



**REPORT FROM STATE CIRCLE**  
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**HEALTH**

**HB1062/SB195 Hospitals - Notice to Patients – Outpatient Status and Billing Implications** (Cullison plus 7/Kelley plus 11) requiring hospitals to notify patients when they are kept in the hospital for observation but are not admitted, has passed both Houses. The amendments are the same, extending the hours from 18 to 23, and the regulations will be developed in consultation with the hospitals.

It appears that only one malpractice reform bill, **HB1310 Health Care Malpractice Claims – Definition of “Health Care Provider”** (Dumais et al.) will make it out of the Judiciary Committee. It adds Nurse Practitioners and Physicians’ Assistants to the definition thus including them under the cap on non-economic damages. If it passes the House, the bill is likely to run into problems in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

**SB488 Tanning Devices – Use by Minors – Prohibition** (Raskin plus 8) received an unfavorable report in the Senate Finance Committee.

**SB700 Tobacco Taxes - Healthy Maryland Initiative** (Jones-Rodwell plus 7) had a hearing on March 13, but it is unlikely to come out of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee.

**HB1096/SB672 State Board of Physicians and Allied Health Advisory Committees – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation** (Hammen/Conway) has passed the House.

**Update on bills previously reported in RSC 1-4**

**HB225/SB273 Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013** (RSC 2) passed both Houses.

**HB228/SB274 Maryland Health Progress Act of 2013** (RSC 2) passed both Houses and has been sent to the Governor. The bill set the criteria for the Health Insurance Exchange, which will be named the Maryland Health Connection. There is a provision allowing a patient to keep their health care provider for 90 days if they are forced to change insurance. Also, pregnant women may finish a pregnancy with their initial physician or provider. The Maryland Health Insurance Plan (MHIP) will be phased out this fall.

**HB373/SB151 Hospitals – Outpatient Services – Off-Site Facility – Rate Regulation** (RSC 2), which separates a particular medical group from the hospital rating system, has passed both Houses.

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**HB1202 – Certified Professional Midwives – Pilot Project (RSC 4) and HB1151/SB760 State Board of Nursing – Certified Nurse-Midwives – Standards and Practice Guidelines (RSC 3)** have not moved out of the committee.

**SB693 Certified Nurse-Midwives and Freestanding Birthing Centers – Certification of Need and Practice Privileges (RSC 3)** was withdrawn by the sponsor.

**HB1029/SB783 State Board of Physicians – Naturopathic Doctors (RSC 4)** was withdrawn by Senator Pugh when she learned that the House Committee would study the issue again during the summer. Delegate Oaks then withdrew the House bill.

**HB1343/SB380 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Workgroup on Cancer Clusters and Environmental Causes of Cancer (RSC 3)** passed the Senate unanimously with amendments and has moved to the House. It has been assigned to the House HGO Committee.

*Neilson Andrews*

## MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

### Update on bills previously reported in RSC 1-4

**SB487 Housing Discrimination – Source of Income (RSC 2)** cleared the Judicial Proceedings Committee for the first time in 20 years by a vote of 6-5 on March 20! It was briefly debated in the Senate on March 22 and then held over on Special Order from Sen. Brochin. Sen. Brochin was one of the members of JPR that voted against the bill. Amendments include a 5-year sunset on the legislation. The fiscal note says it will have minimal impact on state or local government or small businesses.

**HB735 Maryland Earned Sick and Safe Leave Act (RSC 3)** unfortunately failed after receiving an unfavorable report from the Business Regulations subcommittee within Economic Matters.

**SB683 Maryland Wage and Hour Law – Payment of Wages (RSC 3)**, unfavorable report FIN

*Ruth Crystal*

## DEATH PENALTY REPEAL

**SB276/HB295 Death Penalty Repeal - Substitution of Life Without the Possibility of Parole (RSC 2)**, passed House and Senate

*Doreen Rosenthal*

## GUN CONTROL

**HB821 Courts and Judicial Proceedings - Communications Between Patient and Psychiatrist or Licensed Psychologist - Exceptions to Privilege (Simmons)** creates an exception to the privilege of client or patient communications if the disclosure is necessary to prove a charge in a specified criminal proceeding. Adopted by the House, sent to JPR.

