



April 11, 2018

Dear Constituents and Friends,

As I close out the end of the 2018 legislative session, my fourth since going to Annapolis to represent the District 12 residents of Baltimore and Howard Counties in the General Assembly, I again want to thank you for this challenging and extraordinary privilege. Last session, in addition to serving as a member of the House Health and Government Operations Committee, I was a member of the Affordable Care Act Workgroup, which was formed to recommend legislation in response to the changes by the federal government to the Affordable Care Act.

Highlights of the 2018 Legislative Session

Budget

As the state constitution requires, and as is done every year, the General Assembly passed a balanced budget. We maintained Maryland's Triple A bond rating, which is an affirmation of our financial strength and good fiscal management.

The fiscally-sound bipartisan budget passed by the General Assembly, leaves a fund balance of \$201.4 million and produces a structural surplus of \$158 million, including \$879 million in Maryland's Rainy Day Fund. This balance is especially important as Congress and the Trump administration have expressed plans to abandon its traditional funding role for a number of programs and shift responsibility to the states. Some shifts have already occurred and we need to be prepared to take on additional responsibility for funding transportation, roads, bridges and other infrastructure needs, healthcare, education, Chesapeake Bay and other environmental concerns, support for the elderly, disabled, and the poor, and food and nutrition programs. We will either have to pick up the tab or dramatically cut services which, in the long run, will cost us even more.

Total Operating Budget: \$44.6 billion;
\$864,533,000 for Baltimore County, a 2.8% increase;
\$353,697,000 for Howard County, a 0.8% increase

Details:

- **K-12 EDUCATION:** The budget maintains our commitment to public schools by providing record funding (over \$6.5 billion) for K-12 education, a 2.9% increase over last year. Direct aid to local schools increases by over \$160 million and school safety programs will receive an additional \$41 million.
- **STUDENT SAFETY:** \$26 million in new funding was allocated for school safety initiatives which includes \$10 million for school facility improvements, \$10 million for one-time operating grants to local school systems to improve safety & security, and \$2.5 million for safety assessments.

- **HIGHER EDUCATION:** a 4.1% increase in funding to public colleges and universities, allowing them to cap tuition increases at 2%.
- **HEALTH CARE:** The budget provides healthcare to over 1.4 million Marylanders through \$11.4 billion in Medicaid funding.
- **SALARY INCREASES:** The budget provides a 3.5% increase in pay for workers who take care of the developmentally disabled. The bill also gives State employees a 2% pay increase.

2018 Legislative Agenda

Primary Sponsored Bills

I requested that 17 bills be drafted this year, covering a variety of subjects. Several were reworked after having been previously introduced. Five bills have passed both chambers and have either been signed into law or await the Governor's signature.

One, drafted but **not introduced**, would have required the Maryland Department of the Environment to review the most recent studies on the herbicide Atrazine to determine whether our current regulations regarding its use are adequate. It was thought that authorizing the study through budgetary language was a better approach, although, ultimately, the language **did not make it** into the final budget.

Three bills originated as Howard County delegation bills.

The first bill would have required the Howard County Board of Education, in coordination with the Howard County Health Department, to develop a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) compliant written policy, including parental notification and opt-out provisions that defined how they collect and share student data to address public health needs. It was **withdrawn** when it was determined that the Howard County Public School System was in the process of developing such a policy.

The second delegation bill would have created a marketplace license in anticipation of the Inner Arbor Trust's next insertion, the Chrysalis food and beverage facility. It was **withdrawn** as disagreement amongst the affected parties could not be resolved in time and its need was not imminent.

The third, **HB1325 – Howard County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class C License and Class C and Class D Per Diem Entertainment Venue Licenses**, was needed clarified the rights of both Merriweather Post Pavilion and the new Inner Arbor Trust to have separate liquor licenses and defined how the obligations under the license would be managed regarding events hosted on both properties by either entity. The bill **passed**.

The remaining four bills of which I was the primary sponsor and which passed are:

HB 135/SB137 – Health Insurance – Coverage for Male Sterilization – High-Deductible Health Plans – protects Health Savings Accounts (HSA) associated with High Deductible Health Plans from being deemed as ineligible for tax credits by the IRS, by clarifying that state law prohibiting insurance companies from charging co-pays, deductibles, or co-insurance for coverage of male sterilization procedures (i.e. vasectomies) only applies to these HSAs once a plan's contracted cost-share charges have been met.

HB517 – Pharmacy Drug Monitoring Program – Data Request Exemption – Surgical Procedures provides an exemption from required querying of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) before prescribing Schedule I narcotics or benzodiazepines if being prescribed immediately after surgery for short term post-operative pain management.

