanni** and **Ethel Hill**, who help me stay current on community issues and have represented me at meetings and events. Without this team, it would be incredibly difficult for me to serve you as effectively in the Maryland General Assembly.

The 2016 Legislative Session was an especially busy one, with almost 3000 bills introduced. During this 90-day session, as I continued to apply the lessons learned in 2015 on introducing and passing bills, my focus shifted to achieving goals through non-legislative action. I am pleased to share with you some highlights of a rewarding and challenging 2016 session.

2015 INTERIM STUDY GROUPS AND 2016 SESSION WORKGROUPS

Each year's legislative session begins in January and ends in April, Sine Die, but the work continues year round. I serve on the Estates and Trust and the Insurance Subcommittees as an extension of my role as a member of the House Health and Government Operations Committee. During the 2015 interim, I was assigned to the Maryland Higher Education Study Group and to the Aid in Dying (a.k.a. Death with Dignity) Study Group. In the 2016 session, I served on workgroups for House Bill (HB) 3329 Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers-Advertising and Penalties, and for HB 1312, the omnibus Justice Reinvestment Act. Each succeeded in forging stakeholder consensus on specific legislative priorities resulting in bill passage with full stakeholder buy-in.

LEAD SPONSORED AND CO-SPONSORED BILLS

I requested drafting of 14 bills this year covering concerns over a range of areas. Two of the fourteen were not introduced. The first, addressing constituent concerns regarding application of pesticides on frozen ground, because subsequent discussion with the Department of Agriculture found adequate regulations already exist. The second, extending the authorization for the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council and directing recommendations for addressing the high cost of memory care services, closely duplicated a bill being introduced by a colleague and which I subsequently co-sponsored. A third, constituent initiated bill was withdrawn at their request.

Bills I introduced which, with their Senate Bill (SB) cross-files, passed and await the Governor's signature are:
- HB 11/SB 1 Health Insurance - In Vitro Fertilization - Use of Spouse's Sperm – Exception - ensures insurance coverage of donated sperm used in In Vitro fertilization in cases where the male partner is involuntarily infertile.

- **HB 998/SB 1020 State Board of Physicians - Physician Licensing Reciprocity** - creates reciprocity in the granting of physician licenses between Maryland and jurisdictions that have similar licensing requirements.

Several of my bills resulted in non-legislative action with either a resolution to the problem having been found during discussion of the bill with proponents and opponents, or with the development, in coordination with the responsible agencies, departments and interested stakeholders, of work groups that will work over the interim to achieve the bills' intended goals through effective policy, regulatory or other means and will, hopefully, eliminate the need for legislative action. These bills and the alternative actions are:

- **HB416 Health Care Decisions Act - End-of-Life Decision Planning Informational Booklet** - I am working with the Attorney General's Office of Consumer Affairs office, building on their resources on Advanced Directives and Living Wills, to develop a comprehensive information resource for end-of-life planning and decision making considerations and options.

- **HB677 Family Law - Child Support - Age of Majority - Postsecondary Education** - Based on the large amount of interest this bill garnished and the wide impact of the problem the bill attempted to address, I've requested the Department of Human Resources, when re-evaluating Child Support Guidelines later this year, to specifically address the question of shared responsibility between custodial and non-custodial parents with respect to financial dependency of young adult during their post-secondary education years. By enacting legislation this year increasing to age 26 the maximum age that children of law enforcement officers are eligible to receive death benefits, the General Assembly and Governor acknowledged that financial independence from parents can no longer be assumed to occur at 18. I'm asking the new Guidelines from DHR to take this into account.

- **HB 865 Health Insurance - Motor Vehicle Modifications for Permanently Wheelchair Dependent Individuals – Coverage** - The amended legislation, rather than mandate insurance coverage of vehicle conversion to facilitate full mobility independence for ambulatory disabled Marylanders as originally drafted, required a study be done to determine the number of people affected and to define the obstacles and identify solutions to their achieving full mobility. With the Maryland Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services, Maryland Department of Disabilities, and a consortium of stakeholders in the service and business communities we have begun working on the problem and committed to moving ahead to achieve the objectives and goals of the bill.

- **HB 1100 School Counseling Program - Counseling Services - Requirements** - The purpose was to address the lapse in receiving needed behavioral health services over summer break for the group of students who receive such services through the school system. Continuity in providing these services would lead to better outcomes. I will be working with school administration, counseling and behavioral health professionals during the interim to better define the students intended to be helped and the specific professionals that would be affected, and to address costs, liability and labor contract concerns. I hope to successfully re-introduce the bill next session.