### Updates on bills previously reported in RSC 1-4

**HB35 Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting a Handgun - Active Assignment Exception (RSC 1)** unfavorable report JUD, withdrawn

**HB545 Task Force to Study the Impact of Assault Weapons (RSC 2)**, unfavorable report JUD, withdrawn

**HB773 Regulated Firearms - Encoded Ammunition – Tax (RSC 3)**, unfavorable report JUD, withdrawn

**HB1133 Public Safety - Restrictions on Possession of Firearms - Convicted Felons and People with Mental Disorders (RSC 3)**, unfavorable report HGO, withdrawn

**SB228/HB575 Criminal Law - Use of Handgun in Crime of Violence or Felony - Statute of Limitations (RSC 2)** passed Senate; hrg. 3/27, 1:00 pm JUD

**SB382 Mental Health - Emergency Evaluations - Surrender of Firearms (RSC 2)**, unfavorable report JPR, withdrawn

**SB420/HB490 Crimes - Restricted Firearm Ammunition - Prohibition on Possession and Use (RSC 2)** passed Senate; hrg. 3/27, 1:00 p.m. JUD

**SB531/HB131 Criminal Law - Access to Firearms – Penalties (RSC 1)**, unfavorable report JPR, withdrawn

**SB532/HB655 Criminal Law - Child's Access to Firearms – Penalty (RSC 2)**, unfavorable report JPR, withdrawn

**SB539/HB107 Firearms - Detachable Magazines - Maximum Capacity for Ammunition (RSC 1)**, unfavorable report JPR, withdrawn

*Doreen Rosenthal*

## TRANSPORTATION

**HB420 Vehicle Laws – Maryland Transportation Authority – Payment of Tolls (Chair ENV, by request Dept. of Transportation)** clarifies and alters procedures for unpaid electronic tolls including citations. Passed 133-0.

**Update on bills previously reported in RSC 1-4**

**HB393 Vehicle Laws - Driving While License Refused, Suspended, Canceled, or Revoked - Penalty (RSC 2)**, unfavorable report JUD

**HB593 Vehicle Laws – Maximum Speed Limit – Interstate 68 (RSC 2)**, unfavorable report ENV

**HB753 Vehicle Laws – Use of Wireless Communication Device – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement and Penalties (RSC 3)**, passed House on third reading. Cross-filed **SB339** passed JPR with amendments to increase fine of first offense from \$40 to \$75, second from \$100 to \$125, third and subsequent \$175 with no points assessed unless an accident is involved.

**HB755 Transportation – Transit Vehicle Operator – Prohibition On Use of Wireless Communication Devices (RSC 3)**, unfavorable report ENV

**HB1142 Mass Transit – Failure to Vacate Seat Designated for Elderly or Handicapped - Penalty (RSC 4)**, unfavorable report ENV

**HB1382 Motor Vehicle Accidents – Victim Impact Statement (Alex's Law) (RSC 4)**, passed with amendments JUD

**SB30 Vehicle Laws – Prohibition Against Smoking in Vehicle Containing Young Child (RSC 2)**, passed the Senate. Cross-filed **HB528**, in committee ENV

**SB193 Vehicle Laws – Prohibition on Handheld Telephone Use – Primary Offense if Child is Passenger (RSC 1)**, unfavorable report JUD

**SB715 Vehicle Laws – Lawful Status Requirement – Repeal (RSC 3)**, preliminary approval with amendments JPR. Individual must show proof of paying Maryland taxes for two years or be claimed as a dependent of someone who has filed Maryland taxes, and the license does not allow one to purchase a firearm. Cross-filed **HB789**, favorable report with amendments JUD.

