



April 11, 2019

Dear Constituents and Friends,

Having just completed a challenging session with a difficult ending, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for the privilege of representing the residents of Baltimore and Howard Counties in the House of Delegates. During the 2019 Legislative Session, I continued my service on the House Health and Government Operations



Committee (HGO) and was reassigned to the Public Health and Minority Health Disparities and the Government Operations and Estates and Trusts Subcommittees. Additionally, I Chaired of the Howard County House Delegation and was also Chair of the Baltimore County House Delegation Bond Initiatives Subcommittee.

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, Mary Catherine Cochran; Interns, Amber Potter (University of Baltimore) and Mesha Rivers (Howard University), Legacy Leadership Volunteer, Jane Clark, and

Legislative Volunteers David Ryan and Alan Schneider, as well as to the Howard County Delegation Administrator, Kamau Bridges, for their diligence and invaluable work in bringing the 2019 legislative session to a successful conclusion.

The session ushered in a large class of bright and enthusiastic freshmen, requiring a near-complete leadership turn-over in the Senate and swelling membership in the Women's, Black, Latino and, Asian-American & Pacific-Islander Caucuses. Throughout the 90-days we faced unique challenges: beginning with Senate President Michael Miller's announcement that he would be undergoing treatment for Stage 4 prostate cancer, and including the House's censuring of one member and reprimand of another; the deployment to Afghanistan two weeks before session end of Senate Judiciary Vice-chair Will Smith – a classmate, friend and ally; and ending with the unexpected death from pneumonia, on the eve of the final day, of House Speaker Michael Busch, whose legacy of leadership and public service is unmatched. All of that notwithstanding, we took on a number of important issues affecting Marylanders and worked hard towards effective solutions. I am pleased to share with you some legislative highlights of the rewarding and complicated 2019 session.

I'd like to share with you some highlights of the 2019 General Assembly Session.

### **Budget Highlights**

**Maryland maintained its Triple A bond rating, a recognition of our commitment to fiscal responsibility and smart financial management. We are only one of 16 states to be rated as such.**

As every year, the General Assembly passed a bipartisan, balanced budget for FY 2020. Despite a General Fund FY19 shortfall of \$269 million, in part due to the Federal Government shutdown, the House Appropriations and Senate Budget and Taxation Committees were able to reorganize the state budget to fund our priorities without raising taxes. The final approved budget provides a \$118.2 million **fund balance**, \$26 million **structural surplus** for FY2020 and \$1.1 billion **Rainy Day Fund balance**.

\$46.6 billion **Operating Budget** for FY 2019-2020:

- \$911,537 for **Baltimore County, a 6.5% increase**
- \$380,622 for **Howard County, a 8.7% increase**
- Public 4-year colleges support grows \$110.7 million (7.3%) with tuition increase capped at 2%
- A record \$7.0 billion in support for **public schools**, with \$500 million for **school construction**, \$435.2 million (7.5%) increase in **direct aid to local schools**, and at least \$255 million for Kirwin implementation down payment including: -
  - \$2 million for **Mental Health Coordinators** in each local school system
  - \$31.7 million for **full day pre-K for 4-year-olds**
  - \$65.5 million for **Special Education Grants**
  - \$75 million for **Teacher Salary Incentive Grants**
- Medicaid funding totals \$11.2 billion, allowing state provided coverage to 1.4 million residents
- 3% general salary increase for **state employees**, 5% for **law enforcement officers**, additional 6% salary increase for **correctional officers**, 3.5% rate increase for **providers serving the developmentally disabled and those with behavioral health needs** and 3% rate increase for most **other health and human service providers**.
- **State Medicaid funding of \$11.2 billion, to cover 1.4 million residents**
- \$4 million to establish a **Rape Kit Testing Grant Fund**

### **2019 Sponsored Bills**

I was the primary sponsor on 22 bills this session including 2 local bills under my sponsorship. Six passed, including both Howard County Delegation bills, an additional bill will go to interim. The bills that passed were:

**HB251** – Department of Aging - Grants for Aging-in-Place Programs (NANA): This bill supports those wishing to age in place by authorizing the Maryland Department of Aging to make grants to nonprofit organizations and area agencies on aging to establish and expand current aging-in-place programs for seniors.

