



**REPORT FROM STATE CIRCLE**  
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**BUDGET**

**Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:**

**HB 70 Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2016)** (RSC-1&2) passed the House 46-0 on Third Reader and crossed over to the Senate. The House version reduced the on-going structural gap between revenues and spending by about 74%, which is well above the 50% target recommended by the Spending Affordability Committee. The budget, as passed by the House, resulted in a general fund balance of over \$50.0 million, and the Rainy Day Fund balance will continue at 5.0% of general fund revenues.

The House budget fully funds education according to the formulas put in place by the Bridge to Excellence, and restores the Geographic Cost of Education Index. It also restores the 2% pay increase for state employees, and increases Medicaid provider payments, funding for services for those with disabilities and restores family planning services for pregnant women. This was achieved by reducing payments to the pension system by about \$63 million, which due to better than expected performance in the stock market, is on track to be fully funded seven years early even with this reduction in allocation. Another \$140 million worth of reductions to the Governor’s proposal were made by reducing local aid, cutting Medicaid spending (partly by using other funds, partly by delaying certain payments, and partly by cuts). Also included in this \$140 million, are cuts to higher education and funding for the judiciary.

The Senate took up the budget that was passed by the House and passed unanimously with only a few minor changes.

The chart below, prepared by the Department of Legislative Services, shows some of the differences between the Governor’s proposed budget and the budgets enacted by the House and Senate.

**Administration Reductions Rejected or Modified by the House and Senate**

	<b><u>Admin</u></b>	<b><u>House</u></b>	<b><u>B&amp;T</u></b>
Level Fund Education Per Pupil Foundation	\$66.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Reduce VLT Impact Aid and Transfer to Education Trust Fund	3.9	0.0	0.0
Phase-in State Support for Library for Blind and Handicapped	1.9	0.0	0.0
Delay Establishment of Deaf Culture Digital Library	0.2	0.0	0.0
Community College Formula	13.0	9.0	9.0
Aid to Private Colleges and Universities	6.5	5.1	5.1
Level Fund Local Health Grants to Fiscal 2014	7.8	3.9	3.9
Reduce Academic Health Center CRF Monies to Fund Medicaid	7.2	3.6	0.0
Provider Rates for Developmental Disabilities Administration	9.2	6.5	2.6
Level Fund Juvenile Services Provider Rates to Fiscal 2014	0.8	0.0	0.0
Park Service Payments in Lieu of Taxes in Fiscal 2016	2.5	2.3	0.0
Level Fund Maryland Arts Council to Fiscal 2014	1.4	0.0	0.0
Level Fund Disparity Grant to Fiscal 2014	2.1	0.0	2.1
<b>Total Reductions</b>	<b>\$122.5</b>	<b>\$30.5</b>	<b>\$22.7</b>

**Proposed Restoration of Programs Not Funded by Governor**

Fiscal 2015 2% General Salary Increase		\$68.7	\$68.7
Geographic Cost of Education Index		68.0	68.1
Physician Rates (Primary Care – House/B&T; Specialty – B&T)		14.4	15.1
Psychiatrist Evaluation and Management Rates		1.6	1.0
Community Mental Health Provider Rates		6.5	6.5
Home and Community Based Care Provider Rates		4.8	4.8
Medicaid Coverage for Pregnant Women and Family Planning		4.8	4.8
Developmental Disabilities Purchase of Care Grants		2.2	2.2
Developmental Disabilities Crisis Resolution Services		0.0	3.0
Adult Day Care Center Grants		2.1	2.1
Substance Abuse Treatment – Heroin Addiction		2.0	2.0
Maryland School for the Blind Additional Program Support		1.8	1.8
Nonpublic Special Education Placements Provider Rates		1.7	1.7
Prince George's County Hospital Center		0.0	15.0
Nursing Home Rates		0.0	5.7
Children's Medical Day Care Services		0.0	0.1
<b>Total Funding for Priorities Not Funded by Governor</b>		<b>\$178.6</b>	<b>\$202.6</b>

Shortly after the House and Senate finished their work on the budget, it seemed that the Governor was pleased and a good compromise had been reached. However, a report in the Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> Washington Post indicated that the Governor would not agree to the changes made by the legislature unless they enact some of the tax cuts that he wants. Because much of what the legislature recommended must be approved by the Governor, there is still a long way to go to have final budget bill.

SB 660 State Budget (RSC-4). The League submitted testimony in support. No action.