*Barbara Ditzler*

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

**SB1056 Election Law–Independent Expenditures and Electioneering Communications–Disclosure (Ferguson)** outlines procedures for disclosing the name of the donor and the amount of donations by that donor to independent organizations that are campaigning on behalf of a candidate or ballot measure. In order to be considered an “independent expenditure” the organization must not be coordinating with the candidate’s campaign or a ballot measure committee. The definition of “public communication,” relating to independent expenditures is clarified and expanded in this bill. It also allows the Board of Elections to assess a civil penalty for failure to follow the disclosure rules. However, it raises the threshold for requiring disclosure reports from the current \$51 to \$10,000. The federal DISCLOSE Act recommends \$200 for a threshold and recent legislation in New York suggested \$100. EHEA

**Update on bills previously reported in RSC 1-4**

**HB1499/SB1039 Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2013 (RSC 4)** passed the House 136 to 0. All Ways and Means amendments were adopted. These include clarification of the definition of a slate, as well as a limitation of \$24,000 in transfers of funds between members of a slate and between a Legislative Party Caucus Committee and a legislative candidate that the Caucus Committee seeks to elect. The amended bill will have a first reading in the Senate and move to EHEA. The hearing date in EHEA has not yet been posted.

**HB259 Campaign Finance-Affiliated Business Entities-Attribution of Contributions (RSC 2)** No action

**SB583 Election Law-Public Campaign Financing of Local Elections (RSC 3)** No action

**SB772 Campaign Finance-Corporate Contributions and Independent Expenditures- Determination of Stockholder Preference (RSC 3)** No action

*Nancy Soreng*

**BUDGET AND TAXATION**

**HB100 Budget Bill - FY 2014** (Speaker, by request Admin.) passed both chambers and has gone back to the House for consideration of Senate amendments. As passed by the Senate, the Budget Bill increases state spending by 1.7% excluding federal funds and appropriations for the Rainy Day Fund but is still \$663 million below the original budget recommended by the Governor. It keeps state employees cost of living adjustment of 3% effective January 1, 2014 and the April 2014 merit increases. Major differences between the House and Senate versions deal with public higher education (the House reduced the appropriation by about \$5.1 million, the Senate restored it); the Rainy Day fund was reduced \$240 million by the Senate, \$75 million more than the House; the Senate reduced by \$100 million the reinvestment of savings due to pension reform, leaving an appropriation of \$200 million. If the House does not concur with the Senate amendments, a Conference Committee will be formed. If there is not agreement on the budget by April 8, the General Assembly will go into special session to discuss only the budget and the costs of the extended session.

The House passed **HB1515, the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013** (Speaker, by request of the Administration). As amended by the House from the original proposal, each year on July 1, the motor fuel tax is to be increased by the rate of inflation using the consumer price index for all urban consumers. Any increase cannot exceed 8% of the motor fuel tax effective in the previous year. In addition to the inflation adjustment, a sales tax of 1% would be applied on July 1, 2013, 2% on January 1, 2015 and 3% on July 1, 2015. If Congress does not pass legislation allowing states to tax internet sales by December 1, 2015, then the sales tax on motor fuels would increase to 4% on January 1, 2016 and 5% on July 2016. The bill also requires the Maryland Transit Administration beginning in FY 2015 to increase fares for bus, light rail, and Baltimore Metro subway service every two years based on the consumer price index. The maximum amount of consolidated transportation bonds is increased from \$2.6 billion to \$4.5 billion with the additional revenues pledged as debt service for these bonds. Language was also added to encourage the state to maximize the use of public-private partnerships.

#### Update on bills previously reported in RSC 1-4

A Conference Committee has been appointed to reconcile differences between the House and Senate on **HB102 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2013 (BRFA) (RSC 2)**. In the Senate version, Maryland Transit Administration would be required to increase base fares based on the consumer price index for 2012 and for each subsequent three year period. The Senate modifies the hospital assessment for Medicaid to require annual savings of up to \$389.8 million starting in FY 2015, whereas the House requires this to happen in FY 2013 and 2014. In addition, the Senate would reduce the required reinvestment of savings from pension reform to \$200 million from \$300 million passed by the House.