- **HB 1114 State Board of Physicians - License Renewal - Grace Periods** - The State Board of Physicians agreed to increase the number of notices sent to each physician during the month in which their license is set to expire. They are also currently updating their Information Technology system and believe the resultant improvements in their tracking and notification processes will help to ensure improved awareness of license expiration date and all but eliminate inadvertent lapses in licensure and consequent lapses in delivery of patient care.

The following bills received no action and, like many pieces of important legislation, may require some years to develop adequate support for passage.

- **HB 388 Circuit Court Judges - Election, Qualifications, and Term of Office** - This was one of a several bills supported by the Judiciary which sought to end contested elections for Maryland Circuit Court Judges as a means of better assuring judicial integrity and insulating the judiciary from influence. This is an issue of significant debate and I will re-evaluate it and similar legislation and consider its re-introduction.

- **HB 408 Commission to Study Legislative and Congressional Districting** - In the bill's amended form HB 408 sought to address Maryland's status as the most gerrymandered state by establishing the Legislative

Redistricting and Apportionment Commission to draw new legislative districts based on the recommendations of the Governor's Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission and establish The Commission to Study Congressional Districting to study and develop recommendations for redrawing Maryland's Congressional Districts in partnership with other states of opposite political party leanings. Commission representation was to include non-partisan and politically unaffiliated members as well as representatives of both major political parties.

- HB1117 Environment - Mattress Stewardship Program - As heard before the committee, the amended bill to establish a task force to make evaluate mattress stewardship programs established elsewhere and to recommend a plan for Maryland to manage and reduce the large number of mattresses and box springs that are discarded and sent to landfills. They would explore the efficacy of a robust mattress recycling policy as a catalyst for job creation and employment opportunities particularly for the homeless, disadvantaged youth, ex-offenders, the disabled, and others for whom job opportunities are otherwise limited. The recommended plan would define waste reduction goals over a definite period of time and promote development of mattress recycling businesses prioritizing private and nonprofit sector participation.

DISTRICT 12 LEGISLATIVE IMPACT AND BOND BILLS

The General Assembly amended the State Capital Budget to allocate \$15 million (\$7.5million each from the Senate and the House) through bond bill matching funds for local projects. Despite a tight budget, I am pleased that Senator Kasemeyer, Delegate Ebersole, Delegate Lam and I were able to secure funding this year for the following projects in our district:

Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department - \$130,000 to renovate its membership and meeting.

Community Action Council of Howard County - \$300,000 for its Food Bank Facility Expansion.

Good Shepherd Services - \$100,000 to expand their Life Skills Training facilities.

Howard County Conservancy - \$250,000 to renovate and expand the Environmental Education Center

Vantage House Retirement Community - \$69,000 towards facility renovations

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Budget - The General Assembly passed the Governor's budget with shifts in funding shifts to assure adequate priority funding for education, health, jobs, and transportation.

Capital Budget - the legislature was able to meet funding priorities within the Governor's requested \$995 million limit. The House added an additional \$51 million to the Governor's \$280 million for School Construction to address significant needs due to aging infrastructure and increasing enrollments. The \$420 million budget for Higher Education includes \$60 million for community colleges and \$80 million for future years. Other Funding Priorities addressed include \$442 million for environmental initiatives, \$68 million for health and human services, \$120 million for housing (all sources) and \$2.5 million additional funding for Rental Housing Works (\$12.5 million total).

Operating Budget - As one of only nine states with a Triple A bond rating, maintained for over 50 years since the rating system's inception through conservative management of financial operations, Maryland continues to be an excellent steward of taxpayer money. For the third year in a row - spanning two different administrations - the budget has no new tax increases. Healthcare funding increases by 4.4%, including increases for providers of developmental disability programs and college tuition increases are capped at 2%; K-12 education is fully funded; and \$19 Million is included for nine counties needing additional support for teacher pension funding.

This year's balanced budget fully eliminates the \$2 billion structural deficit left by the Great Recession, leaves a \$415 million cash balance plus \$1 billion in the Rainy Day Fund (a total of nearly \$1.5 Billion in cash) and keeps us on schedule meeting our State pension obligations.

Noteworthy Legislation Passed

HB 1312: Justice Reinvestment Act - makes data driven changes in our criminal justice system shifting focus and resources to address underlying behavioral health problems of non-violent offenders and decrease recidivism.

