



REPORT FROM STATE CIRCLE

Published by the League of Women Voters of Maryland, Inc.

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March 27, 2012

No. 5

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GOVERNMENT

BUDGET AND TAXATION

Both the House and Senate have passed their versions of the Budget bill **SB 150**, the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Acts (BRFA) **SB 152** and **SB 523** the State and Local Revenue and Financing Act of 2012 which both houses are now using for tax increases. There are significant differences between the versions which now go to Conference Committee for reconciliation. A budget must be passed by both houses by April 2.

On March 15, the Senate passed **SB 150** the budget bill of \$35.9 billion which is a reduction of approximately \$500 million from the Governor’s proposal. The major provision of BRFA as passed by the Senate is the transfer of a portion of teachers’ pension costs from the state to local governments over four years. The cost to county school boards in FY 2013 would be \$68.3 million and by FY 2016 would be \$254.8 million. Some state aid is provided to help offset these costs, mostly through closing a loophole in the state recordation tax. Other transfers of balances and/or revenues from special funds to the general fund are also included in SB152. **SB 523** makes changes to the Maryland income tax increasing the tax rates on incomes over \$3000 with a maximum of 5.75% for those who earn more than \$500,000, expands the refundable earned income tax credit, requires out of state sellers to collect the state sales tax on internet sales and increases tax rates on “other tobacco products.”

On March 22, the House passed **SB 150** appropriating \$35.4 billion, reducing the governors proposed budget by \$441.9 billion as well as its versions of **SB 152** and **SB 523**. Both the House and Senate versions meet the Spending Affordability Committee recommendation of a 50% decrease in the structural deficit. The House would spread the transfer of teachers' pension costs over three years so that the first year cost would be \$136.6 million. It would phase out exemptions and deductions in the income tax and change the rate by 0.25% for individuals with incomes greater than \$100,000 and joint filers with incomes greater than \$150,000 with an additional 0.25% for individuals and joint filers with incomes in excess of \$500,000. The House bill does not include applying the sales tax to internet affiliates. The House would impose a significantly higher sales tax on tobacco products. Under both bills, state employees would receive a 2% cost of living adjustment. General funds used for Medicaid would be reduced with additional revenues coming from an increase in the nursing facilities tax from 5.5% to 6%. Public schools will receive a slight increase in funding and small reductions are made from the governors recommendation for community colleges.

Regarding bills previously reported on: **SB 269** combined reporting B&T unfavorable; **HB 592** Tax Credit for Business that Create New Jobs Extension, second reading passed in the House

:Since RSC #4, LWVMD provided testimony in favor of the following bills: **SB 971 and HB 1302** sales tax on gasoline, **SB 526** tobacco tax, **HB 1388** increase in gasoline tax indexed to construction cost index, **HB 1051** sales and use tax on services, **SB 734** tax credit evaluation act, **HB 941** combined reporting, **HB 87 and SB 152** BRFA in favor of increased tax revenues.

Barbara Hankins

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Update on bills reported in RSC 1 - 4:

SB 616 (Jennings) Judges - Mandatory Retirement - Bill amended no longer a constitutional amendment. Proposes a study Commission. 3/20 passed 2nd reader.

SB 280 & HB 265 (Chair, Judicial Proceedings by request Maryland Judicial Conference) Task Force to Study Implementing a Civil Right to Counsel in Maryland. JUP unfavorable 3/12 (5-6) HB withdrawn by sponsor.

HB 1386 (F.Turner & Luedlke) Estates & Trusts - Register of Wills Fees - unfavorable 3/21

SB 1055 (Zirkin & Stone) Court Costs - Criminal Cases - Funding for Law Enforcement - Hgr. 3/21 JPR

HB 1061 (Hough & 4 others) Judiciary Department - Commission on Judicial Disabilities - Powers – JUD unfav 3/19

HB 963 (Dumais) Estates & Trusts - Appeal From Orphans' Court & Jurisdiction of Circuit Court - JUD unfavorable report withdrawn 3/5

HB 1148 (Lee and 21 others) & SB 1041 (Frosh) Courts - Victims of Crimes - Interpreters - 3/19 passed House 139 - 0. hrg 3/21 JPR.

HB 703 (Norman & 8 others) Courts - Foreign Language Interpreters - Assessment of Costs - JUD unfav 3/6 (18 - 2)

SB 396 (Forehand) MD Uniform Transfer to Minors Act – Orphans Court - Passed Senate 46-0. JUD hrg 3/29.

