



Dear Friends,

With the adjournment of the 2022 Maryland General Assembly legislative session, I must express my appreciation for the privilege of serving as your voice in Annapolis.

It was a very busy session - the third conducted during the unprecedented pandemic - and the agenda included major initiatives like decennial redistricting.

Here are some of the highlights from the whirlwind legislative session:

DECEMBER 2021 SPECIAL SESSION

The General Assembly convened for a special session in December to take required action on legislative redistricting following the 2020 Decennial Census. In addition, legislators voted to override Governor Hogan's vetoes of over 20 bills passed in the prior session. Some of the bills that became law because of the veto override include legislation:

- creating grants for small businesses impacted by the construction of the Purple Line
- limiting state actors' engagement in federal immigration enforcement
- placing decisions regarding parole of inmates serving life sentences in the sole control of a parole commission
- providing counties and Baltimore City greater flexibility in setting local income taxes
- providing for investments in maintenance of the state's public transit system

HISTORIC BUDGETS PASSED

The State's FY 23 **Operating Budget** passed with a record **\$2.4B allotted to the Rainy Day Fund** for emergencies and provides more than \$650M to fund the General Assembly's

legislative priorities like education, support for Marylanders with the greatest need, and providing benefits and cost of living increases for state employees.

Other priorities addressed by the budget include funding for: affordable childcare; crime prevention and victim services; affordable rental housing; services to 1,350 youth on the Autism Waiver waiting list; cash assistance benefits; expanding Medicaid dental benefits for adults; addressing climate impacts; launching paid family leave; and grants for arts and tourism organizations.

This year's **Capital Budget** is one of the largest in State history. Working with the Administration to target spending toward one-time infrastructure investment, the capital budget provides \$1.5 billion in funding for our most important priorities, including \$50.0 million for legislative bond initiatives. The General Assembly approved \$600 million in pre-authorized funding for projects in future years.

2022 SPONSORED BILLS

I am pleased to report the passage of the following bills on which I was the Primary or a Co-Sponsor:

HB0087/SB50 Higher Education - Returned Peace Corps Volunteers - In-State Tuition (Primary Sponsor): Allows Maryland Peace Corps Volunteers on completing their service abroad, to regain in-state tuition status upon their return.

HB1105 /SB666- Public Safety - 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System - Alterations (Primary Sponsor): Omnibus legislation arising from the work of the Maryland Next Generation 9-1-1 Commission, classifying 9-1-1 specialists (a.k.a. 911 operators) as first responders, modifying the Maryland 9-1-1 Board's membership and mechanism for filling vacancies, removing the cap on local jurisdiction fees, enhancing comptroller audits, requiring progress reports on statewide interoperability, security, and jurisdictional funding mechanism adequacy and inequities from the Department of Emergency Management and 911 Board. The cross-filed bills were identical, and the senate bill passed in time.

HB0227 State Government - Legal and Employee Holiday - Juneteenth National Independence Day: Establishes Juneteenth National Independence Day as a State and State employee holiday.

HB279 - Veterans Affairs - Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program - Veterans Advocacy and Education Act: Renames the Outreach and Advocacy Program in the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program and tasking that it to help veterans and their dependents become aware of and access education and training benefits to which they are entitled.

HB0578 - Public Health - Medications to Treat an Opioid Use Disorder - Preferred and Non-Preferred Medications: Requires the Maryland Department of Health to adopt use of CRISP, the state's centralized reporting system to analyze patterns of prescribing opioid treatment medications, conduct outreach, and identify barriers to their prescribing and use.

HB609 - Local Health Officers - Removal – Process: Establishes due process and notice with explanation for removal of a health local officer from office.

HB778 – Transportation - Investment Program - MARC Rail Service (Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act): Requires the Maryland Transit Administration to establish certain investment programs for enhancing certain rail lines and services operated by the Maryland Area Regional Commuter rail service; requires the Administration to advance certain rail projects in fiscal year 2023; requires the Administration to conduct a MARC Cornerstone Plan Implementation Study; and establishes the Transportation Trust Fund Workgroup to study certain matters and make its recommendations by December 16, 2022.

HB804 – Commissioner of Financial Regulation - Enhanced Consumer Protections and Enforcement Tools: Prohibits a regulated person from performing acts that are anticompetitive, unfair, deceptive, abusive, or injurious to the public interest; authorizes the Commissioner of Financial Regulation to issue orders requiring the correction of a violation of law subject to the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, including the restitution of money or property; and provides for certain information sharing by the Commissioner involving entities engaging in activity over which the Commissioner has jurisdiction.