**HB417** – Water Pollution Control – Notification of Sewer Overflows and Treatment Plant Bypasses: Improves public notification stream and river contamination due to a sewer overflow or treatment plant bypass including requirements for posting on agency websites, at the site of the overflow in English and Spanish, and on local social media websites and timely notification to downstream jurisdictions.

**HB436** – Estates and Trusts - Protection of Minors and Disabled Persons – Guardianship: Held for further study during the interim, this bill seeks to establish separate processes for the appointment of a guardian for disabled persons and minors and generally prohibit the court from appointing as guardian the attorney (or partners or business associate of the attorney) who represents a party in the petition for guardianship.

**HB751** – Health Insurance - Prior Authorization – Requirements: Improves the process and decreases delays in getting prescriptions refilled by prohibiting unnecessary reauthorization requirements and removing much of the redundancy, especially for patients with chronic conditions. Although additional improvements are

desirable from patient, provider and pharmacist perspectives, the provisions passed reflect broad stakeholder agreement and progress.

**HB869** – **Howard County- Alcoholic Beverages- Marketplace License** – Establishes a marketplace license allowing the owner, manager, or lessee of a single structure to procure a license to sell alcoholic beverages through one or more vendors and agents within the structure via bar service, draft service, and take home service using growlers or other such vessels.

**HB1166** – **Howard County- Authority to Impose Fees for Use of Disposable Bags**: This bill authorizes Howard County to impose a fee on a store for the use of disposable bags as part of a retail sale of products. The fee may not exceed 5 cents for each disposable bag used. The county may only use fee revenue collected pursuant to the bill for an environmental purpose, including the establishment of a program to provide reusable bags to individuals in the county or the implementation, administration, and enforcement of the fee.

**HB1183** – **Public Health - Treatment for the Prevention of HIV - Consent by Minors**: On average, three Marylanders are diagnosed with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) every day and 22 percent of new HIV diagnoses in the state in 2017 were for people 24 and younger. Minors aged 14-18 are currently unable to consent to preventative treatment for HIV without parental notification or consent. This bill allows a minor to receive HIV preventative prescriptions without parental consent.

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I will continue working to improve and gain support needed for of a number of bills which did not pass including:

**HB136** – **Department of General Services - Energy-Conserving and Bird-Safe Building Standards**: This ecologically important bill would have required, to the extent practicable and within budgetary restraints, LEED Pilot Credit #55 consistent standards be developed and implemented for state-owned and state-funded buildings to decrease the 988 million annual bird deaths from window collisions and reduce energy consumption. The law would have applied to state funded buildings constructed, substantially altered, or acquired and required appropriate shielding of lighting of existing public buildings. The bill and its amended senate cross-file were each delayed in the house and finally passed out, but not in time for the chambers to reach concurrence on the amendments.

**HB502** – **Environment - Office of Recycling - Mattresses and Box Springs**: This bill required the State to assist and encourage local jurisdictions to create mattress and box spring waste stream management programs and promote business and jobs creation that diverts them from disposal in landfills and incinerators, by collecting and providing current information on local and national programs for the recycling and reuse of mattresses and box springs. This bill passed the House unanimously, but did not make it out of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee.

**HB937** – **Family Law - Child Support - Eligibility of a Child Who Has Attained the Age of 18 Years**: Aligning child support to reflect today's reality that, as a high school education or GED is no longer sufficient to gain independent, self-sustaining, tax-base contributing employment, this bill would have restored the age of majority to 21, for purposes of child financial support alone. It would have applied the same expectations to parents who are divorced, separated or never married, as seen in parents of intact families, for helping their offspring to successfully launch into adulthood, provided the young adult is putting forth adequate effort and certain circumstances were present.