HB596/SB234 - Interstate Medical Licensure Compact – allows Maryland to become a member of an Interstate compact established among the member states to provide a streamlined process that allows physicians to become licensed in multiple states, enhancing the portability of a medical license.

HB 1574/SB 896 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Health Record and Payment Clearinghouse Pilot Program – requires the Maryland Health Care Commission to establish a Health Record and Payment Integration Program Advisory Committee to study the feasibility of health record and payment programs. This legislation was the brain child of, and developed, revised and negotiated with constituent, Dr. Bruce Taylor.

Bills I introduced which did not fare so well were:

HB 513-Circuit Court Judges - Election, Qualifications, and Term of Office alters the method of selection and tenure of circuit court judges by having them run in an uncontested retention election after the Governor's appointment and Senate approval. This process would mirror that used for appellate judges. The bill also decreases the term of office from 15 to 10 years following their election.

HB552 – Youth Sports Programs – Concussion Risk and Management Training – Requirements was one of two bills attempting to fortify the safety of children involved in youth sports. This bill would have required the Maryland State Department of Education to standardize education for all involved youth sports parties, including coaches, students, parents and other personnel, on concussions and head injuries and ensure the presence of a properly educated person at all youth sports games and practices.

HB 850 - Solid Waste Management and Recycling – Mattresses and Box Springs required inclusion of mattresses and box springs in local solid waste stream management plans and educating and promoting composite recycling and alternative waste management programs, in order to develop long term solutions and decrease the large numbers of mattresses and box springs from disposal in landfills and incinerators. After making changes to remove any suggested local mandates we were able to bring the opposition on board and the bill passed out of the Environment and Transportation Committee, where it had stalled the previous two years. It failed to pass the Economic Matters Committee, however.

HB1060 – County Boards of Education – Collection and Sharing of Student Data – Policy requiring each local county board of education, with their local health departments, to develop written policies for collection and sharing of student data to improve the public health outcomes.

HB 1151 - Vehicle Laws - Speed Monitoring Systems introduced by constituent request to require that speed camera calibration information be publically available and other transparency steps taken so that a defendant has the technical information information to challenge a wrongful citation which one cannot now do since the assumptions are that the system is infallible.

HB 1152 - Age of Majority-Postsecondary Education is a priority of the local and state American Association of University Women who initiated it because a high school education or GED is no longer sufficient training for transitioning to financially independent adulthood. The legislation would have allowed court jurisdiction, for a young adult under it because of parental divorce or separation, to extend until age 23, solely for directing financial support and preventing financial abandonment, based on each parties circumstances, if the youth needed such support to continue post-secondary vocational or college education, and under certain other circumstances.

HB 1210 – Education – Public Schools and Youth Sports Programs – Physical Sports was the second of the two bills introduced based on current and evolving science on the danger of repeated head trauma for development of late, long term brain disease such as Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy. As amended, it would decrease the risk to children's developing brains of repeated, sub-concussive, trauma by prohibiting youth sports leagues, below the high school level from allowing tackling in football and rugby and heading in soccer. It also included provision similar to those in HB552 for standard

minimal training prior to beginning the high school level sports and education on health risks of head trauma for applicable high school students and their parents and coaches.

The bill did not pass but stirred discussion amongst youth sports league organizers and coaches, primarily associated with football, and a commitment for us to work in concert to find ways of improving safety and uniformity of safety standards across the state.

HB1546 – Pharmacy Benefits Managers – Requirements for Prior Authorization introduced to decrease the redundancy, inconvenience, delays and wasted time associated with the procedures required for prescribers to obtain pre-authorization approval on a variety of prescription medications before they can be dispensed to the patient. The bill was well supported, but because of confusion over which entity was ultimately responsible for the correcting the systems and whether changes in the system and process are needed beyond the three required in the bill, the issue will be studied with stakeholders over the next few months with the expectation that recommendations for an effective, manageable and comprehensive solution will be made for introduction during the 2019 session. The group is to examine problems with the current system or pre-authorization for pharmaceuticals and durable medical equipment.

HB 1568 – Public Services Companies – Facility Equipment was also initiated by a constituents concerns. It sought to require, as amended, telecommunications company to remove their service equipment (i.e. external plants-- think green boxes and unused telephone poles) within 60 days of the equipment having been replaced or retired. The current practice is for the Public Service Commission to request removal only if complaints are received.

District 12 Legislative Impact and Bond Bills

The following District 12 legislative impact and bond bills passed:

- **Harriet Tubman Community Center and Museum:** \$500,000 for removal of hazardous substances such as asbestos, lead & PCB and restoration of the facility
- **Ellicott City Public Arts Project:** \$175,000 for the design and creation of large-scale murals
Lansdowne Volunteer Fire Department: \$200,000 towards a new firehouse with a community center
- **Morning Star Family Life Center:** \$500,000 for renovations
- **Phillips School:** \$150,000 for a commercial kitchen that will house a Career and Technical Kitchen initiative for high school students with disabilities
- **Vehicles for Change:** \$250,000 for roof replacement

Some Other Baltimore & Howard County Delegation Bills

HB74 Career Exploration and Development Activities – Coffee – Java Act - allows the re-establishment of a coffee shop as part of the vocational training program at Patapsco High School.