HB937 - Abortion Care Access Act: Establishes the Abortion Care Clinical Training Program and Fund to ensure that there are enough trained health professionals to provide abortion care; requires Medicaid coverage of such services to be without a co-pay, just as it is for private insurance.

HB1486 Motor Fuel Taxes - Tax-Free Period - Recognizes the burden that the currently high cost of gasoline and diesel puts on so many Maryland residents, a 30-day suspension of fuel taxes was implemented starting in mid-March.

Several of my bills passed the House, but stalled in the Senate. I likely will reintroduce them in a future session. Among them was legislation to:

- require certain energy conservation measures for State buildings
- implement recommendations of the Attorney General's COVID-19 Access to Justice Covid Task Force ("AJTF") to create a limited power of attorney to assist seniors and vulnerable populations in applying for Medicaid and other government benefits
- consider penalties to address the dangerous practice of "Swatting", where a person intentionally files false emergency calls to deploy law enforcement to a targeted person's home or location

Other important bills introduced, but not acted on this year, remain on my list of legislative priorities for future sessions. They include bills to:

- implement another AJTF recommendation to change the current practice of requiring the pre-payment of taxes before completing a transfer of property to heirs, thus allowing the heir to leverage the property for payment and stave off a tax sale

- add certain protections for tenants in rent actions
- create a health and wellness pilot program for correctional facilities
- extend best practices regarding personnel background checks and training to sports organized for our youngest athletes
- establish a commission to examine the health impacts of commercial aviation on near communities
- ensure families of Maryland public school children who fail vision screening are able to obtain corrective eyewear
- establish a study commission to examine tech and science programs and policies
- establish a Youth Sports Safety Advisory Commission
- include diagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder as an occupational disease of 9-1-1 operators eligible for workers compensation
- join 29 other states in creating a statutory deed allowing the transfer of one's home without the need for probate
- establish a Technology and Science Advisory Commission
- create a mattress recycling stewardship program

HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

As a member of the Health and Government Operations Committee, I enjoy working with colleagues on important initiatives, such as

- establishing stronger standards and coordination of governmental cyber security practices and infrastructure
- shortening the time for state payment of contractors
- requiring hospital reimbursement of fees paid by patients who were later found to have qualified for reduced fees
- creating a 9-8-8 trust fund to support one-stop calling for behavioral health and suicide prevention emergency services
- increasing programs and funding for doula services
- reimbursement and coverage for ambulance services; psychiatric inpatient care; substance use disorder network adequacy; community violence prevention services; and medical care for children up to age one and pregnant women regardless of immigration status.

BALTIMORE AND HOWARD COUNTY LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

Local Capital Impact and Legislative Bond Initiatives

As the chair of the **Baltimore County** House Delegation Legislative Bond Initiatives (LBI) Subcommittee, I am pleased to report delegation members secured almost **\$5.5 million** in capital grants for local organizations and schools throughout the county. District 12 secured a **\$200,000** LBI for **The Catonsville Art Guild's Community Clubhouse** renovations. In addition, **\$5.5 million** was secured capital funding for the county for other county projects including: streetscaping in **Arbutus; Catonsville Middle School; Baltimore Highlands Trail; Sheppard Pratt Hospital Utility Infrastructure; Security Mall; Benjamin Banneker Historical Park & Museum;** and **bus stop enclosures** throughout Council District 1.

Howard County received over nearly **\$8 million** in capital funding, including **\$2.6 million** in local bond grants for the following projects and organizations: **Grassroots; Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center, the Bains 50+ and the East Columbia 50+ Centers; Blandair, Centennial, Waterloo, and West Friendship Parks; the Veterans Monument; Historic Oakland; Patuxent Commons; Maryland Innovation Center, Living in Recovery, and the Howard County Conservancy.**

Other Local Impact Legislation

Baltimore County - local legislation was passed to:

- provide School Board members budget training and allow the student member to vote on the budget
- create a West Baltimore Redevelopment Authority to spur and facilitate economic progress
- authorize creation of a property tax credit for homeowners with income above \$600,000 who experience certain health or property related hardships.

Howard County - local legislation was passed to:

- authorize the County to create a property tax credit, for residents at least 65 years old who have resided in the dwelling for 30 consecutive years and whose combined income does not exceed \$75,000
- establish the Housing Opportunities Trust Fund to promote equitable access to affordable housing for households of limited income in Howard County
- allow the issuance of a consumption only shopping mall plaza alcoholic beverage license and special event permit provided the beverage is purchased from certain restaurants
- equate the first-year salary of the Howard County Sheriff's term with the salary of a Major on Step 6 of the Howard County Police Management Schedule and that annual increases follow the Howard County Police Management Schedule
- update liquor board hearing notice requirements and required postings on the County website.