**HB940 – Unregulated Space in Hospital Operating Suites Pilot Project – Study:** Required a study to evaluate how to better use underutilized hospital operating room space, making it less cost prohibitive and more accessible for self-paying, elective patients at higher risk or who need a higher level of immediate post-surgical care than may be available in a stand-alone facility. This bill passed the house, but unacceptable, last minute senate amendments left no time for reconciliation and passage. The stakeholders, with my and the committee chair's urging, have agreed to carry out the requested study despite the bill's failure.

**HB1106 – Youth Sports Programs - Restrictions, Registration, Personnel, and Policy Information Requirements:** I appreciate the coaches, national organizations, youth sports advocates, and health experts who worked with me over the last year to create a consensus bill. Amendments offered and public confusion made it difficult for the committee to reconcile stakeholder concerns or separate out the non-controversial components, so the bill did not make it out of committee. I will continue to advocate for improvements in youth sports safety through uniform and better training for coaches and officials, creation of a commission of recreation leaders and safety experts, limitations on repetitive impacts for younger children that increase concussive and sub-concussive injury risks and the use of better safety equipment.

**HB1242 – Public School Students- Vision Services- Reporting:** Recognizing that up to 50% of students with vision problems fail to get the eye exams, glasses and additional treatment needed for them to see well enough to learn, this bill, as amended, sought to review the efficacy of recent efforts to increase needed follow up for children who failed eye screenings and to study for possible statewide implementation community programs which work to ensure that every child who fails a screening has access to vision services and follow up care. The bill unanimously passed house, but did not get out of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee.

**HB1262 – Human Relations – Employment Discrimination and Discriminatory Housing Practices – Time to File Complaint:** After passing the House, this bill which increased the time an employee could file a discrimination complaint with the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights from 6 months to 300 days (allowing employees to try working through internal processes with less fear of having insufficient time to file with the MCCR if it failed) , changed the trigger for tolling a wage discrimination complaint from the time the alleged act occurred to when the employee first new or should have known of the act, and increased the time for filing a housing discrimination complaint from 12 to 18 months, stalled in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

### **Baltimore and Howard County Legislative Bond Initiatives**

Despite a tight budget, I am pleased that Senator Lam, Delegate Ebersole, Delegate Feldmark and I were able to secure funding this year for the following projects in our district:

**Harriet Tubman Community Center and Museum: \$300,000.** The Harriet Tubman School, which opened in 1949, served as the County's only all-black high school until it closed through desegregation in 1965. The project includes remediation of hazardous substances and restoration of the facility.

**Lansdowne Volunteer Fire Department: \$75,000.** The Lansdowne Volunteer Fire Department provides quality service, professional fire protection and life safety to meet the needs of our community. These funds are to assist with the building of a new fire station to replace the one built in 1902. The station would have a community room and provide shelter during emergencies

### **Baltimore County and Howard County Legislative Actions**

**HB449** – **Baltimore County- Development Impact Fees:** This bill authorizes, but does not mandate, the Baltimore County Council to impose development impact fees to finance any of the capital costs of additional or expanded public works, improvements, and facilities required to accommodate new construction or development. Collected fees must be used within the surrounding community of the construction or development for which the fees were imposed.

**HB590** – **Howard County Board Of Education – Election of Members** – changes the elected Howard County Board of Education from a seven members elected at-large to a board of five members elected from each of the five council districts and two members elected at-large.

**HB1306** – **Howard County- Howard County Housing Commission** – Establishes that Howard County Housing Authority as an entity that is controlled or wholly owned by the Howard County Housing Commission (HCHC) or by one or more HCHC subsidiary entities and extends, under specified circumstances, a real property tax exemption to these subsidiaries.

**HB1405** – **Howard County- Transfer Tax- Collection by the Director of Finance** – Avoids the loss of a 5% collection fee to the State and preserving an additional \$1.5 Million annually for Howard County by requiring the county's Director of Finance to collect the transfer tax directly rather than the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

**HB1406** – **Howard County- Department of Corrections- Authority to Establish Programs** – This bill authorizes the Howard County Department of Correction to establish and administer community service and pretrial services programs in the same manner as it is authorized to establish and administer a work release program.