*Nancy Soreng*

## EDUCATION

### Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:

**HB 70 Primary/Secondary Education Budget (RSC-1)** The House version restored the \$65 million for the Inflation Factor, and removed the 1 percent cap on the education formula's inflation factor for future years, and found \$68 million in cuts so that the Governor could fully fund the Geographical Cost of Education Index (GCEI). The one-year freeze of Net Taxable Income (NTI) funding, a \$12 million reduction was retained. The Senate version caps education funding growth - inflation adjustments at 1.5%. In Conference Committee.

**HB 110 Creation of a State Debt Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB) (RSC-1)** favorable report by APP.

**HB 452/SB 497 Commission to Review Maryland's Use of Assessments and Testing in Public Schools (RSC-4)** HB 452 passed House, EHEA. SB 497 passed Senate, Hrg 3/26 W&M.

**HB 486/SB 595 Public Charter School Expansion and Improvement Act of 2015 (RSC-3)** As of the RSC deadline, W&M and EHEA were discussing amendments, but decisions had not been made.

**HB 1137/SB 699 Primary Education - State Standardized Assessments - Moratorium (RSC-3)** HB 1137 passed House, EHEA. SB 699 unfavorable report by EHEA.

**SB 334 The Hunger Free Schools Act of 2015 (RSC-2&4)** Hrg 3/26 W&M.

**SB 405/HB 487 Maryland Education Credit (RSC-2&3)** These bills have not been reported out of committee, but education advocates hear that money for the education credit may be included in a supplemental budget.

**SB 677 Education - Professional Development for Teachers and Providers of Early Childhood Education - Master Plan (RSC-4)** passed Senate. Hrg 4/2 W&M

**SB 691 Maryland After-School and Summer Opportunity Fund (RSC-3)** unfavorable report by EHEA.

*Lois Hybl*

## REDISTRICTING REFORM

### Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:

None of the bills to reform Maryland's redistricting process were reported out of committee before the deadline for bills to cross over from one house to the other. In the Senate, the EHEA Committee held a hearing on **SB 814 (RSC-4)** on March 19, but took no further action.

*Ralph Watkins*

## ELECTIONS

### Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:

**HB 43 Election Law - Petitions - Prohibited Actions (Rosenberg) (RSC-1&4)** would add to existing election law a prohibition against preventing, hindering or delaying another person from signing a petition through the use of fraud, duress or force, passed the House by a vote of 135 – 0. Hrg 3/26 EHEA

**HB 73 Voters' Rights Protection Act of 2015 (Rosenberg)** was amended and passed the House 89-49, and has had its first reading in EHEA. This legislation authorizes the Attorney General to file for an injunction in the Circuit Court to prohibit a person from committing an imminent violation of Election Law. An example would be, distributing fraudulent campaign literature. The bill was amended to authorize the State Prosecutor to file such an action if the Attorney General, someone on behalf of the Attorney General, or a candidate opposing the Attorney General, committed the violation. Similar bills have been filed in every session since 2010. In 2013 it passed the House, but did not pass out of the Senate committee. The identical (but un-amended) **SB 192 (RSC-2)** was heard in EHEA, but the committee has

taken no action on that bill.

**SB 97 Election Law - Counting of Properly Cast Ballots** (Norman) (RSC-2&3) has passed the Senate 47-0, received a favorable report from the House Ways and Means Committee, and has passed the House on Second Reading. This bill would equalize the treatment of ballots cast in any manner when the voter dies before the canvass. Currently, if a person votes during early voting, or on Election Day, or with a provisional ballot, their votes are counted if they die before the canvass. However, if a person casts an absentee ballot and the local election board determines that the voter has died before the canvass of absentee ballots, that vote is not counted. HB 97 would assure that properly cast absentee ballots would be counted during the canvass, even if the voter dies before the canvass. The identical (but not cross-filed) **HB 884** passed the House.

**Bills relating to the change of the date of the 2016 Primary Election:**

**HB 396** (Turner) and **SB 204** (Conway) originally called for the date of the primary election to be changed from the first Tuesday in April to the second Tuesday in April, but both have now been amended to have the primaries on the fourth Tuesday in April. This means that 29 other states will have caucuses or primaries before Maryland. Each bill has passed its own chamber, but as the bills were amended in similar, but not identical ways, each has to be heard in the opposite chamber. SB 204 Hrg 3/25 W&M; EHEA

