



April 11, 2017

Dear Constituents and Friends,

The 2017 legislative session presented a unique set of challenges to the General Assembly and I again want to thank the people of District 12 for the privilege of representing the residents of Baltimore and Howard Counties in the House of Delegates. My sincerest gratitude goes to the outstanding legislative support staff in Annapolis including the librarians, bill drafters, clerks, policy analysts and committee staff. I want to particularly thank my Legislative Director, Belawoe Akwakoku; Intern Timothy Faircloth (Community College of Baltimore County) Legacy Leadership Volunteer, Catherine Weber; and Legislative Volunteer & Community Liaison Alan Schneider, for their diligent effort and invaluable work.

The House Health and Government Operations Committee (HGO) on which I serve came under new leadership this year and the subcommittee structure changed. I now serve on the Health Facilities & Pharmaceuticals and the Insurance Subcommittees. I will be part of a summer study group looking into requested scope of practice expansion by optometrist that is opposed by ophthalmology and has been before HGO during several sessions. I hope to soon conclude my work with the Attorney General's office developing a comprehensive information piece on end-of-life planning options, and my work with shareholders in developing programmatic and legislative proposals for expansion of access to adapted vehicles for ambulatory dependent adults.

I am pleased to share with you some highlights of a rewarding and challenging 2017 session.

#### **Budget Highlights**

\$43.5 billion Operating Budget for FY 2018-2019: \$837,093,000 for Baltimore County, a 2.7% increase  
\$339,966,633 for Howard County, a 0.9% increase

\$100 million projected General Fund balance

\$860 million Rainy Day Fund balance

> \$1 billion cash reserves

\$6.4 billion for K-12 public education

2.0% cap on public colleges and universities tuition increases

\$32.7 billion to four-year institutions

\$96.4 million, a 1.7% increase in direct aid to local school systems

\$151 million increase for Medicaid to support increases in enrollments and provider rate increases

\$16.5 million health care increase in response to the opioid crisis.

**Maryland maintains its Triple A bond rating, a recognition of our commitment to fiscal responsibility and smart financial management. We are only one of 11 states to do so.**

## **2017 Sponsored Bills**

I was the primary sponsor on 11 bills this session, several of which I'd introduced in some form during previous sessions. Four passed - two under my sponsorship, one as a Howard County Delegation bill, and the fourth after incorporation into another bill. They were:

**HB1522 - Needs Assessment for Student School-Based Behavioral Health Services** - a modification of HB1100 which I introduced in 2016, it authorizes a State-wide needs assessment of local jurisdiction's provision of in-school behavioral health services, both during the school year and year round. The information provided by the assessment should help the State and local jurisdictions to better recognize and meet the needs of all students in need of such services.

**HB730 - Health Insurance - Coverage for Diabetes Test Strips - Prohibition on Deductible, Copayment, and Coinsurance**, prohibits most insurance plans from charging co-pays and requiring deductibles be paid for coverage of diabetes test strips, an essential tool for proper management of the disease. But, because of IRS regulations on high deductible plans linked with Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), these plans may continue to charge a co-pay until the deductible is reached, after which the patient would not incur out-of-pocket fees for test strips.

**HB 677 - Howard County - Noise Control - Outdoor Venues - Howard County 18-17**, introduced in response to constituent concerns regarding the noise levels from events held at Merriweather Post Pavilion (MPP). The legislation more tightly defines MPP which remains under exception from State noise regulations; lowers the allowed sound level from 95 dba to 85 dba within a quarter mile of the main stage and to 65 dba outside of the 0.75 mile radius between 9am and 11pm, and 55 dba between 11pm and 11:30 pm; and, better defines both the noise origin and distances to receiving property lines.