**SB469/HB1246 Business Relief and Tax Fairness Act of 2013 (RSC 3)**, unfavorable report B&T

**HB1302 Commission on Tax Policy, Reform and Fairness (RSC 4)**, passed with amendments *Barbara Hankins*

## OPEN GOVERNMENT

#### Update on bills previously reported in RSC 1-4

**HB139 Training for Public Open Meetings Act (RSC 3)** Hrg. 3/21 EHEA

**HB331/SB826 Open Meetings Act-Violations and Penalties (RSC 2)** passed the House 125-10 on 3/5. Hrg. 3/6 EHEA. Senate bill received an unfavorable report in EHEA 7-4 on 3/18.

**SB230 Open Meetings Act-Public Body-Definition (RSC 1)** Hrg. 3/27 HGO

*Barbara Schnackenberg*

## ELECTIONS AND REDISTRICTING

**SB542/HB730 Election Law - Polling Places - Electioneering** (Young plus 3/Parrott et al.) require polling places in privately-owned buildings to be subject to the same electioneering restrictions and opportunities as polling places in public buildings. Both chambers have passed the legislation with an amendment to include specific dates and times on which campaign signs may be placed on polling place property. The times that campaign signs can be on polling place property vary somewhat in the final bills that passed each chamber, but this small discrepancy should be resolved in conference.

#### Update on bills previously reported in RSC 1-4

The Administration-sponsored legislation to improve access to voting has progressed through both houses of the legislature. **SB279 Election Law – Improving Access to Voting (RSC 4)** was amended by the Senate to require the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number when applying to register to vote online or to apply to receive an absentee ballot online and authorizes a county larger than 400 square miles to establish one additional early voting center. The Senate also added an amendment requiring the State Board of Elections to review wait times for Maryland voters during the 2010 and 2012 elections and identify causes for wait times of over 30 minutes, and to analyze the deployment of voting equipment and staff during early voting and on Election Day. The companion bill, **HB 244**, passed with additional amendments. One amendment requires that the online ballot marking tool cannot have the capability of storing, tabulating or transmitting voter ballots by electronic means. The amendment also requires local election boards to compare the votes cast using the online ballot marking system with the votes generated from the bar-code generated ballot, and in the case of discrepancy the ballot marked by the voter shall be counted. Another amendment passed in the House would authorize any jurisdiction to establish one additional early voting center if the governing body of the jurisdiction agrees. Other amendments proposed in the House were not adopted, including one that would have repealed the Motor Voter law allowing people to register to vote when obtaining a driver's license and another that would have required a government issued ID to register to vote at same day registration. The bill, as

amended by the House, will be heard in EHEA on 3/28. If EHEA concurs with the House amendments, that is the version that will become law. If they do not, then the bill will go to conference.

**SB171 Election Law – Special Elections – Voting by Mail (RSC 3)** passed the Senate and is scheduled for a hearing in W&M on 3/28. The substantially similar **HB196** passed the House and is now on its way to the Senate EHEA. Interestingly, the bill has different requirements for holding such elections in Montgomery County, including the sending of a postage-paid envelope for the return of the ballot and the establishment of additional early voting centers.

**HB220 Voters' Rights Protection Act of 2013 (RSC 4)** passed the House with amendments and will be heard in the Senate EHEA on 3/28. Fraud is excluded from the list of prohibited actions in the amended bill.

**HB427 Election Law – Absentee Ballots – Timeliness (RSC 4)** passed the House 137-0 and was heard by the Senate EHEA on 3/21.

**SB840 Notice of Election by Specimen Ballot (RSC 3)** passed the Senate 47-0 and is schedule for a hearing in the House W&M on 3/28.

*Lu Pierson*

## ENVIRONMENT: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

**Correction:** The March 6, 2013 edition of *Report from State Circle* inaccurately reported that “EHEA did not hear testimony on **SB514** at the hearing on 2/26.” We apologize for the misstatement.

### Update on bills previously reported in RSC 1-4

It's been a rough few weeks for legislation to study or to prohibit fracking for natural gas in Maryland.