**SB 5 Election Law - Canvass of Votes - Public Observation** is intended to ensure that the canvass of ballots cast in early voting are counted subject to public observation, just as the absentee ballots and election day ballots already are. The bill also specifies which entities and individuals have the right to designate a registered voter as an observer, including a candidate, a political party or any group of voters supporting or opposing a candidate, principle or proposition on the ballot. The bill also states that the State Board of Elections may adopt regulation prohibiting public observation of part of the canvass, only if prohibiting public observation is necessary to ensure the integrity of the accuracy of the canvass, or that the canvass process is not impeded. The bill passed the Senate 46-0. Hrg 3/25 W&M

**SB 711 Election Law - Voting by Absentee Ballot - Prepaid Postage for the Return Envelope** (Raskin) A bill that would require that absentee ballot materials sent to a voter by mail must include prepaid postage for the return of the ballot, and that the State Board of Elections must reimburse a county for the cost of the prepaid postage, has passed the Senate. The bill has an estimated fiscal cost of \$110,000 during presidential election years, depending on the number of absentee ballots mailed by local election boards. Hrg 4/1 W&M.

**SB 340 Election Law - Voting Rights - Ex-felons** (Conway) This bill would allow ex-felons who have had their voting privilege revoked to have that right restored upon completion of their time of incarceration. Currently, a person who has been convicted of certain felonies is eligible to vote upon completion of his or her sentence, including incarceration and parole or probation. SB 304 would remove the parole and probation part of the time in which ex-felons remain ineligible to vote. SB 304 originally included a host of requirements for the State Board of Elections, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and Circuit Court Clerks, related to the process by which released inmates could be registered, and how the process of communications between the agencies would occur, but those portions of the bill have been deleted. LWVMD did not comment on this bill because our position on this issue as documented in Study and Action states that we support restoration of voting rights to convicted felons upon completion of sentence and probation. Passed the Senate 29-18. Hrg 3/25 W&M

*Lu Pierson*

## TAXES

**Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:**

**SB 37/HB 108 Tobacco Taxes - Healthy Maryland Initiative** (RSC-1) Hrg 3/25 EHEA

**SB 190/HB 1065 Sales and Use Tax - Taxable Price - Accommodations** (RSC-3) Third Reading passed B&T; Hrg 4/1 W&M

**SB 389/HB 240 State Individual Income Tax - Rate Changes** (RSC-3) Hrg 3/11 B&T

**SB 589/HB 774 Motorist Tax Relief - Motor Fuel Tax - Consumer Price Index and Sales and Use Tax Equivalent Rate Adjustments - Repeal** (RSC-3) Hrg 3/10 B&T

SB 763/HB 1233 Tax Amnesty Program (RSC-3) 3/4 Third Reading Passed (47-0) B&T; Hrg 3/31 W&M

HB 899 Motor Fuel Tax - Distribution of Revenue - Local Governments (RSC-3) Hrg 3/6 ET

HB 1003 Motor Fuel Tax - Distribution of Revenue (RSC-3) Hrg 3/6 ET

*Doreen Rosenthal*

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE

**SB 519 Public Funding and Small Donor Act for General Assembly Elections** (Pinsky) would create a public funding program for candidates running for the House or Senate in the Maryland General Assembly. The candidate would have to prove that he or she is a viable candidate by raising money from small donors in the district. The candidate must raise donations of less than \$250 from at least 350 individuals to qualify, and may then apply for a specified amount of matching funds, dependent on the type of race he or she is facing. It would be funded by using the remaining existing moneys in the gubernatorial campaign finance fund. This bill has been submitted many times in the past. The League signed on to testimony in support as a matter of principle, even though at this time the bill is not workable. No action was taken by the committee before the cross-over deadline.

### Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:

**SB 47 Election Law - Fair Campaign Financing Fund - Income Tax Checkoff** (RSC-1) League submitted testimony in support. No action.

**SB 153/HB 885 Corporations - Political Expenditures - Stockholder Approval** (RSC-2) League testified in support in both chambers. No action in either chamber.

**HB 185/SB 667 Real-Time Transparency Act of 2015** (RSC-2) League testified in support in both chambers. No action in either chamber.

**HB 219 Independent Expenditures and Electioneering Communications - Registration and Reporting** (RSC-2) League submitted testimony in support. No action.

**HB 239/SB 271 Election Law - Use of Campaign Funds for Meeting and Conference Expenses** (RSC-2) League signed on to testimony to oppose. Passed the House, in Senate EHEA Committee.

**HB 294 Election Law - Contributions – Disclosure** (RSC-3) League submitted testimony in support. No action.

**HB 485/SB 593 Election Law - Fair Campaign Financing Fund - Income Tax Checkoff.** (RSC-3) League testified in support. Passed the House, in Senate B&T Committee.