BULLETIN BOARD

College Scholarships

Each year, members of the General Assembly are allocated funds to support the awarding of a Senatorial or Delegate scholarship Maryland residents pursuing post-secondary education at a two-year or four-year Maryland college, university or private career school are eligible to apply. My scholarships are awarded each spring to students based on a demonstrated combination of aptitude, drive, need, and commitment. Although applications for scholarships to be awarded in 2022 closed on April 15th, I encourage those interested to check my newsletter, webpage [Scholarship Application Portal](#) or contact my office in December for information on how to apply for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Get Involved

Here are ways that you can learn more, do more, or get and stay involved with the legislative process:

Legacy Leadership Institute on Public Policy: Open to state residents aged 50+ seeking meaningful volunteer opportunities as Legacy Service Leaders. Applications become available in June and accepted participants receive training from University of Maryland faculty and outside experts in fall to be prepared to work with Maryland General Assembly members as Legacy Leaders in the upcoming session. For more information contact Wesley Queen at wqueen@umd.edu or 301-405-2529, or please visit [here](#).

Shadow a Delegate: Please contact my office if you would like to shadow me in Annapolis for all or part of a day during Session 2023. This includes attending floor sessions, committee, delegation, caucus, and stakeholder meetings, and seeing the inner workings of my office. Email: Terri.Hill@House.State.md.us Phone: 410-841-3378

Maryland General Assembly: The MGA has an excellent website, <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>, which allows you to learn anything you'd want to know about your legislators, committees, legislative actions, the legislative process and more. You can hit the [MyMGA](#) link to create an account to track legislation that matters to you!

Page Program: Pages serve two non-consecutive weeks during the session. This year pages worked remotely, but the 2023 format has not yet been determined. Class of 2023 high school seniors who are interested in being a page in the General Assembly during the 90-day 2023 session, which runs from January to April, should contact the county's Page Coordinator regarding the application and selection process.

Baltimore County: Dr. Dani Biancolli dbiancolli@bcps.org, 410-809-4017

Howard County: Ms. C. Renee Bos christina_bos@hcpss.org, 410-313-6632

For additional questions, or if unable to reach your county coordinator, contact Annapolis Page/Intern Coordinator, Dr. Tawana Offer at Tawana.Offer@mlis.state.md.us, 410-946-5120.

Legislative Intern Program: If you're a college student interested in being an intern for the 2023 session, which runs from January to April, contact your school's intern coordinator, career counselor, or department dean for an application and for information regarding the submission deadline. Placements are made during the fall semester. Applications should be sent to the

Maryland General Assembly Human Resources Department. Contact Ms. Carolyn Pelli at 410-946-5120 or Carolyn.Pelli@mlis.state.md.us with questions, see <http://dls.maryland.gov/careers/legislative-intern-program/>.

Volunteering: Contact my office directly via email or phone if high school age or older students are interested in volunteer opportunities.
Email: Terri.Hill@House.State.md.us Phone: 410-841-3378

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank my Legislative Director, Ayanna Harrison, Legislative Aide, Adilia Espinoza-Jones, Legacy Leader Barbara Albert, and Session Interns, Nicholas Grempler and Aubrie Zepp, for their enthusiasm, commitment, hard work, and flexibility, during this uniquely challenging and successful legislative session.

A special thank you goes to Catherine Carter for her advocacy, partnership, and support on several policy initiatives, both of mine and of others, and most especially in the Vision Services workgroup and legislative efforts.

I also extend my appreciation to my former Legislative Director and future lawyer, Amber Potter, and 2021 summer interns Kevin Baker and Ping “Harrison” An. They were particularly helpful in working with constituents overwhelmed by the challenge of navigating the unemployment insurance claims process.

I would also like to thank Tony Davenport for countless hours in helping me evaluate the 2021 scholarship applications. Thanks also to Baltimore County and Howard County Delegation administrators Barbara McLean and Abbey Rubeling, respectively, and Delegation counsel Hillary Alcott and Darrah Moriarity.

Finally, I am incredibly grateful for the staff of the House and Senate; the Department of Legislative Services; the Maryland State and Capitol Police; and other security personnel for their, professionalism, flexibility, and hard work. Their support allowed the members to do the people’s business effectively, efficiently, and safely, in unprecedented times.

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, Ayanna Harrison, 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 email at terri.hill@house.state.md.us.

Be well, stay safe, and vote!

Terri Hill