



**REPORT FROM STATE CIRCLE**  
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**DRUGS & OTHER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

**HB 880 Marijuana Control Act of 2014** (Anderson et al.) Cross-filed with **SB 658** (RSC 3). Both bills would allow adults, aged at least 21 years, to possess up to an ounce of marijuana and grow up to six plants on their property, and would permit registered and regulated marijuana businesses. Safety compliance facilities would test marijuana for potency and contaminants. Driving under the influence laws would be unchanged, and smoking marijuana in public would be prohibited and punishable by a fine. Maryland farmers could grow industrial hemp (the General Assembly passed this provision a few years ago). Recent data from Colorado indicate around \$100 million in tax revenues, and a 77 percent reduction in marijuana arrests. Hrg. 3/13, 1 p.m. JUD

**HB 1321 Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Marijuana Commission - Treatment, Certification, Licensing, and Registration** (Glenn et al.) expands the scope of authority and the duties of the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Marijuana Commission relating to the treatment of patients qualified to use medical marijuana and the fees. Heard 2/28 HGO; no further action.

**HB 1449 Marijuana Diversion Program** (Jones) requires each county to establish a marijuana diversion program, sets eligibility criteria for participation and provides for dismissal of charges following successful completion. A person who is charged with a violation of the law prohibiting the use or possession of marijuana may, under certain circumstances, choose to participate in the marijuana diversion program and have legal charges dismissed. The bill would be effective October 1, 2014. HRU

**Update on bills reported in RSC 1-3:**

**SB 364 Criminal Law - Possession of Marijuana - Civil Offense** (RSC 1) Heard 2/25 JPR; no further action.

**SB 658 The Marijuana Taxation and Regulation Act** (RSC 3) Cross-filed with **HB 880** (see above). Heard 2/25 JPR; no further action.

**HB 879 Maryland Marijuana Decriminalization Act** (RSC 3) Hrg. 3/13, 1 p.m. JUD

**HB 881 Medical Marijuana - Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Marijuana Commission** (RSC 3) has been cross-filed as **SB 923** (Raskin plus 12). Heard 2/28 HGO and 2/25 JPR; no further action.

**HB 889 Marijuana Laws -Full Disclosure of Legal, Employment, and Health Risks** (RSC 3) Hrg. 3/13 at 1 p.m. JUD  
*Alyce Ortuzar*

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**CHILDREN & FAMILY ISSUES/JUVENILE JUSTICE**

**SB 607 Child Abuse & Neglect – Failure to Report & Training** (Shank plus 4) This bill creates licensure consequences for mandatory reporters who fail to report suspected child abuse or neglect and requires training for mandatory reporters to increase their ability to identify incidents of abuse or neglect. Favorable with amendments report 3/4 JPR

**Update on bills reported in RSC 1-3:**

**HB 1/SB 64 Children in Need of Assistance- Educational Stability** (RSC 1) HB 1 passed, 1<sup>st</sup> reading in JPR; SB 64 adopted, 1<sup>st</sup> reading in JUD, no further action.

**HB 79/SB 68 Courts – Juveniles – Expungement of Records** (RSC 1) Heard 1/14 in JUD & JPR, no further action

**SB 122 Juvenile Law – Detention – Community Detention Violations Hearings** (RSC 1) adopted, 1st reading JUD, no further action

**HB 307/SB 333 Peace Orders & Protective Orders – Burden of Proof** (RSC 2) House bill received favorable report JUD; Senate bill passed 47-0, referred to JUD

**HB 309/SB 334 Family Law – Domestic Violence – Permanent Final Protective Orders** (RSC 2) House bill received favorable with amendments report JUD; Senate bill passed 44-0, referred to JUD

**SB 210 Child Abuse – Failure to Report – Penalties & Task Force** (RSC 2) Heard 1/30 JPR, no further action

**HB 407/SB 485 Juvenile Law – Prohibition Against Continued Detention** (RSC 2) Unfavorable report JUD; heard 2/18 JPR, no further action