**HB 573/SB518 Fair Elections Act** (RSC-3) League testified in support in both chambers. No action in either chamber.

**HB 769 Election Law - Persons Doing Public Business - Statements of Contributions** (RSC-3) League testified in support in both chambers. Passed the House, heard in Senate EHEA Committee on March 26.

**HB 775 Inaugural Committees - Donations and Disbursements - Disclosure** (RSC-3) League testified in support in both chambers. Passed the House. Hrg 3/26 EHEA

**HB 1088 Election Law - Campaign Finance - Coordinated Expenditures Between Candidates and Outside Spending Organizations** (RSC-3) League testified in support. No action.

**SB 823 Election Laws - Loans to a Campaign Finance Entity** (RSC-4) League testified in support. No action.

*Nancy Soreng*

## TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT

**HB 1251 General Provisions - Open Meetings Act - Required Training** (Miller) was introduced on 3/5/2015 and assigned to the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee. This bill would expand the existing law by requiring the

training of all employees, members and officials of a public body, as well as members of the Maryland legislature on the requirements of the Open Meetings Act. Such training would be in-person training as opposed to the online training now provided by the Office of the Attorney General. HRU no action.

**HB 550 State Aid - Business Transparency and Financial Disclosure Act** (McMillan plus 2) would require certain reports from corporations which receive \$50,000 or more in state subsidies. There was strong opposition to it from the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development and from the Maryland Chamber of Commerce. HGO unfavorable – withdrawn

**Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:**

**SB 695** (RSC-2,3&4) This bill, as amended in the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, passed the Senate 47-0 on 3/25. A major amendment to the bill as originally introduced, was to specify that a member of the custodial community will be one of the five member Public Information Compliance Board. This Board's responsibility will be to oversee the issue of fees charged for providing copies of documents under the Maryland Public Information Act. A complaint may be filed with the Board if a custodian charges a fee of \$350 or more. An ombudsman will receive complaints on other Public Information Act issues. The section of the original bill which would have made the agricultural nutrient management plans subject to the Maryland Public Information Act was dropped. This amended bill now goes to the House for consideration.

**HB 755** (the original cross-file of SB 695 before it was amended.) (RSC-3&4) There has been no action since the hearing on this bill on 3/11.

**HB 867** (RSC-3) Unfavorable report in HGO; withdrawn.

*Barbara Schnackenberg*

## **ENVIRONMENT: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING**

**Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:**

### **Marcellus Shale Hydraulic Fracturing**

**SB 29 Environment - Hydraulic Fracturing - Prohibitions** (RSC-1) Hrg 3/3 EHEA

**HB 449/SB 409 - Protect Our Health and Communities Act** (RSC-3) Favorable as amended ET, Passed House (93-45); Hrg 3/03 EHEA

SUPPORT - The League submitted written testimony in support. The bill was amended in the House to shorten the moratorium to three years.

**HB 883/SB 438 Environment - Well Drilling- Notice to Municipalities** (RSC-3) Unfavorable report ET; Unfavorable Report EHEA

**SB 458 Civil Actions - Hydraulic Fracturing Liability Act** (RSC-3) Favorable as amended, JPR, passed Senate (29-17). Hrg 4/1, 1 p.m. ET

**HB 458 Environment - Exploration and Production Waste and Waste From Hydraulic Fracturing** (RSC-3) Unfavorable ET

**HB 952 Public Health - Hydraulic Fracturing Chemicals - Information and Fund** (RSC-3) Hrg 3/11, 1 p.m. ET

**SB 712 Natural Gas Severance Tax and Impact Account** (RSC-3) Hrg 3/11, 1 p.m. B&T

*Betsy Singer*

## **ENVIRONMENT: LAND USE**

**HB919 Land Use - Plans - Development and Action** (Lafferty, et al) applies to the way comprehensive planning is handled by local non-charter counties and municipalities. The bill is an answer to the November 2014 opinion by the Attorney General that concluded that, in non-charter counties and municipalities, a legislative body of a local jurisdiction

does not have the authority to adopt material changes to a comprehensive plan or plan amendment prepared and approved by the planning commission. (Charter Counties do have this ability.) The opinion instead indicated, that the legislative body's ability to influence changes to a plan or plan amendment is limited to voting against adoption and sending the plan or plan amendment back to the planning commission with recommendations for revision. This bill would allow the legislative body of the local government to accept or reject the whole plan, or parts of it, and revise the plan. Public hearings would be required before the legislative body and the planning commission before revisions were made and adopted. The only substantive amendment was to reduce the length of time the legislative body could extend the consideration of the plan under exigent circumstances from 90 days to 60 days. Favorable with Amendments from ET. Passed the House; sent to EHEA.