**HB1274/SB601 Maryland Hydraulic Fracturing Moratorium and Right to Know Act of 2013 (RSC 3)** failed to get out of Senate Committee by one vote. Unfavorable report ENV, withdrawn; unfavorable report EHEA

**HB337/SB514 Natural Gas-Hydraulic Fracturing Prohibition (RSC 4)**, unfavorable report ENV, withdrawn; unfavorable report EHEA

**HB341/SB513 Hydraulic Fracturing Wastewater Prohibited Acts (RSC 2)**, unfavorable reports ENV and EHEA, withdrawn

However, **HB828/SB766 Business Occupations - Oil and Gas Land Professionals - Registration (RSC 4)** both passed their respective chambers. **HB828** has been sent to EHEA; **SB766** will be heard 3/26 by ENV.

*Betsy Singer*

## ENVIRONMENT: CLEAN WATER, THE BAY, PESTICIDES & LAND USE

**SB1029 Maryland Agricultural Certainty Program (Middleton plus 3)** This bill is controversial as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation supports it, but almost all other environmental groups are opposed. It is a ten-year program during which farmers who volunteer for the program will be exempt from further regulations. They must take certain steps to control and report their farming practices. The League opposed the bill's ten-year exemption period. Favorable report, EHEA; passed second reader.

### Update on bills previously reported in RSC 1-4

**HB508 Local Stormwater Management Charges-State Property (RSC 2)** Passed House with amendments. Hrg. 4/2 EHEA

**HB775/SB675 Maryland Pesticide Reporting and Information Act (RSC 3)** Amended in House with substitute bill establishing a Workgroup for the Act with a wide representation including legislators, environmentalists, industry, farmers and Maryland Departments of Agriculture, Health and Mental Hygiene, Natural Resources, and Environment. The Workgroup must report by July 1, 2014 to Senate EHEA and House ENV. This is not what the League hoped for, but is some progress. Passed House. Hrg. 3/25 EHEA

**HB1086/SB576 Community Cleanup and Greening Act of 2013 (RSC 3)** The House bill received a favorable vote of 17-4 in ENV, but an unfavorable report from ECM, and did not reach the House for a vote.

**HB1085/SB641 Statewide Container Recycling Incentive Program (RSC 3)** The “Bottle Bill” received an unfavorable report from the ENV subcommittee, and in the absence of a motion on the full committee for a favorable report, it was reported unfavorable without a vote.

*Susan Cochran*

## ENVIRONMENT: WINDPOWER

### Update on bills previously reported in RSC 1-4

**HB226/SB275 Maryland Off-Shore Wind Energy Act of 2013 (RSC 1)** Nearly done but then a major process will be starting. On March 19, **SB275** passed in the Senate. As the House had already voted for the Off-Shore Wind Energy Act

in February, the next step is the bill signing by the Maryland governor. Since Governor Martin O'Malley was the original champion of this act, that will happen soon.

The bill will help develop a 200-megawatt wind project off the coast of Ocean City by requiring electricity suppliers to buy offshore renewable energy credits. The current estimated time for seeing construction completed is 2017. The siting will be about 10 miles out in the mid-Atlantic bight. Environmental organizations, including the Maryland Wind Coalition, of which LWVMD is a member, view this victory as a possible tipping point towards tapping the massive offshore wind potential up and down the East Coast. Another major argument in favor of the bill is that historically underrepresented minority groups and small businesses will benefit from the jobs and investment dollars that offshore wind projects generate.

*Linda Silversmith*

## CHILDREN'S ISSUES

**SB1052/HB396 Criminal Law - Electronic Harassment of a Minor** (Kittleman/Cardin et al.) make it a crime to use a computer to sexually harass a minor or cause a child or young person to fear being killed, give out information that torments the minor, or put out a real or doctored image of the minor without getting appropriate permission. Other prohibitions include: signing up a young person for a pornographic site. Certain exceptions apply to persons authorized to intercept information for law enforcement purposes and certain peaceable activities intended to express a political view. **HB396** was heard in JUD on 3/7. Child advocates supported the bill, while the ACLU opposed it on constitutional grounds. One man testified that children need counseling, not punishment, for these behaviors. **SB1052** was heard in JPR on 3/20 with testimony from parents whose children were harmed by cyber-bullying and from opponents with objections on constitutional grounds.