**HB 701/SB 454 Criminal Law – Child Kidnapping & Prostitution** (RSC 2) Hrgs. 2/18 JUD & JPR

**SB 78 Criminal Law – Human Trafficking – Victims Under Age 21** (RSC 2) Passed 44-0, referred JUD

**HB 696 Criminal Law – Human Trafficking – Victims Under Age 21** (RSC 2) Hrg. 2/18 JUD

**HB 342/SB 476 Criminal Procedures – Seeking Medical Assistance for Another Who Ingested Alcohol or Drugs – Minors** (RSC 3) Unfavorable report JUD; heard 2/25 JPR

**SB 515 Juvenile Law – Transfer of Cases to Juvenile Court** (RSC 3) Heard 2/25 JPR

**HB 577/SB 1018 Task Force to Study Housing & Supportive Services for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth – Continuation, Membership, Stipend & Duties** (RSC 3) Heard 2/11 APP, no further action; assigned to SRU, no further action

*Judy Morenoff*

**EDUCATION****Curriculum/Accountability**

**HB265 Task Force to Study How to Improve Student Achievement in**

**Middle School** (Hixon+8) Establishes a task force to review the Southern Regional Education Board's (SREB) report titled, "A New Mission for the Middle Grades," and decide whether the report's recommendations are appropriate to implement in Maryland by December 2014. Passed House with amendments, EHEA.

**HB1388/SB988 State Department of Education - Assessment Report for Broadband Capabilities in Public Schools**

(Pena-Melnyk/Pugh) Requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to report to the General Assembly by December 2014 regarding the existing broadband speeds in all public schools and each local school system's plan to reach a broadband speed of 1 gigabyte per 1,000 students for each public school by fiscal year 2020 through public and private efforts; and offer support and training programs in the use of education technology tools for classroom teachers. Hrgs 3/12 W&M; 3/12 EHEA

**Update on bills reported in RSC 1-3:**

**HB 161/SB 171 Capital Budget-Aging Schools** (RSC 1) Subcommittee on Capital Budget – Capital Budget for MSDE & Public School Construction including capital funding for nonpublic schools. Hrgs. 3/11, 4 p.m. APP; 3/18, 3 p.m. B&T

**HB 190/SB 218 Creation of a State Debt – Qualified Zone Academy Bonds** (RSC 1) Hrgs. 3/6 APP; 3/12 B&T

**HB 428 Children – Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program – Eligibility** (RSC 2) Favorable with amendments W&M. Passed House. EHEA.

**HB 461 State Early Childhood Advisory Council** (RSC 2) Favorable with amendments. Passed House. SRU

**HB 1173 Public Schools - Substitute Teachers - Qualifications, Training, and Study** (RSC 3) Hrg. 3/5 W&M

**SB 332 Prekindergarten Expansion Act of 2014** (RSC 2) Favorable with amendments B&T

**SB 408 Education - Common Core State Standards - Implementation Timeline** (RSC 2) Unfavorable report EHEA

**SB 578 Education - Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) - Implementation Timeline** (RSC 3) Unfavorable report EHEA

**SB 579 Education - Evaluation of Teachers and Principals - Implementation Timeline** (RSC 2) Unfavorable report EHEA

**SB 726 Education - State Funding - Operating and Capital Funds** (RSC 3) Hrg. 3/6 B&T (NB: date correction)

*Lois Hybl*

## OPEN GOVERNMENT

**HB 53 Public Records - Provision of Copies, Printouts, and Photographs - Required** (Vitale and Carr) This legislation was first reported in RSC 1, however, all of the bill's original language was deleted following the hearing in HGO on 1/23. Language was substituted to compel custodians of records and their organizations to provide copies, printouts and photographs in a searchable and analyzable format to those who request such information, if the requester is authorized. If the record is available in the requested format and the custodian fails to provide it, the authorized requester may file a complaint with the circuit court. The custodian must respond to the court within 30 days. Such complaints must take precedence on the court's docket and be expedited to decision. The court may enjoin the custodian from withholding the public record, require that the record be produced and cite the responsible employee with contempt for failure to comply with the court's order. Moreover, under certain circumstances, the custodian's governmental unit is liable to the complainant for actual damages. The amended version of this legislation passed the House without a dissenting vote and is scheduled for a hearing in EHEA on 3/12.