**HB581 - Maryland Medical Practice Act - State Board of Physicians and Allied Health Advisory Committee** - introduced on behalf of the medical training institutions and in conjunction with the State Board of Physicians, corrects recent inadvertent errors to the Health Occupations statute by removing requirements for duplicative background checks for physician trainees (e.g. medical students, interns and residents) and re-establishing exceptions by which practitioners duly licensed in other jurisdictions, could be granted legitimate authority for limited practice within Maryland without a Maryland license. Mostly affected were 1) physicians in training, who undergo background checks by their hiring and supervisory institutions and, depending on their training level, practice under the institutions license and not their own; 2) trainers and medical staff attached to out-of-state sports teams for treatment of their players when the team travels to Maryland; and, 3) teletherapy and other practitioners licensed in neighboring jurisdictions, such as Delaware, who don't reside or have offices in Maryland but treat patients residing in Maryland or direct the after-discharge or in-home care provided by Maryland-based home-care services. The bill was incorporated into HB1265 / SB549 that extends the Board of Physicians termination date and specifies the scope and date of its next periodic evaluations, and was passed.

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I will continue working to improve and gain the support needed for passage of most of my bills which did not pass. They were:

**HB579 - Circuit Court Judges - Election, Qualifications, and Term of Office** Supported by the Judiciary, as a means of better assuring judicial integrity and insulating the judiciary from political influence by changing elections for Circuit Court judges from contested to retention elections, as they are for District and Appellate level judges, I also introduced this bill in the 2015 and 2016. The discussion in committee on this contentious issue has become more favorable and the likelihood for passage of it or other legislation to achieve the same goal appears greater for next year. A change in the judicial election process, as the bill proposes, would be a constitutional change and therefore, after passage, would require confirmation through ballot referendum to go into effect.

**HB955 - Family Law - Child Support - Age of Majority - Postsecondary Education** – would have allowed an order of child support for a child under its jurisdiction to be extended, by the Court, beyond the age of 19 to up to 23, if the person is enrolled full-time in post-secondary education. The intent of the bill is to better align child support to today's reality that parental obligations often extend beyond the traditional age of adulthood, which was set based on the expected age for high school completion when a high school education was considered the base minimum needed to get sustaining-wage job employment. Young adult children from intact families benefit from parental support beyond secondary education if they need post-secondary trade or college training to become financially independent. Now that base minimum is a year or two of post-secondary trade or a college education. The parental obligation to young adults from fractured families should not be less than the obligation of parents from intact families and the Courts authority, for the purpose of determining child support should be extended accordingly. In fact, application for college and federal education loans require financial information from both parents, even in cases of separation and divorce.

**HB966 - Commission to Study Legislative and Congressional Districting** - previously introduced in 2016, sought to address Maryland's status as one of the most gerrymandered states in the country, by establishing two separate commissions. One, based on recommendations of the Governor's Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission, would redraw Maryland legislative districts. The other would consider options and make recommendations for redrawing Maryland's Congressional Districts in partnership with one or more other states redistricting in a parallel fashion. The bill did not make it out of committee, but an alternative bill, HB367 which I co-sponsored, authorizing Maryland to correct congressional district political bias as part of a compact with New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, and North Carolina passed the House and out of Senate Committee on the last day of session, but did not get a final vote before session end. As a group, the compact members currently have near equal major party congressional representation, state legislature party dominance and gubernatorial seats, so If all 6 states act it will remove the partisan wrangling over redistricting reform and send a message to Congress and the rest of the country. I am hopeful that HB367's near passage means substantive redistricting legislation will be enacted in 2018.

**HB1044 – Oncologists – Dispensing and Insurance Coverage of Orally Administered Cancer Chemotherapy** among other things, would have allowed oncologists to better time and coordinate chemotherapy delivery involving prescribed courses of oral chemotherapy drugs for their own and their colleague's patients, by creating an exception to certain restrictions and prohibitions against physician dispensing and self-referral laws. Despite substantial amendments, this rather complex bill ultimately failed to gain the necessary stakeholder support and was withdrawn. The bill may be re-introduced in some form, if the proponents are able to address the opponents' concerns.

**HB1070 - Environment - Mattress Stewardship Program** - an amended version of a bill I introduced in 2016, would have established a task force to consider mattress disassembly and recycling programs around the country, explore the efficacy of such program as catalysts for job creation particularly for those with limited employment opportunities, and determine if a state stewardship policy, prioritizing private and nonprofit sector participation, should be developed to reduce the large number of mattresses and box springs discarded and sent to landfills.