### Update on bills previously reported in RSC 1-4

**HB245 Family Law – Substance-Exposed Newborns** (RSC 2) was reported favorably by JUD and has been passed on second reading in the House.

**SB414/HB1012 Higher Education-Tuition-Waiver-Foster Care Recipients** (RSC 2) received a favorable report from EHEA and passed the Senate. Cross-filed bill is in EHEA.

**HB876 Child Abuse – Failure to Report – Civil Penalty, Fund, Task Force** (RSC 3) received an unfavorable report from JUD

**SB570/HB897 Professional Licensing and Certification Governing Bodies – Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training and Discipline** (RSC 3) was heard without opposition in JPR. Representatives of child advocacy groups testified that with the exception of the dentists, mandated professional groups do not have training in what to report and how to make them. A Department of Social Services requested the addition of reporting child neglect to the areas that require training.

**SB215 Criminal Law-Human Trafficking–Victims Under Age 21** (RSC 3) passed in the Senate and will be heard in House JUD on 3/26.

**SB861/HB478 Committing a Crime of Violence in the Presence of a Minor** (RSC 3) was heard on 3/20 in JPR. Proponents argued for the bill on the basis of the harm witnessing violence does to children. Those opposed said the harm to individual children must be demonstrated. No progress on cross-filed bill.

**HB1480 Family Law-Unattended Child Under the Age of Three** (RSC 4), no hearing date set

**HB1186 Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect** (RSC 4), no action *Debbie Ehrenstein*

## JUVENILE JUSTICE

### Update on bills previously reported in RSC 1-4

**SB788/HB966 Task Force to Study Citations for Children and Law Enforcement Diversion Practices** (RSC 3), unfavorable report JPR; unfavorable report JUD, withdrawn.

**SB536/HB604 Department of Juvenile Services-Graduated Responses-Report** (RSC 3), passed the Senate and will be heard in JUD on 3/28.

**SB454/HB848 Juveniles-Confinement in Juvenile Facilities** (RSC 2), unfavorable report JPR; unfavorable report JUD, withdrawn

**SB648 Juvenile Law-Jurisdiction and Detention** (RSC 4), remains in JPR

**SB732/HB711 Juvenile Law-Prohibitions Against Continued Detention** (RSC 3), no change

**SB818 Community Juvenile Services Program** (RSC 3), no change

**HB916/SB791 Juvenile Law-Disposition and Placement Guidance** (RSC 3), favorable report JUD, passed House, sent to JPR. No progress on cross-filed bill. *Debbie Ehrenstein*

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**

**SB989 Task Force to Study Court-Ordered Drug Testing** (Muse) would determine limitations, if any, on the power of state criminal courts to order drug testing in order to determine if defendant would benefit from substance abuse treatment. Hrg. 3/20 JPR

**Update on bills previously reported in RSC 1-4**

**HB83/SB239 Judgeships - Court of Special Appeals, Circuit Courts and District Court (RSC 4)**, both passed unamended and have moved to the opposite chamber. Hrg. 3/26, JUD

**HB129/SB262 Task Force to Study Implementing a Civil Right to Counsel in Maryland (RSC 4)** passed third reading in House 104-27. Hrg. 3/26 JPR

**HB515/SB327 Elections for Judges of the Orphans' Courts - Nonpartisan Elections (RSC 4)**, favorable report with amendments in W&M, JPR, recommitted to EHEA *Marlene Cohn*

**EDUCATION**

**HB1462 Task Force to Study a Later Starting Time for Maryland Public Schools** (A. Miller plus 19) establishes the Task Force to Study a Later Starting Time (of day) for Maryland Public Schools. Passed House. EHEA.

**Update on bills previously reported in RSC 1-4**

**HB 103/SB 245 School Buildings - Solar Technology - Design Development Documents. HB103** heard 3/20 B&T. **SB245** hrg 3/27 HGO.