**HB 1260/SB 644 State Government - Open Data Policy - Council on Open Data** (Barve et al./Ferguson et al.) The bills set up a council headed by the Department of Information Technology whose responsibility will be to assure that data is easy to find, accessible and usable through the use of data processing devices that enhance accessing, storing and transferring data. The council will also provide guidelines on purchasing equipment in the future by agencies to assure that data accessibility is a high priority. The legislation requires an annual report to the General Assembly on the status of this effort and recommendations on further changes that may be needed in Maryland law. Heard 2/26 HGO; 3/4 EHEA

### Update on bills reported in RSC 1-3:

**HB 157 Open Meetings Act - Advance Notice of Meeting - Agenda** (RSC 1) has been cross-filed as **SB 847** (Kittleman plus 2). Heard HGO 1/29 & EHEA 2/20; no further action

**HB 632/SB 484 Procurement - Maryland Funding Accountability and Transparency Act - Revisions** (RSC 2) At the hearing on HB 632, advocates indicated they were negotiating to find a way to obtain more information on procurement actions. Unfavorable report HGO, withdrawn; heard 2/19 B&T, no further action.

*Barbara Schnackenberg*

## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

**HB 1330/SB 722 Task Force to Reduce Incarceration in Maryland** (Swain/Benson plus 5) would establish a task force to study and make recommendations to address excessive criminalizing of nonviolent offenses. The task force would meet at least once a month and report to the Governor and General Assembly by 12/31/14. Hrgs. 3/11 JUD; 2/19 JPR

**HB 1341 Sexual Assault Survivors' Right to Know Act** (Mizeur plus 10) A health care provider who performs a sexual assault evidence collection kit exam must provide the victim with contact information for a law enforcement agency. Such agency must inform the victim of the results of the kit analysis within 30 days of a request. Hrg. 3/11 JUD

### Update on bills reported in RSC 1-3:

**HB 120/SB 167 Judgeships - Circuit Courts and District Courts** (RSC 1) ref'd to B&T

**HB 31/SB 272 Sentencing Procedures - Statement by Victim or Victim's Representative (Alex's Law)** (RSC 2) passed House 133-0, sent to JPR; passed Senate 46-0, sent to JUD.

**HB 439/SB 538 Courts - Jury Service - Excusal** (RSC 3) passed House with amendments, sent to JPR; no new action on **SB538**

**HB 803/SB 1005 Courts and Judicial Proceedings - Crime Victims and Witnesses Funds - Court Costs** (RSC 3) Hrgs. 2/25 JUD; 3/11 JPR