**HB1204 - Atrazine Study** would have directed an analysis of the current scientific literature and other data on the health effects, and measuring of levels in environments throughout the state, of Atrazine, a herbicide used on corn and other crops and known contaminant of ground, surface and drinking water, which has been linked to harmful effects on fish, birds and amphibians and possibly to human birth

defects, prematurity and low birth weight. Based on the findings, determination of any need for modification of State regulatory protections would have been made.

**HB1516 - Public Health - Health Record and Payment Clearing House - Pilot Program** introduced a constituent's innovative and comprehensive approach to health care administration, with potential savings of 10-15% of health care dollars, by leveraging technology and a point-of-service payment model to trim the time, inefficiencies and redundancies from health care delivery, record sharing and provider reimbursement. It required creation of a pilot program which, if able to demonstrate the expected improvements in care delivery and costs savings, could be expanded state-wide or regionally. The legislation and its senate cross-file were well-received in committee, as administrative cost reduction, in addition to pharmaceutical price management, is an area of emphasis in our efforts to further slow the rise in, and to eventually rein in, health care costs. Hopefully, additional work to bring stakeholders on board will allow this to move forward in an upcoming session.

### **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 Lam, Delegate Ebersole and I were able to secure funding this year for the following projects in our district:

**University of Maryland Baltimore County:** \$40,249,000 for an Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building

**Howard Community College:** \$9,560,000 for renovation of the Science and Nursing Building

**Community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville:** \$250,000 for Athletic Field artificial turf

**Harriet Tubman Community Center and Museum:** \$500,000 for the capital development of the Center.

**Chrysalis Pavilion in Merriweather Park:** \$250,000 for installation of decorative lighting.

### **Other Baltimore County and Howard County Legislative Impact and Bond Bills**

**HB1299 Howard County Board of Education - Elected School Board** - changes the elected Board of Education from a seven at-large and one student member board to a board of five members elected from each of the five councilmanic districts, two at-large members, and one student member.

**HB88 Education - Selection of Members to the Baltimore County School Board** - specifies that the terms of the four members appointed at large who are in office on October 1, 2017 expire on December 2, 2018; that the Governor appoint four members to succeed the departing members, and serve a four-year term beginning on December 3, 2018, from a list of nominees submitted by the Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission; prohibits a candidate for election to the board from also seeking appointment to the board during the same election year; and requires the commission to hold at least three public hearings, each in a different councilmanic district, prior to recommending nominees for appointment to the board and to designate one of its members as commission chair by a majority vote.

**HB850 Howard County - Board of Education Fund Transfers - Approval Process** – extends, from 30 to 65, the number of days the County Council has to act on a written request for budget transfers made by the Howard County Board of Education, and authorizes the Council to approve or disapprove a written request for a budget transfer in whole or in part.

**HB1283 Alcoholic Beverages - Class 5 Brewery** – in the interest of encouraging plans of Diageo to open a Guinness brewery and taproom (projected to be a tourist destination) in Relay, and to support the growth and expansion of the statewide craft and microbrewery industries, while protecting the interests of bars, wholesalers, retailers and small businesses, this legislation expands operative provision for Class 5 Brewery licensees. It increases limits on samples during a tour or promotional event and the annual limit on barrels sold for on-premise consumption. It stipulates conditions for

contract brewing, consumption of product brewed off-site, and tourist sales for off-premises consumption, and limits the hours of sales to 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**HB436 Baltimore County - Alcoholic Beverages - Issuance of Licenses Near Places of Worship** having received support from the proximate place of worship and businesses, the legislation authorizes conditions for an exception to the prohibition on transfer of a liquor license to an establishment that is located within 100 feet of a place of worship. The conditions limit such a transfer to restaurant (i.e. Catonsville Gourmet) sales solely for on-premise consumption of liquor as part of a meal.