*Susan Cochran*

## **ENVIRONMENT: RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARDS**

### **Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:**

**HB 378 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Qualifying Biomass (RSC-2&3)** unfavorable report ECM - withdrawn

**HB 656 Electricity - Energy Storage - Fuel Cells (Stored Energy and Power (StEP) Act) (RSC-3)** unfavorable report ECM

**HB 933 Energy Efficiency and Demand Management Programs and Services - Repeal (RSC-3)** unfavorable report ECM

**HB 1087/SB 481 Community Solar Energy Generating System Program (RSC-3)** passed House (111-29); Senate, Hrg 4/2, 1 p.m. FIN

**SB 353 Electric Companies - Installation of Solar Electric Generating Facility - New Interconnection Agreement (RSC-2&3)** passed Senate (46-0); Hrg 3/19, 1 p.m. ECM

**SB 398 Public Service Commission - Community Solar Projects or Virtual Net Energy Metering - Study (RSC-2&3)** passed Senate with Amendments (46-0); Hrg 4/2, 1 p.m. ECM

*Hugh Haskell*

## **ENVIRONMENT: STORM WATER, POLLUTION & THE BAY**

### **Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:**

**HB 156/SB 133 Environment - Bay Restoration Fund - Use of Funds (RSC-2)** moved to House from Senate. Hrg 3/25 ET

**HB 216/SB 200 Environment - Personal Care Products Containing Synthetic Plastic Microbeads - Prohibition on Manufacturing or Sale (RSC-2)** moved to House from Senate. Hrg 3/25 ET

**HB 302/SB 28 Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund - Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund - Use of Funds (RSC-1&2)** moved to House from Senate. Hrg 3/25 ET - contingent on a referendum.

**HB 341/SB 401 Underground Utility Damage Prevention - Connecting Buildings to Water Supply Systems and Sewerage Systems - Detectable Wires (RSC-4)** moved to House from Senate; first reading ECM

**HB 366 Tax Sales - Delinquent Water Bills - Prohibition (RSC-2)** ET unfavorable report.

**HB 381/SB 257 Agriculture - Nutrient Management - Phosphorus Management Tool (RSC-2)** Both bills recommitted to committee while awaiting compromise regulations due from the Hogan administration on 4/3. The 4/3 version is expected to clarify the implementation schedule, and eliminate the loopholes that environmentalists saw in the administration's prior proposal.

**SB 438 Environment - Well Drilling - Notice to Municipalities (RSC-2)** EHEA unfavorable report.

**HB 481/SB 588 Stormwater Management - Watershed Protection and Restoration Program - Repeal (RSC-4)**  
Also **SB36**, **SB 42**, and **HB 874 (RSC-1&3)** Both House bills, unfavorable report by ET so no further action expected.

*Oppose*

**HB 514/SB 258 Maryland Commission on Climate Change (RSC-2&3)** previously passed second reading in the Senate with amendments. House bill passed; first reading in Senate EHEA. *Support*

**HB 551/SB 620 Community Greening and Cleanup Act (RSC-3)** unfavorable ET - withdrawn. No Senate action before crossover date.

**HB 605/SB 163 Agriculture - Neonicotinoid Pesticide - Labeling Requirement (Pollinator Protection Act of 2015) (RSC-2,3&4)** No action before crossover date. *Support*

**HB 701/SB 463 Agriculture - Cattle, Swine, and Poultry - Use of Antimicrobial Drugs (RSC-3&4)** in Senate recommitted to EHEA by bill sponsor.

**HB 860 Aquatic Invasive Species - Inspection and Decontamination of Vessels (State Lakes Invasive Species Act of 2015) (RSC-3&4)** passed House. Hrg 3/31, 1 p.m. EHEA

**HB 881/SB 256 Maryland Shoreline Risk Assessment, Preparation, and Adaptation Act (RSC-2&3)** ET unfavorable - withdrawn.

**HB 886/SB 533 Bay Tax Equity Act (RSC-4)** ET unfavorable - withdrawn.

**HB 982/SB 684 Maryland Redeemable Beverage Container and Litter Reduction Program (RSC-3)** no action before crossover date.

**HB 987/SB 693 Environment - Ambient Air Quality Control - Cumulative Air Impact Analysis (RSC 3)** no action before crossover date.