*Marlene Cohn*

## GUN CONTROL

### Updates on bills reported in RSC 1-3:

**HB 36 Public Safety - Handgun Permit - Applicant Qualifications** (RSC 1) Hrg. 3/4 JUD  
**HB 42 Public Safety - Firearms - Application Approval Before Sale, Rental, or Transfer** (RSC 1) Hrg. 3/4 JUD  
**HB 62 Regulated Firearms - License Issued by Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, or West Virginia – Reciprocity** (RSC 1) Hrg. 3/4 JUD  
**HB 90 Regulated Firearms - Disqualifying Crime - Domestically Related Crime** (RSC 1) Hrg. 3/4 JUD  
**HB 94 Criminal Law - Prohibition on Manufacture of Detachable Magazine or Firearm Receiver - 3-Dimensional Printing** (RSC 1) Hrg. 3/4 JUD  
**HB 286 Criminal Law - Use of Handgun in Crime of Violence or Felony - Statute of Limitations** (RSC 2) Hrg. 3/4 JUD  
**HB 659/SB 974 Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Transport Through State**, (RSC 2), Hrg 3/4 JUD  
**HB 715/SB 584 Public Safety - Handgun Identification Requirements – Repeal** (RSC 3) Hrg. 3/4 JUD  
**HB 716 Public Safety - Handgun Qualification License - Qualified Handgun Instructors and Permit Holders** (RSC 3) Hrg. 3/4 JUD  
**HB 719 Public Safety - Firearms - Probation Before Judgment** (RSC 3) Hrg. 3/4 JUD  
**HB 720 Public Safety - Handgun Permits - Training Requirement** (RSC 3) Hrg. 3/4 JUD  
**HB 717 Public Safety - Firearms Safety Training - Demonstration Component** (RSC 3) Hrg. 3/4 JUD  
**SB 248 Criminal Law - Use of Handgun in Crime of Violence or Felony - Statute of Limitations** (RSC 2) Favorable with Amendments, 2/26 JPR  
**SB 728 Public Safety - Licensed Firearms Dealers - Background Checks**, (RSC 3) Hrg. 2/26 JPR  
**SB 729 Public Safety - Permit to Carry, Wear, or Transport a Handgun – Qualifications** (RSC 3) Hrg. 2/26 JPR  
**SB 742/HB 807 Criminal Law - Home Invasion and Armed Home Invasion** (RSC 3) Hrg. 3/4 JPR  
**SB 758 Assault Weapons - Firearms Collector – Possession**, (RSC 3) Hrg. 2/26 JPR  
**SB 768 Regulated Firearms - License Issued by Another State – Reciprocity** (RSC 3) Unfavorable report, withdrawn JPR  
**SB 974/HB 659 Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Transport Through State** (RSC 3) Hrgs. 3/11 JPR; 3/4 JUD

*Doreen Rosenthal*

## HEALTH

The Maryland Women’s Coalition for Health Care Reform has provided the following facts about the number of people who have signed up for health insurance in Maryland:

“As of February 15, 33,251 individuals have enrolled in Qualified Health Plans, as of February 18, 60,672 individuals have enrolled in Medicaid and an additional 95,899 rolling over from the Adult Primary Care Program. More than 90,000 Marylanders have received an initial eligibility determination, but some may have pending verification before coverage is effective. It may be that others will be determined to already have Medicaid coverage.”

Maryland ended the contract with Noridian Healthcare Solutions, the company which designed the Exchange, at the end of February. They have transitioned to Optum/QSSI, the contractor that the state hired to help improve the site, to oversee the remainder of the work. Apparently most of the work is being done by subcontractors now. To date the state has exceeded the projected costs by more than \$33 million trying to fix the Exchange. There is great disagreement among the experts on whether to continue with the Maryland Exchange, to contract with another state exchange or migrate to the federal site.

There are two bills that are aimed at the implementation of the Accountable Care Act in Maryland and the Exchange. **HB 1229 Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – Repeal – Transfer of Enrollees to Federal Health Insurance Marketplace** (Hough et al.) is the Republican attempt to close the Maryland Exchange and move Marylanders to the federal exchange. **HB 1361 Joint Committee to Review the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and Audit by the Office of Legislative Audits** (Szeliga et al.) is an audit bill which many in both parties are suggesting. Hrgs. 3/7 HGO

**HB 881 Medical Marijuana - Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Marijuana Commission** (RSC 3) and **HB 1321 Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Marijuana Commission - Treatment, Certification, Licensing, and Registration**  
*See Drugs and Other Controlled Substances report, p.1*