**HB1409** – **Howard County School Facilities Surcharge** – Authorizing the Howard County Council to enact a local law that provides for an annual adjustment in the amount of the school facilities surcharge. The actual impact depends on the surcharge rate that is established by the county and new construction in the county. As a point of reference, if the Howard County school facilities surcharge increased to \$4.00 per square foot, surcharge revenues would increase by approximately \$15.8 million.

## **2019 State Impact Session Accomplishments**

### **EDUCATION**

**HB733/SB661** – **The Blueprint for Maryland's Future:** Allocating hundreds of millions in new funding to local school systems as a down payment on implementing the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission

**SB128** – **Local School Calendar Choice:** Allows county boards of education to choose start and end dates for the school year. Schools are still required to follow state & federal guidelines such as: hour requirements, and maintaining a 180 day school year over 10 months.

**HB533** – **University System of Maryland- Board of Regents- Transparency and Oversight:** This bill will add more accountability to the University System Board of Regent in order to rebuild the public's trust in higher education.

### **HEALTH**

**HB768** – **Prescription Drug Affordability Board:** I was pleased to co-sponsor this bill which addresses the rising prescription drug costs, the House has passed legislation, which would make Maryland the first state in the

country to establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Board which would have the authority to set an upper price limit on drugs purchased by health plans that serve employees of state and county governments.

**HB697 – Protecting the Affordable Care Act:** I was pleased to co-sponsor this legislation, which protects Marylanders with pre-existing conditions in the event that the Supreme Court overturns protections provided in the Affordable Care Act.

**HB814 – Maryland Health Insurance Option:** This bipartisan legislation establishes Maryland’s Easy Enrollment Health Program (MEEHP): a simple, seamless system for enrolling uninsured Marylanders into free or low cost health insurance coverage by adding a checkbox on state income tax returns.

**HB1274 – Opioid Restitution Fund:** This bill, which I was pleased to co-sponsor, creates a special state fund for any money received from a legal judgments or from settlements against an opioid manufacturer. This dedicated fund ensures money recovered from this crisis is used to fund treatment and recovery programs.

**HB1169 – Tobacco 21:** This bill raises the state legal smoking and vaping age to 21, the same as the legal drinking age, except for members of the military for whom it remains 18. As the risk of developing tobacco addiction is greatest the younger one starts and most smokers are initiated before age 26, this should help reduce the numbers of tobacco addicts and significantly decrease the incidence of tobacco related disease and deaths.

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

**SB516 – Clean Energy Jobs Act:** This bill requires Maryland to purchase 50% of its energy from renewable sources by the year 2030, increases in-state solar and off-shore wind production, and commits millions of dollars to workforce development and job training, including important provisions assuring that the jobs supported are good, family sustaining employment and apprenticeship programs.

**HB298 – OYSTERS:** This bill would protect and restore 5 oyster sanctuaries. Significant public investments have been made in support of these large-scale restoration projects and this bill would protect those investments by making them off limits to oyster harvesting in perpetuity.

**HB735 – Technical Study on Changes in Forest Cover and Tree Canopy in Maryland:** In order to understand the scale of deforestation in Maryland and the source of the problem, this bill gathers a diverse group of stakeholders to study deforestation patterns and make recommendations to offset forest loss.

#### **WAGES**

**HB166 – Fight for \$15, Minimum Wage:** This bill, which I co-sponsored, gradually increases the state minimum wage to \$15 by 2025 for larger employers and by July 1, 2026 for businesses with 14 or fewer employees, with some exceptions.

#### **CHILDREN**

**HB810 – Childcare Tax Expansion:** I was pleased to co-sponsor this bill expands access to childcare and dependent care tax credits by increasing the maximum income limits for eligibility.

**HB338 – Summer SNAP For Children Act:** This bill creates a summer Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for children, which will help feed kids who are eligible for free and reduced priced meals during school summer and winter breaks, helping ensure they’re getting nutritious meals whether school is in session or not. I was pleased to be a co-sponsor of this important legislation.