**HB797 Howard County - Alcoholic Beverages - Thresholds for Tasting** - doubles the per offering and daily total volume limits of beer, wine and liquor served to an individual under a tasting license.

**HB566 Howard County - Property Tax - Exemption for Personal Property of Business Located in Historic District** – allows County to exempt from the Howard County property tax personal property that is owned or leased by a business entity located in a local historic or a national register district.

**HB572 Howard County - Property Tax Credit for Commercial Real Property - Flood Damage** - allows Howard County to grant a property tax credit for commercial real property that has been determined to have suffered flood damage or sewer damage caused by flood conditions.

**HB1604 -Transfer Tax Exemption and Rate Reduction - Law Enforcement Officers and Fire and Rescue Services Members Howard County** - establishes a county transfer tax exemption for county law enforcement officers or fire and rescue services members if 1) the property is the principal residence of a first-time home buyer in Howard County who is employed as a county police officer, county deputy sheriff, or a fire and rescue services member for a minimum of three years following the home purchase. In addition, the county transfer tax rate is limited to 0.7% for their second and subsequent residential purchase.

**HB1343 Howard County - Fire and Explosive Investigator - Authority** – authorizes certification of County Fire and explosive investigators as law enforcement officers under certain, but not all, provisions having the authority to make certain warrantless arrests, and carry firearms.

**Historic Ellicott City and surrounding areas:** \$500,000 for the construction of storm water and flood management systems.

**Towson University:** \$26,000,000 for construction of a new Science Building and \$300,000 for sports practice fields improvements

**Community Colleges of Baltimore County:** \$57,000,000 grant from the Community College Facilities Grant Program for various projects and improvements such as a Multi Roof Replacement at the **Catonsville & Dundalk** campuses and the Wellness and Athletic Center at the **Essex** campus.

**Catonsville District Court:** \$12,000,000 to continue construction and renovations.

**ARC of Howard County:** \$300,000 matching grant to renovate and expand the Environmental Education Center.

**Howard County Community Action Council Food Bank:** \$200,000 for renovations and improvements.

**Howard County Uplift Foundation:** \$25,000 for facility renovations.

### Session Highlights

#### **Sexual Offenses and Victim Rights**

- Establishing that evidence of physical resistance by a victim of a sexual crime is not required to prove that a sexual crime was committed.
- Requiring that a health care provider that performs the sexual assault collection exam provide information to the victim describing to the laws and policies governing preservation and disposal collection kit evidence.
- Extending the statute of limitations in cases of sexual abuse and assault when the victim was a minor.
- Establishing an easier process to strip rapists of their paternal rights to a child conceived during rape.

- Allocating \$3 million per year of State funding for sexual assault services and crisis programs and establishing the Maryland Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Policy and Funding Committee to increase access to help for victims.

## **Health**

- Requiring expansion of an existing school program to include opioid addiction and prevention education, enacting of local opioid addiction and prevention policy and public colleges and universities to have overdose-reversing drugs available for campus police and implement an education and prevention program for incoming students.
- Providing \$3.0 million in grants are for public service announcements and training for school health personnel.
- Combating the opioid and heroin crisis by increasing funding for behavioral health community providers; expanding grants for drug courts and a statewide crisis hotline; requiring the establishment of crisis treatment centers across the State, and hospitals to establish overdose protocols.
- Establishing to a commission to monitor and develop recommendations mitigating against any negative impacts of potential federal changes to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP).
- Equipping the Attorney General to investigate, prosecute and prevent price gouging of off-patent prescription drugs.
- Providing for continuation of family planning services should federal Title X funding be terminated
- Permitting patients to obtain non-FDA approved investigational drugs or devices from the manufacturers, outside of experimental trials, if the patient is terminal or under other dire circumstances

## **Environment**

- Banning hydraulic fracturing “fracking” - the process of pumping pressurized fluids into the earth to create new or expand existing fractures in rock for the exploration or production of natural gas or oil- in Maryland.
- Requiring adoption of regulations for periodic testing for the presence of lead in each “drinking water outlet” located in an occupied public or nonpublic school building, including specific regulations regarding follow-up actions for positive test results.
- Increasing the state’s renewable energy goals to 25% by 2020 - allowing 1,300 more megawatts of renewable energy, which will reduce carbon emissions equal to 563,000 passenger vehicles in the State and, in the process, creating thousands of jobs across the wind and solar energy sectors, by overriding Governor Hogan’s veto. Maryland has more than 170 solar companies and over 4,000 solar jobs paying nearly \$21 an hour.