**HB 1211 State Board of Nursing – Midwives – Licensing and Regulation** (Kelly plus 31) has been submitted again this year. It would license and regulate midwives and establish requirements for emergency hospitalization. It would create a new board. These midwives are what many in the medical community call “lay midwives.” They are not Nurse Practitioner Midwives, who practice under an agreement with OB/GYNs. However, families are making greater use of these midwives for home deliveries. Hrg. 3/11 HGO

**HB 1341 Sexual Assault Survivors’ Right to Know Act** *See Administration of Justice report, p. 3*

**HB 443/SB 589 Tobacco Taxes – Health Maryland Initiative** (Luedtke et al. /Jones-Rodwell) raises taxes on tobacco products in an effort to continue reducing the use of tobacco products in all age groups. Studies indicate that taxing these products plays a part in diminishing smoking. Heard 2/20 W&M and 2/26 B&T; no further action.

**HB 1158/SB 898 Tobacco Products – Unpackaged Cigars and Flavored Other Tobacco Products – Restrictions** (Rosenberg/Ramirez) restricts the sale of flavored tobacco products, little cigars and selling them individually. This bill is aimed at minors who purchase small quantities to avoid purchasing a pack of cigarettes. Heard 2/28 ECM; hrg. 3/5 FIN

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is supporting several bills that address problems NAMI members have had getting family members into treatment. **HB 1267/SB 882 Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) – Targeted Outreach, Engagement, and Services** (Hubbard plus 5/Pugh & Kelley), **HB 606/SB 67 Mental Hygiene – Standards for Emergency Evaluation and Involuntary Admissions – Modification** (Morhaim & Hammen/Middleton) and **HB 767/SB 831 Public Health Mental Hygiene – Assisted Outpatient Treatment** (Murphy/Kelley) basically change the criteria for courts to order an individual into treatment. There is some disagreement in the psychiatric community, and the latter bills may be combined or amended. The three House bills will be heard 3/4 in HGO. **SB 882** received a favorable with amendments report from FIN. **SB 67** and **SB 831** heard 2/26 in FIN; no further action.

Update on bills reported in RSC 1-3:

**HB 27 Correctional Services - Healthy Births for Incarcerated Women** (RSC 1&2) has been cross-filed as **SB 656** (Raskin et al.) **HB 27** passed JUD with amendments. **SB 656** Hrg. 3/4 JPR

**SB 227 Health- Medical Laboratories- Advertising For or Soliciting Business- Repeal of Prohibition** (RSC 3) received unfavorable report FIN, withdrawn

*Neilson Andrews*

## MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

Update on bills reported in RSC 1-3:

**HB 451 Neighborhood Business Development Program-Financial Assistance for Food Desert Areas** (RSC 2) passed the House with amendments and had a first reading in Senate Rules

**HB 453 Housing and Community Development - Multifamily Rental Housing Programs Efficiency Act** (RSC 2) passed the House with amendments and had a first reading in Senate Rules

**HB 366 HOME Act of 2014** (RSC 3) Unfavorable report, withdrawn

**HB 946 Residential Leases - Just-Cause Eviction** (RSC 3) Unfavorable report, withdrawn

*Ruth Crystal*

## BUDGET AND TAXATION

At a Senate B&T Committee hearing on February 26, the State Treasurer and the State Comptroller, in joint testimony, opposed the governor’s proposal to reduce the state’s contribution to the state pension fund by \$100 million. The state had previously promised to pay \$300 million per year into the severely underfunded pension fund. Since the \$300 million annual contribution has been passed into law, the reduction will have to be made in **SB 172 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act** (RSC 1).

In other budget news, the Legislative Information Service is expected to report this week that revenue estimates in **SB 170/HB 160 Budget Bill** (RSC 1) will be written down between \$100 million and \$200 million.