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM**

**HB116** – **Inside the Walls Opiate Disorder Treatment:** This bipartisan legislation puts Maryland on track to offer full medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to inmates suffering from opiate use disorder in all local jail by 2023.

**HB1001** – **Reducing Solitary Confinement:** This overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation passed by both chambers, says a juvenile may not be placed in solitary confinement unless there is clear and convincing evidence of an immediate risk of harm to the minor, staff, or other inmates.

**HB994** – **Ban the Box:** This legislation bans disclosures regarding an applicant's criminal history prior to an in-person interview in an effort to reduce recidivism and increase the employment prospects of tens of thousands of Marylanders.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

**HB397** – **Improvements to 9-1-1 System:** I was a co-sponsor of this bill which modernizes the 9-1-1 system to make it more effective for Marylanders in crisis by adopting the Internet based Next Generation 911 system. This would allow people to send 9-1-1 a text message, pictures and videos, in an emergency. This allows law enforcement to better assess and prepare for the situation before arriving and will also help improve location accuracy and prevent misrouting of calls.

**HB1343** – **Eliminate Handgun Review Board:** Having heard complaints about the process and leanings of the Board under both the previous and current administrations, this legislation will address the long delays in appeals of firearm conceal/carry permit denials and remove politics from the decisions by remanding the appeals to the administrative law judges in the Office of Administrative Hearings and disband the Handgun Review Board.

**HB1096** – **Sexual Assault Evidence Kits:** This bill protects victims of sexual assault by requiring rape kits to be counted and tested. It requires law enforcement to submit a rape kit to a forensic laboratory within 30 days and must be processed at the laboratory as soon as possible. It also establishes an independent review process for any rejected evidence kit.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT BILLS**

**HB1428** – **University of Maryland Medical System Corporation – Board of Directors, Ethics, and Audits:** I was a co-sponsor of this emergency bill which alters the composition of, and the appointment process for, members of the Board of Directors of the University of Maryland Medical System Corporation (UMMSC), including reconstituting the board and prohibiting a member from being a State or local elected official. A member of the board may not intentionally use the prestige of office or public position for that member's private gain or that of another, and each member must annually submit a specified disclosure of financial interest to the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC). The board must adopt a specified conflict of interest policy and is prohibited from using sole source procurement to award a contract to an active member of the board or a business entity that employs or has an affiliation with an active member.

**HB336** – **Civilian Federal Employees- Unemployment Insurance Benefits and Federal Government Shutdown Employee Assistance:** A law establishing an emergency fund for Maryland based government employees who must report to work without pay during a shutdown. The law makes them eligible for temporary assistance through the state and no interest loans during future shutdowns. I was pleased to co-sponsor this legislation.

## Information for Students

**Page Program:** High school seniors of the Class of 2020 interested in being a page for the Maryland General Assembly during the 90-day 2020 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@hcps.org](mailto:mark_stout@hcps.org); 410-313-6632.** Contact Annapolis Page/Intern Coordinator Carolyn C. Pelli, ~~Jane Hudiburg~~ at ~~[janh@carolyn.pelli@mlis.state.md.us](mailto:janh@carolyn.pelli@mlis.state.md.us)~~ or ~~410-946-5128, 5124~~ for additional questions or if you are unable to reach your county coordinator.

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**Internships for College Credit:** If you are a college student interested in interning during the 2020 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 Carolyn Pelli, Intern Coordinator 410-946-5124 or [Carolyn.Pelli@mlis.state.md.us](mailto:Carolyn.Pelli@mlis.state.md.us)

**Delegate Scholarships:** Delegate Scholarships are available for high school seniors, full-time or part-time degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students, and students attending a private career school. All awards are based on financial need; therefore applicants must submit a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Contact my office for further information.

## 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 during the following year's session. Contact Wesley Queen 301-405-2529 for more 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 2020. Attend floor sessions, committee 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 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 staff 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](mailto:terri.hill@house.state.md.us)

Thank you again for allowing me to represent you!



Terri L. Hill, M.D.