## **Education**

- Prohibiting students in kindergarten through second grade from being suspended or expelled from school except in extenuating circumstances.
- Limiting to 2% of instructional hours the amount of time that may be devoted to mandatory testing.

## **Wages and Taxes**

- Requires employers of 15 or more employees to provide up to 5 days of earned sick leave, and employers with fewer than 15 employees to provide unpaid leave annually. Exempts seasonal businesses and employers that already offers comparable benefits are unaffected. Employees of 85% of Maryland businesses are already offered leave and now 693,000 additional Marylanders will too.
- Creating a tax credit for small businesses that hire veteran employees
- Creating a tax credit for those who renovate their homes with disability accessibility features
- Providing a \$15,000 income tax deduction on the retirement income of thousands of law enforcement, fire, rescue, and EMS personnel who are 55 years and older.

- Providing \$10 million of income, sales, and property tax credits per year for 10 years to manufacturers who move into Maryland from out of State and create new manufacturing jobs in counties with high unemployment, and
- Allowing existing manufacturers in the State who create new jobs to claim an income tax credit for each new job created, along with depreciation tax benefits for new equipment placed into service.

### **Information for Students**

**Page Program:** High school seniors of the Class of 2018 interested in being a page for the Maryland General Assembly during the 90-day 2018 session, which runs from January to April, should contact their county's Page Coordinator regarding the application and selection process. Pages serve two non-consecutive weeks during session.

- Baltimore County: Mr. Rex M. Shepard: [rshepard@bcps.org](mailto:rshepard@bcps.org); 410-887-4017
- Howard County: Dr. Mark Stout: [mark\\_stout@hcpss.org](mailto:mark_stout@hcpss.org); 410-313-6632

Contact Annapolis Page/Intern Coordinator: Jane Hudiburg, [janh@mlis.state.md.us](mailto:janh@mlis.state.md.us); 410-946-5128 for additional questions or if unable to reach your county coordinator.

**Internships for College Credit:** If you are a college student interested in interning during the 2018 session, contact your school's intern coordinator, career counselor, or department dean for an application. All placements are made during the fall semester. Applications should be sent to the MGA Human Resources Office by October 31. If you do not know the contact person for your school, contact Jane Hudiburg, Intern Coordinator (as above) or go to <http://dls.state.md.us/Content.aspx?page=66>.

**Delegate Scholarships:** I have again 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), to help ensure an impartial process. All awards are based on financial need, therefore applicants must to submit a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For on-line information go to [http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialaid/programdescriptions/prog\\_delegate.asp](http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialaid/programdescriptions/prog_delegate.asp).

### **Other Ways To Get Involved in the General Assembly**

**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 June. In the fall, Legacy Leaders attend classes and receive training at the University of Maryland College Park to participate as Legacy Leaders in the General Assembly during the following year's session. 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 would like to shadow me in Annapolis for all or part of a day during Session 2018, attending floor sessions, committee, delegation, caucus and stakeholder meetings, and see the inner workings of my office.

**Maryland General Assembly:** MGA has an excellent website, <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>, which allows you to learn just about anything you'd want to know about your legislators, committees, legislative actions, the legislative process, and more.

### **Please Contact Me!**

I am always interested in your state legislative concerns and hope you will get in touch with me to share them. If you are having difficulty working with state agencies or have local concerns, I or my Legislative Director, Belawoe Akwakoku, may be able to assist you in reaching a resolution. Alternatively, we will

do our best to 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](mailto:terri.hill@house.state.md.us)

Thank you again for allowing me to represent you!

*Terri*