**HB 554/SB 625 Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness** (Dumais et al./Feldman) would establish a Commission which would study the current revenue structure of the state, review academic research and revenue structures of neighboring states and, considering the Maryland economy, make recommendations for possible changes to the tax structure. Heard 2/14 W&M; hrg. 3/5 B&T

**HB 448/SB 769 Income Tax – Elimination of the Marriage Penalty** (Parrott plus 22/Getty plus 10) decreases income taxes for higher-income taxpayers who file returns jointly, as head of household or widower, by establishing new individual income tax rate brackets and increasing the personal exemption amount. This would lower the amounts established by increases in the income tax in 2012. Heard 2/14 W&M; hrg. 3/6 B&T

**Update on bills reported in RSC 1-3:**

**HB 458 Corporate Income Tax – Rate Reduction** (RSC 2) received unfavorable report W&M; withdrawn  
*Barbara Hankins*

**ENVIRONMENT: RENEWABLE ENERGY & SOLID WASTE**

**SB 786/HB 1192 Electricity - Community Renewable Energy Generating System - Pilot Program** (Ramirez plus 10/Hucker plus 17) establishes a pilot program on community renewable energy generating systems under the authority of the Public Service Commission and provides for the structure and operation of the pilot program, including the generation of electricity and allocation of costs and credits to system subscribers. It also authorizes an electric company to submit a petition to own and operate a community renewable energy generating system. Hrgs. 3/4 FIN; 3/6 ECM

**HB 1149/SB 733 Public Utilities - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards** (Barnes plus 17/Pinsky plus 11) This bill increases the renewable energy portfolio standards for electricity derived from Tier 1 renewable sources for years 2017 through 2022, as well as the minimum required percentage of Tier 1 renewable energy that must be derived from solar energy in years 2017 through 2022. It further establishes renewable energy portfolio standards for years 2023 through 2025 and later. Heard 2/27 ECM, no further action; hrg. 3/4 FIN

**Update on bills reported in RSC 1-3:**

**SB 56/HB 240 Environment-Solid Waste Management Practices-MD Recycling and Landfill Diversion Task Force** (RSC 2) Passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reader with amendments in ECM; no further action on Senate bill.

**HB 567 Procurement - State Vehicle Fleet - Biodiesel or Biofuel Requirements** (RSC 2) Unfavorable report 2/21 HGO

**HB 747/SB 734 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Qualifying Biomass** (RSC 3) Heard 2/20 ECM; 3/4 FIN; no further action  
*Hugh Haskell*

**ENVIRONMENT: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING**

**SB 706/HB 1210 Environment - Permit Determinations - Cumulative Impact Assessments** (Benson plus 5/Swain) These bills require the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to conduct a cumulative impact assessment of the impact of individual permits on the environment and on human populations before permits could be reviewed or granted. Permits covered include those for air quality control, landfill systems, incinerators or rubble landfills, discharging pollutants to state waters, structures for storage or distribution of sewage sludge, a controlled hazardous substance or material facility, or low level nuclear waste. Hrgs. 2/25 EHEA; 3/5 ENV

**Update on bills reported in RSC 1-3:**

**HB 1122/SB 745 Shale Gas Drilling Safety Review Act of 2014** (RSC 3) Heard 2/28 ENV; 2/25 EHEA

**HB 865 Natural Gas – Hydraulic Fracturing – Rural Residential Drinking Water Protection Act** (RSC 3) Heard 2/28 ENV

**HB 1030 Public Health – Hydraulic Fracturing Chemicals – Information and Fund** (RSC 3) 2/21 ENV

**SB 535 Natural Gas Severance Tax and Impact Account** (RSC 3) 2/19 B&T

**HB 292 Natural Gas-Hydraulic Fracturing-Prohibition** (RSC 1) 2/28 ENV

**SB 360 Natural Gas-Hydraulic Fracturing-Prohibition** (RSC 2) Heard 2/4 EHEA and FIN; unfavorable report EHEA

**HB 409 Environment- Hydraulic Fracturing Wastewater-Prohibited Acts** (RSC 2) Hrg. 2/28 ENV

**SB 361 Public Safety-Gas Pipeline Inspection Requirements-Best Available Technology** (RSC 2) no further action

**SB 362 Public Safety-Gas Pipeline Inspection Requirements-State Penalties** (RSC 2) no further action  
*Betsy Singer*

**ENVIRONMENT: LAND USE****Update on bills reported in RSC 1-3:**

**HB 296/SB 336 Natural Resources - Wildlands - Designation of New Wildlands** (RSC 2) Both bills were amended in committee and adopted (100-35 in the House; 46-0 in the Senate). Referred to EHEA & ENV in the opposite chamber.