HB 437: Physician Drug Monitoring Program (PDQM) - to help decrease the abuse of narcotics and attack the heroin problem, directs physicians and pharmacists to register with the PDQM and to query it regarding a patient's prescription drug history before prescribing or dispensing opioids and other addictive medications.

HB1003: Equal Pay for Equal Work - bans wage/salary and work conditions discrimination based on sex or gender identity.

HB 1014 & HB 1015: College Affordability and Student Loan Refinancing - includes income based State match of \$250 per student or \$2500 deduction for 529 Plan contributions, Student Loan Debt Relief Tax Credit and studies of financial aid programs and of public college loan refinancing programs here and in other states, including the possible role of jurisdictions with and without bonding authority.

HB1342: Drunk Driving Reduction Act (Noah's Law) – named to honor Officer Noah Leotta, widens use of ignition interlocks technology to all alcohol related driving convictions and license suspension for refusing or failing breath or blood test. Simply, the nation's toughest drunk driving prevention statute.

HB 101: MTA Oversight and Planning Board: increases MTA consumer and local government input and oversight on accountability, performance, spending policies and progress towards strategic goals

HB 1012: Commuter Income Tax Credit: - doubles commuter tax credit; reduces carpool eligibility to 6 riders

HB 595: Keep the Doors Open Act – requires 2.5% annual rate adjustments through 2021 to community behavioral health providers and regular reporting of outcome measures to help maintain needed services.

HB610 & HB1106: Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Renewable Energy Standards - expands greenhouse gas reduction goal to 40% of 2006 levels by 2030 and renewable energy goals to 20% by 2022

HB 1350: Freestanding Medical Facilities – creates mechanism for community notice and input on hospital down-sizing and closures; simplifies procedure for hospital transitioning to an ambulatory facility

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Page Program - High school seniors of the Class of 2017 interested in serving as a page for the Maryland General Assembly during the 2017 session should contact their county's Page Coordinator regarding the application and selection process. Pages serve two non-consecutive weeks during session, which runs from early January to early April.

- Baltimore County: Mr. Rex M. Shepard
rshepard@bcps.org 410-887-4017
- Howard County: Dr. Mark Stout
mark_stout@hcpss.org 410-313-6632

Contact Jane Hudiburg, Annapolis Page Coordinator, janh@mlis.state.md.us, 410-946-5128, for further information

Internships for College Credit - If you are a college student interested in interning for the Maryland General Assembly during the 2017 session, contact your college or university intern coordinator, career counselor, or department dean for an application. All placements are made during the fall semester, and applications should be sent to the Maryland General Assembly Human Resources Office by October 31. If you do not know the contact person for your college/university, contact Jane Hudiburg, Annapolis Intern Coordinator (janh@mlis.state.md.us, 410-946-5128) or go to <http://dls.state.md.us/Content.aspx?page=66> for more information.

Scholarships - I have elected to distribute my Delegate Scholarships for high school seniors, full-time or part-time degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students, and students attending a private career school, through the Maryland Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA). This helps ensure an impartial process. All awards are based on need as demonstrated on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), therefore all a student need do to be eligible is submit their completed FAFSA. For on-line information go to http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialaid/programdescriptions/prog_delegate.asp

Get Involved

Legacy Leadership Institute on Public Policy - is open to residents of State of Maryland, aged 50+, seeking new careers as Legacy Service Leaders during retirement. Applicants apply and are interviewed each spring to participate as Legacy Leaders in the General Assembly during the following year's session. In the fall prior to

session, Legacy Leaders attend classes and receive training at the University of Maryland College Park. Go to <https://sph.umd.edu/department/hlsa/ca/about-legacy-leadership-institute-public-policy-program> for information.

Shadow a Delegate - Contact my office if you are interested in the legislative process and wish to shadow me in Annapolis for all or part of a day during Session 2017. Shadows are able to attend session, committee and stakeholder meetings, and see the inner workings of my office.

Contact me - I am always interested in your state legislative concerns and hope you will feel free to get in touch to share them. If you are having difficulty working with state agencies or have local concerns, my Administrative Assistant, Ann Goldscher, or I may be able to assist you in reaching a resolution or put you in contact with someone who can. You may reach us by phone at 410-841-3378 or by email at terri.hill@house.state.md.us

Delegate Terri L. Hill, M.D. – District 12, Baltimore and Howard Counties