HB76 Baltimore County Board of Education – Education Transparency Act - Placing in statute requirements for the Baltimore County Board of Education to keep and make readily accessible, on-line, records the actions and votes the board taken in open session (including description and video links to the meetings.)

HB1600 Baltimore County Anti-Bullying Task Force - establishes the Baltimore County Anti-Bullying Task Force to compile data on the incidence of certain forms of

bullying in public schools and to review current related disciplinary actions and options for disciplinary actions.

HB223 Howard County – Transfer Tax Exemption and Rate Reduction – Teachers Exempts from the county transfer tax the sale of residential real property to teachers if the teacher is a first-time home buyer in Howard County; establishing a maximum transfer tax rate of 0.7%

HB1180 Howard County Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Teacher establishes the Howard County Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Teachers to attract, recruit, and retain a diverse cadre of qualified teachers that is reflective of the student population

HB1186 Howard County – Property Tax Credit – Natural Disaster authorizes Howard County to grant a property tax credit against the county property tax imposed on residential or commercial real property that has suffered damage caused by the 2016 Ellicott City floods and future natural disasters

Noteworthy Legislation

Health Care

Earned Sick Leave - 85% of Maryland businesses provide some form of paid leave to their employees, but over 750,000 Maryland workers have no paid leave and so face hard choices if they become ill or have to care for an ill child or loved one. As of February of this year, with certain exceptions, employers with fewer than 15 employees are required to provide unpaid, and employers with 15 or more employees to provide paid, sick leave at the rate of 1 hour of earned leave for every 30 hours worked, up to five days annually. The legislation, passed during the 2017 session, was vetoed by the governor. The veto was overridden by the General Assembly at the beginning of the 2018 session. Answers to question about the new law, including employer obligations, exceptions and how the leave is to be calculated can be found on the Department of Labor and Licensing website: dllr.state.md.us under **Maryland Healthy Working Families Act**.

Fighting Opioid Abuse – Boosted ongoing efforts to address the problems with rising opioid addiction and overdose rate by requiring referral of prescribers whose prescribing habits, as monitored through the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program are thought to be outside of standard practices to undergo education and those found by the Office of Controlled Substances to be suspicious for illegal activity to be referred to law enforcement for investigation.

Health Insurance-Individual Market Stabilization (Maryland Health Care Access Act of 2018) - protects access of residents of Maryland to affordable health care coverage that may result from loss of coverage to the ACA, Medicare, Medicaid and Children's Health Care program.

Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission Reform Act – created a path to correct the failure of the previous commission, without delaying the program, to follow state legislative directives to ensure racial, ethnic, gender as well as geographic diversity in awarding licenses in this new and lucrative market. Also establishes a compassionate need fund to provide funding for patients who would otherwise be unable to afford treatment.

Education

21st Century School Facilities Act makes comprehensive changes to public school construction funding and approval processes in the State, including (1) providing at least \$400 million for public school construction annually; 2) creating a School Safety Grant Program with an annual allocated budget of at least \$10 million for school safety improvements; 3) requiring periodic

public school facilities assessments; and (3) streamlining the State approval process for school construction projects.

Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018 increases the presence of school resource officers (SRO's) and/or local law enforcement in or near public schools and requires SRO's to complete specialized training.

Securing the Future: Computer Science Education for All requires county boards to require public high schools to offer at least one high-quality computer science course beginning in the 2021-2022 school year.

County Board of Education – Length of School Year Adjustments allows local school boards, without State School Board approval, to extend the school year up to five days beyond the administratively mandated June 15th date in order to meet statutory 180 days requirement.

Atticus Act requires vision screenings when a student's enters student enters a school system, enters the first grade, and enters the eighth or ninth grade unless evidence is presented that an optometrist or ophthalmologist has tested a student within the past year.

Justice and Safety

Child Conceived Without Consent - Termination of Parental Rights (Rape Survivor Family Protection Act) this failed in the final minutes of the 2017 session but was passed with overwhelming support at the beginning of this year. It authorizes a court to end parental rights if there was clear evidence of nonconsensual sexual conduct resulting in the conception of the child and if there is clear evidence that terminating parental rights is in the best interest of the child. If the parents were married this law usually does not apply. –

Animal Cruelty – Sentencing Conditions authorizes a court to prohibit a person convicted of felony dogfighting, felony cockfighting or possession of an implement of dogfighting from owning, possessing, or residing with an animal for a specified period of time

Rapid Fire Trigger Activation strictly regulates “rapid fire trigger activators” (bump stocks) in the State of Maryland.