**HB 1042 Environment - Nitrogen Oxide Emissions - Pollution and Combustion Control Technologies (RSC-3&4)** (the "Healthy Air Act for All") no action before crossover date. *Support*

**HB 1043 Environment - On-Site Sewage Disposal System - Nitrogen Removal Technology – Exemption (RSC 4)** ET unfavorable - withdrawn.

**HB 1075/SB 470 Agriculture - Antibiotic Drug Usage - Food-Producing (RSC-3)** ET unfavorable - withdrawn. EHEA unfavorable - withdrawn.

**HB 1158 Lead Risk Reduction Standards - Maintenance of Exemptions (RSC-4)** passed House. Hrg 4/7 JPR

**SB 85 Clean Waterways Tax Credit Act (RSC-1&2)** No action before crossover date.

**SB 175 Public Health - Sales Receipts Containing Bisphenol-A - Prohibition (RSC-3)** No action before crossover date.

**SB 345 Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Enhanced Agricultural Management** passed Senate. Hrg 3/31, 1 p.m. W&M

**SB 470 Agriculture - Antibiotic Drug Usage - Food-Producing (RSC-3&4)** EHEA unfavorable - withdrawn.

**SJ 01 Conowingo Dam - Sediment and Nutrient Pollution (National Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act of 2015) (RSC-1)** passed Senate. Hrg 3/30, 3 p.m. HRU

*Linda Silversmith*

## TRANSPORTATION

### Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:

**HB 271 Vehicle Laws - Speed Monitoring Systems - Quarterly Audits (RSC-2)** unfavorable report ET



**HB 300 Department of Transportation - Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority Services - Utilization Study (RSC-2)** passed 136-4 with amendments that WMATA will incorporate and fund the study, with minor changes. Hrg 4/7 FIN

**HB 339/SB 413 Vehicle Laws - Race-Based Traffic Stops - Policy and Reporting Requirements (RSC-2)** passed House 120-18 and the Senate 36-10.

**SB 371/HB 450 State Highway Association (SHA) - Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Areas (RSC-2)** passed Senate 46-0. Hrg 4/2 ET. HB 450 passed House 134-3. Hrg 3/31 FIN

**SB 547 Vehicle Laws - Passing Bikes, Personal Mobility Device or Motor Scooters (RSC-3)** Unfavorable JPR

**HB 621/SB 656 - State Highway Administration - Entrance to State Highway - Permit Process (RSC-3)** Unfavorable ET; Unfavorable EHEA

**HB 762 State Highway Administration - Entrance to State Highways - Permit Process (RSC-3)** Unfavorable ET

**HB 808 Vehicle Laws - Operation of Vehicle When Approaching a Service Vehicle (RSC-3)** Unfavorable ET.

**SB 605 Aggressive Driving - Punitive Damages (RSC-3)** Passed Senate 46-0. Hrg 4/1 JUD

*Barbara Ditzler*

## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

### Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:

None of the bills that would change the way that Circuit Court Judges are selected came out of committee. It is expected that these bills, all Constitutional Amendments, will be brought up again in the next session. The League presented written testimony in support of these bills.

**HB 582/SB 367 Circuit Court Judges - Selection, Qualifications, and Term of Office (RSC-2)** unfavorable report, JUD, no further action on Senate bill.

**HB 548 Circuit Court Judges - Elections (RSC-3)** unfavorable report JUD - withdrawn

**SB 679 Election of Circuit Court Judges - Nonpartisan General Election (RSC-3)** unfavorable report JPR - withdrawn

**HB 1071 Circuit Court Judges - Election, Qualifications and Term of Office (RSC-4)** unfavorable report JUD - withdrawn

A number of bills were introduced dealing with the accountability of law enforcement officers involved in the injury or death of persons. None survived committee consideration.

**HB 112/SB 653 Criminal Procedure - Police-Involved Death - State Prosecutor (RSC-3)** unfavorable report JUD; unfavorable report JPR - withdrawn

**HB 365 Criminal Procedure - Felony Prosecution of Law Enforcement Officer (RSC-3)** unfavorable report JUD

**HB 438 Criminal Procedure - State Prosecutor - Use of Force by Law Enforcement Officer (RSC-3)** unfavorable report JUD - withdrawn

**HB 813 State Prosecutor - Law Enforcement Officer-Involved Deaths (RSC-3)** unfavorable report JUD

**HB 308 Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Video Cameras (RSC-3)** unfavorable report JUD

**HB 627/SB 482 Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Body-Worn Cameras (RSC-3)** unfavorable report JUD

Action on other bills:

**HB 111/SB 332 Judgeships - Circuit Courts and District Courts (RSC-2)** passed House with amendment making it contingent on funding of at least \$2,049,500 in FY 2016 State budget. In Senate, first reading 3/18 JPR

**HB 346 Altering References from Master to Magistrate (RSC-2)** passed House with amendments continuing pensions. In Senate Hrg 3/26, 1 p.m. JPR

**HB 1013 Constitutional Amendment - Orphans' Court Judges - Election and Term Limits (RSC-3)** unfavorable report JUD - withdrawn

**HB 596 Criminal Procedure -Maryland Appointed Attorneys Program Corporation (RSC-3)** unfavorable report JUD - withdrawn

**HB 121 Criminal Procedure - Drug Related Offenses - Repeal of Mandatory Minimum Sentences (RSC-3)** passed House with amendments. In Senate Hrg. 4/1, 1 p.m. JPR

**SB 847 Judges - Mandatory Retirement Age (RSC-4)** passed Senate with amendments. In House Hrg. 4/2, 1 p.m. JUD

*Marlene Cohn*

## GUN CONTROL

### Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:

**SB 261/HB 189 Public Safety - Handgun Permit Background Investigation - Armored Car Company Employees (RSC-2&3)** Hrg 4/2 JPR; House: Third Reading Passed 137 - 1

**SB 781 Public Safety - Handgun Permit - Temporary Training Waiver (RSC-3)** Hrg 3/24 JPR

**HB 772 Public Safety - Firearms Safety Training Course - Repeal (RSC-3)** Hrg 3/10 JUD

*Doreen Rosenthal*

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

### Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:

**HB 163 Child Support - Adjusted Annual Income - Multifamily Adjustment (RSC-2)** adopted, Hrg 3/31 JPR

**HB 171/SB 150 Courts - Child Abuse and Neglect - Waiver of Reunification Efforts (RSC-2)** HB 171 adopted with amendments, JPR first reading. SB 150 adopted with amendments. Hrg 3/26 JUD. The amendments do not appear to significantly affect intent or scope.

**HB 220/SB 273 Maryland Collaborative Reproduction Act (RSC-2)** Hrgs 2/12 JUD; 2/18 JPR

**HB 225/SB 269 Domestic Violence - Additional Relief (RSC-2)** HB 225 adopted (135-0) with amendments that limit scope to final protective orders. SB 269 favorable with amendments JPR; HRU.

**HB 227 Family Law - Domestic Violence - Definition of Abuse (RSC-2)** Hrg 2/27 JUD

**HB 439/SB 685 Family Law - Information and Services for Foster Children and Former Foster Children (RSC-3)** HB 439 adopted with amendments, JPR . SB 685 adopted, favorable report by JUD. The amendments do not appear to significantly affect intent or scope.

**HB 575/SB 524 Family Law - Protecting the Resources of Children in State Custody (RSC-3)** HB 575 JUD unfavorable report. SB 524 adopted with amendments that do not appear to significantly affect intent or scope. Hrg 4/1 JUD

**HB 641/SB 487 Family Child Care - Registration Requirements for Participants in the Maryland Child Care Subsidy Program (RSC-3)** HB 641 Hrg 2/26 HGO. SB 487 adopted with amendments that focus on expanding supply and use of licensed child care. Hrg 4/2 HGO

**HB 643/SB 567 Department of Human Resources - State Child Welfare System - Report** (RSC-3) HB 643 adopted (139-0) with amendments that do not appear to significantly affect intent or scope, JPR . SB 567 adopted with amendments, HRU.

**HB 807/SB 277 Family Law - Protective Orders - Additional Relief** (RSC-3) HB 807 adopted (137-0). SB 277 Hrg 2/18 JPR

**HB 1022/SB 609 State Government - Office of the Child Welfare Ombudsman - Establishment** (RSC-3) Hrgs 3/19 JUD; 3/03 JPR

**HB 1083/SB 550 Child Custody - Legal Decision Making and Parenting Time** (RSC-4) Hrgs JUD 3/5; JPR 3/3

**SB 78/HB 503 - Rape Survivors Family Protection Act** (RSC-1&3) Hrgs JPR 2/5; JUD 2/19

*Judy Morenoff*

## MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

### Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:

#### Housing

**HB 33 Housing and Community Development- Community Development Projects and Public Purpose Projects** (RSC-1) received an unfavorable report.