**HB 115/SB 141 Public School Construction Creation of a State Dept—Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs).**

**HB115** Fav. rpt APP. Special ordered for 3/26 House.

**HB146/SB174-Education - Public Charter Schools - Capital Improvement Requests. HB146** unfav rpt APP. **SB174** unfav rpt B&T.

**HB165/SB807 Elementary and Secondary Education - Security - School Resource Officers. HB165** unfav rpt W&M. **SB807** unfav rpt EHEA.

**HB 207 Education – Chronically Absent Students.** Passed 2<sup>nd</sup> rdr House with amend.

**HB 229/SB 277 State Aid for Public Education - Certification of Net Taxable Income (NTI). HB229** passed House, hrg 3/27 B&T.

**HB 269 Public Schools—Requirements for Controlled Access.** Passed 2<sup>nd</sup> rdr House with amend. giving IAC more discretion.

**HB 394 Education - Primary and Secondary Schools - Electronic Control Devices.** Unfav. rpt W&M.

**HB 453 Education – Maryland Center for School Safety.** Passed House with amend. EHEA.

**HB830 Alternatives to the General Educational Development Tests – Study.** Passed House. Hrg 3/27 EHEA.

**HB1026 Education - Public School Funding – Calculation.** Unfav rpt W&M.

**HB1161 Commission on Special Education Access and Equity.** Passed House.

**HB1417/SB929 Public Schools - Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillator**

**Instruction - Graduation Requirement. HB1417** heard 3/15 W&M.

**HB1474/SB958 Education - State Funding - Operating and Capital Funds. HB1474** heard 3/19 W&M.

**SB 58 Adult Education and Literacy Services - High School Diploma by Examination - Eligibility Requirement.** Hrg 3/27 W&M.

**SB115 County Board of Education-School Budget, Audit, and Procurement Information-Web Site Publication.** Unfav rpt EHEA.

**SB143/HB983 Public Schools - Emergency Management Plans – Evaluation. SB143** passed Senate. Hrg. 3/27 W&M. **HB983** passed House.

**SB194/HB1051 Education - Charter Schools - Study to Recommend Improvements. SB194** passed Senate w/ amend. Hrg 3/27 W&M. **HB1051** heard 3/13 W&M. LWVMD sent testimony about League position on criteria that should govern Charter Schools and urging a favorable report.

**SB 433 Task Force to Study the Establishment of Charter Schools for Adult Education.** Amended to change “Charter Schools for Adult Education” to “Educational Programs for Adult Learners.” Passed Senate. Hrg 3/27 W&M.

**SB 461/HB1176 Primary and Secondary Education - Online Courses and Services – Accessibility. SB461** passed Senate. Hrg 3/27 W&M. **HB1176** passed House. EHEA

**SB 537/HB 532 State Board of Education – Online Courses – Graduation Requirement. SB537** Unfav rpt EHEA. **HB532** passed House with amend, EHEA.

**SB691/HB1286 Education - Due Process Hearings for Children with Disabilities - Burden of Proof.**

**HB1286** unfav rpt W&M.

**SB740/HB833 College Readiness and Completion Act of 2013. SB740** passed Senate with amend.  
**SB1033 Public Education –Alternative Schooling.** Heard 3/20 EHEA.

**Lois Hybl**

**DRUGS, CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES**

**SB297 Criminal Law - Possession of Marijuana - De Minimus Quantity** (Zirkin and Kittleman) decriminalizes the possession of less than 10 grams of marijuana, making it a civil offense punishable by a maximum fine of \$100. This bill reverses legislation that took effect October 2012, which mandated incarceration of a person in possession of less than 10 grams of marijuana for a maximum of 90 days and/or a maximum fine of \$500. Passed Senate 30-16. Hrg. 3/28 JUD

**HB1101 Medical Marijuana - Academic Medical Centers - Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Marijuana Commission**  
(Morhaim et al.) Passed House 108-28, sent to Senate JPR

**Alyce Ortuzar**