Handgun Permit Review Board the Handgun Permit Review Board was repealed and its responsibilities taken over by the Office of Administrative Hearings in order to ensure those with permits to carry handguns are adequately equipped to do so, mentally and physically.

Extreme Risk Prevention Orders establishes an extreme risk prevention order and creates a process where the petitioner may seek a court order to prevent the respondent from possessing a firearm.

Criminal Procedure - Firearms Transfer orders that a defendant before trial or accepting a guilty fee and who has been charged with a domestic crime must be provided written notice that it is illegal to possess a firearm, rifle or shotgun. All firearms must be transferred to an enforcement official or licensed firearms dealer with proof of transfer

Taxes and Business

Personal Exemptions – Alterations passed in response to the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. This bill clarifies that personal exemptions can be made for the individual, their spouse and eligible dependents.

Protecting Marylanders from the Federal Tax Package - The Republican Tax Package that passed Congress was a \$1.5 trillion tax break for corporations and the very wealthy. Unfortunately, it also made for tax increases for Marylanders. We worked hard and voted out a package of tax bills to protect Marylanders from the effect of the Federal Tax Package.

Fostering Employment Act of 2018 establishes the Fostering Employment Program to provide employment opportunities for “foster care recipients” and “unaccompanied homeless youth” through training that leads to industry-recognized credentials.

Promoting extraordinary Innovation in Maryland’s Economy – The PRIME Act - establishes tax incentives to Amazon for building and establishing a second headquarters in Montgomery County, and based on a project plan which 1) creates, over 17-years, 40,000 new qualified positions at annual salaries of 60k -500k (average 100k) and 2) makes \$4.5 billion in project expenditures.

Environment

U.S. Climate Alliance requires the Governor to include Maryland as a member of the U.S. Climate Alliance.

Voting – Ethics – Government

Legislative Branch of State Government – Sexual Harassment requires the several entities within state government to establish or update anti-harassment policies and procedures for members and employees of the Maryland General Assembly.

Elective Franchise Registration and Voting at Precinct Polling Place allows a qualified person to register and vote at a precinct polling place on Election Day.

Contributions in Name of Another – Fair Campaign Financing Fund gives campaign donations made from an individual giving a false name to the Fair Campaign Financing Fund, which provides public financing of gubernatorial tickets.

Secure and Accessible Registration Act establishes the Motor Vehicle Administration, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, local departments of social services, and Mobility Certification Office in the Maryland Transit Administration as official places where an individual can be registered to vote when visiting the agencies for its specific services.

Information for Students

Page Program: High school seniors of the Class of 2019 who are interested in being a page for the Maryland General Assembly during the 90-day 2019 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; 410-887-4017

Howard County: Dr. Mark Stout: mark_stout@hcpss.org; 410-313-6632

Contact Annapolis Page/Intern Coordinator, Carol Pelli at Carolyn.pelli@mlis.state.md.us or 410-946-5124 for additional information or if you are 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 Maryland General Assembly Human Resources Office by October 31, 2018. If you do not know the contact person for your school, contact Carolyn Pelli, Intern Coordinator (as listed above) or go to <http://dls.state.md.us/Content.aspx?page=66>.

Delegate Scholarships: Starting this year, I have decided to distribute my Delegate Scholarships through an application process from my office. High school seniors, full-time or part-time degree-

seeking undergraduate and graduate students, and students attending a private career school are eligible to apply if attending an in-state institution. If interested, please contact us via email at terri.hill@house.state.md.us.

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 2019, attending floor sessions, committee, delegation, caucus and stakeholder meetings, for an opportunity to see the inner workings of my office.

Maryland General Assembly: The Maryland General Assembly 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, my Legislative Director, Belawoe Akwakoku, or I 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

Special Thanks

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my gratitude to everyone whose hard work made it possible for us to successfully complete the work of the people of Maryland. From the buildings and grounds crews, security personnel and the café staff to the outstanding Annapolis legislative support staff including the librarians, bill and amendment writers, clerks, policy analysts, committee and leadership and administrative staff, we could not have succeeded without your support.

I want to particularly thank my Legislative Director, Belawoe Akwakoku, session interns Japan Bhalja (University of Maryland) Julia Thomas (University of Maryland), Madiou Williams (University of Baltimore School of Law), Legacy Leadership volunteer Barbara Sonies; Legislative Fellow Alan Schneider, and district interns Amaris Hester and Julia Nikhinson for their commitment and hard work.

Thank you again for allowing me to represent you!

Terri I. Hill, M.D.