**HB 420 Commission on Rental Housing Stabilization** (RSC-3) received an unfavorable report.

**SB 58 Housing & Community Development-Notice of Proposed Projects** (RSC-2) received an unfavorable report.

#### Economic Justice

**HB 4 Maryland Wage & Hour Law - State Minimum Wage - Increase** (RSC-1) received an unfavorable report.

**HB 882 Maryland Workers Fairness Act** (RSC-3) received an unfavorable report.

**HB 1051 Labor & Employment – Equal Pay for Equal Work** (RSC-3) received an unfavorable report.

#### Other

**SB 520 Criminal Law – Human Trafficking- Affirmative Defense** was passed by the Senate. Hrg 3/26 JUD

**SB 521 Workgroup to study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking** was approved by the Senate with amendments. Hrg 3/26 JUD

*Ruth Crystal*

## HEALTH

The pieces of the budget affecting health care in the State were put back in the budget by the House Appropriations Committee and passed by the House. The cuts to the Pregnant Women and Children funding were restored and an increase to 93 percent of Medicare was recommended for primary care reimbursements. This will help maintain the level of physicians participating in the Medicaid program. There is some hope that the Senate may increase the reimbursements for specialists also. The House also passed more than \$2 million for Heroin Addiction Treatment, which Governor Hogan wanted. The Senate has passed a similar but not identical bill, giving a smaller increase to all physicians. The two houses will have to conference in the coming weeks.

The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange has added three new board members, Secretary of Health Van Mitchell, Insurance Commissioner Alfred Redmer, and Dr. Michelle Gourdine. They also announced final numbers for the open enrollment period that expired at the end of February. There was a total enrollment of 289,131. The interesting figure is that 35,771 enrolled in a qualified health plan without any tax credits. There were 166,353 Medicaid enrollments and 87,007 enrollees in qualified plans who will receive Advanced Premium Tax Credits (APTC). Thirty percent of the enrollees were in the “young invincible” age group of 18 to 33. This is in line with the national average. This age group

is needed to balance the risk pool to bring down premiums. The final report can be found at [www.marylandhbe.com](http://www.marylandhbe.com).

**Update on bills reported on in previous issues of RSC:**

**HB 181/SB 69 State Board of Pharmacy - Sterile Compounding - Compliance by Nonresident Pharmacies and Repeal of Permit Requirement**, (Hill and Conway) (RSC-2,3&4) identical bills have passed both Houses and are just waiting for one house or the other to pass one of them to the Governor.

**HB 230/SB 92 Health Insurance - Assignment of Benefits and Reimbursement of Nonpreferred Providers - Repeal of Termination Date** (Hammen and Middleton) (RSC-2) has passed both houses and is waiting to go to the Governor.

**HB1021 Richard E. Israel and Roger (Pip) Moyer Death with Dignity Act** (Pendergrass and Young) (RSC-3) seems to be languishing in both committees and is not likely to pass as neither has crossed over.

**SB 723/HB 999 Nurse Practitioner Full Practice Authority Act of 2015** (Conway) (RSC-3&4) are both in committee and work sessions are ongoing regarding amendments.

**HB 9/SB 105, Maryland Home Birth Safety Act** (Kelly and Middleton) (RSC-1&2) which delineates a new category of midwives in the Health Occupations Article as a "Direct Entry Midwife", passed the House 138-0 with amendments, and has crossed over to EHEA. The bill is expected to pass. The Direct Entry Midwives will not be allowed to do a delivery after a C-section (VBAC).

**HB 553/SB 585 Maryland No-Fault Injured Baby Fund** (Morhaim and Pugh) would have created a fund for children born with a birth related neurological injury. It appears to be a dead bill as it is stuck in both Judicial Proceedings and Judiciary.

**HB 3 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program - Prescribers and Dispensers - Required Query** (Schulz) (RSC-2) received an unfavorable report in HGO.

**HB 949/SB 471 Task Force to Study the Provision of Health Care Coverage for the Uninsured** (Kelly and Nathan-Pulliam) (RSC-3) has passed the Senate, crossed over to HGO.

**SB 399 Health Care Malpractice Claims - Use of Clinical Practice Guidelines** (Pugh and Muse) (RSC-4) was withdrawn.

**SB 479 Civil Actions - Noneconomic Damages - Catastrophic Injury** (Ramirez) (RSC-4) also appears dead as it is in committee.

**SB 599 Public Health - Expedited Partner Therapy for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea** (RSC-3&4) passed the Senate, crossed to HGO and has been heard.

*Neilson Andrews*