*Susan Cochran*

**ENVIRONMENT: CLEAN WATER & PESTICIDES**

**SB 781 Environment - Recycling - Public and Commercial Buildings, Special Events, and Single-Family Residences** (Montgomery plus 6) would require a county's recycling plan (1) to address the collection and recycling of recyclable materials from public and commercial buildings and special events, and (2) to formulate a strategy for providing single-stream, curbside recycling collection services to all single-family residences by October 1, 2016. The bill would require revisions of a county's recycling plan by October 1, 2015, to address requirements of the Act. Heard 2/25 EHEA

**HB 1139 Environment - Stormwater Remediation Fees - Reduction of Fees** (Olszewski and Kach) is another one of the anti-stormwater management bills to reduce the "rain tax." Heard 2/26 ENV

**Update on bills reported in RSC 1-3:**

**HB 12 Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses - Local Entities** (RSC 2&3) passed House 133-0; hrg. 3/11, 1 p.m. EHEA

**HB 97 Stormwater Management - Watershed Protection and Restoration Program – Repeal** (RSC 2) unfavorable report by ENV (companion bill SB5 earlier had an EHEA unfavorable report [RSC 3])

**HB 121/SB 62 Chesapeake Bay Trust - Powers and Duties - Member Terms** (RSC 2&3) HB now in senate, 1<sup>st</sup> reading EHEA; SB now in House 1<sup>st</sup> reading ENV

**SB 56/HB 240 Environment - Solid Waste Management Practices - Maryland Recycling and Landfill Diversion Task Force** (RSC 2) *See Environment: Renewable Energy & Solid Waste report. p. 6*

**HB 621/SB 700 Registration of Pesticides – Fee Increase – Disposition of Fees** (RSC 1-3) Passed by ENV and EHEA, votes were anticipated in House and Senate on Mar. 4.

**SB 359 Watershed Protection and Restoration Programs – Impervious Surface – Definition** (RSC 2) unfavorable report by EHEA

**SB 437/HB 618 Nonresident Recreational Fishing and Crabbing Licenses – Oyster Restoration Surcharge** Senate bill recommitted to EHEA; no further action

*Linda Silversmith*

**TRANSPORTATION****Updates on bills reported in RSC 1-3:**

**HB 662 Speed Monitoring Systems - Local Jurisdictions - Audit and Reporting** (RSC 3) received unfavorable report ENV, withdrawn

**SB 1001 Vehicle Laws – Divided Highways – Speed Limits and Crosswalks** (RSC 3) Hrg. 3/12 JPR

*Barbara Ditzler*

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

**HB 1269 Maryland Small Donor Incentive Act** (Luedtke plus 30) expands the scope of **HB 70/SB 691 Public Funding and Small Donor Act for General Assembly Elections** (RSC 1 & 2). HB 1269 would provide for public campaign financing for candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, and the General Assembly. The bill contains best practices features such as requiring candidates to collect a threshold of seed money in small donations. It creates a Public Financing Administration Board whose role is to determine if candidates are eligible for public financing and make sure they follow the provisions of the law. The Board would also be responsible for drafting regulations to implement the law. Candidates seeking public funds would not be allowed to accept donations from a business entity, a political party, a regulated lobbyist, the campaign finance entity of a candidate, a political action committee or any other political committee. Donations from individuals must be no more than \$250 in aggregate.

Public campaign financing would come from: funds remaining in the former Fair Campaign Financing Fund as of December 31, 2014 (several gubernatorial candidates are planning to use this fund, so there may not be much left in it); money allocated by the annual state budget for this purpose; contributions made through a voluntary check-off on the individual income tax return; fines or penalties imposed on candidates who violate the rules of participating in this program, and investment earnings of the fund. Unspent matching funds that were distributed to a candidate who does not make it into the general election or who drops out of the race, or opts out of the Public Campaign Finance program will go back into the fund.

In order to qualify for public funding, a gubernatorial candidate must collect at least \$250,000 from at least 1,000 individuals. Candidates for Attorney General and Comptroller must collect at least \$150,000 from 6,000 individuals. Candidates for the House of Delegates must collect at least \$15,000 from at least 60 individuals. Hrg. 3/8 W&M

**HB 1401 Election Law - Fair Campaign Financing Fund - Income Tax Checkoff** (Luedtke) creates the main mechanism for funding HB 1269 described above. It would require the inclusion of a check-off designated "Fair Campaign Financing Fund Contribution" on the Maryland Individual Tax Return. An individual or persons filing joint returns may contribute any amount up to the refund to which they are entitled. If they are not entitled to a refund, the individual may add the amount they wish to contribute to the income tax to be paid with the return. A description of the Fair Campaign Financing Fund will be included with instructions for completing the income tax return. A similar check-off box for public funding of Gubernatorial candidates was eliminated a couple of years ago. Hrg. 3/6 W&M

*Nancy Soreng*

## ELECTIONS

### Update on bills reported in RSC 1-3:

**HB 25 Local Government – Municipal Elections – No-Excuse Absentee Voting** (RSC 1) Delegate George's bill that would allow no-excuse absentee voting in municipal elections passed the House on 2/27 by a vote of 127-0. Referred to EHEA in the Senate; no hearing scheduled yet.

**HB 125 Election Law – Petitions – Prohibited Actions** (RSC 1) also passed the House on 2/27 (129-0) and has been referred to the Senate EHEA Committee. No hearing scheduled yet.

*Lu Pierson*

## REDISTRICTING

### Update on bills reported in RSC 1-3:

**SB 414 Legislative Redistricting Plans to be Introduced as a Bill** (RSC 2) Heard 2/27 EHEA

**SB 582 Redistricting Ballot Questions – Map of Proposed Districts** (RSC 2) Heard 2/27 EHEA

**SB 740 General Assembly and Congressional Legislative Districting and Apportionment Commission** (RSC 3) Heard 2/27 EHEA

**HJ 4 United States Constitutional Convention - Legislative Districting and Apportionment** (RSC 3) Hrg. 3/3 postponed due to inclement weather, will be rescheduled HRU

**HB 698 Elections-Study Commission on Redistricting Process in MD** (RSC 2) Heard 3/3 HRU

**HB 915 Election Law-General Assembly and Congressional Legislative Districting and Apportionment Commission** (RSC 3) Heard 3/3 HRU

**HB 970 General Assembly and Congressional Legislative Districting and Apportionment Commission** (RSC 3) Heard 3/3 HRU

**HB 1176 Congressional Districts - Requirements as to Territory, Form, and Boundaries** (RSC 2) Hrg. 3/3 postponed due to weather HRU

**HB 1195 Legislative Redistricting Plans to be Introduced as a Bill** (RSC 2) Hrg. 3/3 postponed HRU

**HB 1213 Maryland Congressional Redistricting Commission** (RSC 3) Hrg. 3/3 postponed HRU

**HB 1217 Task Force to Study Redistricting in Maryland** (RSC 3) Hrg. 3/3 postponed HRU

**HB 1327 Redistricting Ballot Questions - Map of Proposed Districts** (RSC 3) Heard 3/3 HRU

There has been no further action on any of the aforementioned bills.

*Ralph Watkins*