SB 416 (Forehand) Orphans' Court - Minor Guardianship of the Person - no action.

HJ R 4 & SJ R 3 - Judicial Compensation - passed both houses with reduced increases.

SB 335 & HB 249 (Chair B&T by request, Judicial Compensation Committee) Judges Retirement System - Contribution Rates for Members - Senate passed rate 8% vote 43-0 House hrg 3/28. HB passed 2nd reading with 8% rate 3/21.

HB 453 (Niemann) & SB 645 (Ramirez, Muse and Rosapepe) Court & Judicial Proceedings - Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund - Court Costs - HB passed 139-0. SB unfavorable JPR 3/19(5-6)

SB 122 Crime Victims and Witnesses funds - Court Cases unfavorable JPR 3/15(11-0)

HB 4 & SB 48 Baltimore County Orphans' Court Judges - HB 4 passed House 104 - 30, w amed 2/9: SB 48 passed Senate 46-0, w amend crossed to both chambers. Hrg 4/3.

HB 252 (Burns et al.) & SB 18 (Peters et al.) Task force on Military Service Members, Veterans and the Courts passed 3/18 138-0. & SB passed 46-0 3/19 hrg 3/28.

Grace Kubofcik & Marlene Cohn

JUVENILE JUSTICE

HB 1122 crossfiled with **SB 761** which requires that a juvenile waived to adult court must not be sent to adult detention, was reported favorably by the House. SB 761 has been heard in the Judicial Proceedings Committee, but no further action has been taken.

SB 245 which authorizes the Department of Juvenile Services to replace a juvenile without a court hearing has passed the Senate and will be heard in the Judiciary Committee of the House on 3/28.

Debbie Ehrenstein

EDUCATION

The most important change in education bills over the past three weeks was the incorporation of **SB 848 - Maintenance of Effort** (MOE) into the Senate Budget package. This was done by incorporating most of the provisions of **HB 1412 - Maintenance of Effort** (see *RSC 4*) into SB 848 by amendment. Changes are made in the MOE waiver process that allow income tax collections from counties that don't keep up with MOE levels to be withheld and sent to the local school board to be spent on education only.

UPDATE:

RSC 1

HB 118 - Retiree health Savings (MOE) –No Action

RSC 2

HB 191 - Financial Literacy -No Action

HB 542 -School Attendance - No Action

SB 293 - Core Content Areas - No Action

SB 307 - Financial Literacy - Unfavorable Committee Report

RSC 3

HB 497 - Epinephrine Availability - Passed House - now identical to the cross-file as amended by the Senate

HB 308 - Tobacco Free Schools – No Action

HB 660 - Limit Decrease in Funding - No Action

HB 1215 - On line Courses - No Action

HB1219 - Online Courses - No Action

HB 1227 Core Content Areas –Favorable Report by Ways and Means. Passed 2nd Reading with Amendments

SB 564 - Student health and Fitness - Unfavorable Committee Report

SB 586 - Limit Decrease in funding – No Action

SB 621 - Epinephrine Availability - Passed with Amendments

SB 625 - Tobacco Free Schools - Unfavorable committee Report

SB 674 - Online Course - Passed Senate amended, requiring County School Board to ask the SBOE to review and approve online course or delegate it's authority to County Boards

SB 736 - Online Courses – Withdrawn

SB 740 - Charter County Educ. Property Tax - No Action

SB 848 - Maintenance of Effort - Favorable with Amendments - see above

SB 851 - Maintenance of Effort - No Action

RSC 4

HB 1214 - Maximum Student Enrollment - No Action

HB 1217 - Charter Schools - No Action

HB 1218 - Charter Schools - No Action

HB 1412 - Maintenance of Effort - Passed House Amended, identical SB848

Lois Stoner

HIGHER EDUCATION/PETITIONS

HB 127 (Luedtke plus 3) **Maryland Referendum Integrity Act** - hrg W&M 3/7, 3rd reader, enrolled. This bill would require:

- Each person signing a petition to provide the specified information in the individual's own handwriting.
- Each page of the petition to be notarized.
- No payment made to petition circulators.
- Extending the time for outside groups to challenge a petition.
- Implementation in January 2013 and not to affect the referendums already in process.

In a surprise move, **SB 608** (Benson) **Maryland Higher Education Commission – Employees and Children – Tuition Waiver** received fav report from EHEA but failed on the Senate floor 12 - 33 thus reserving this perk for university employees only.

Updated Status Report:

HB 27/(Parrott)/**SB 91** (Jacobs plus 2) **Election Law – Petitions – Confidentiality** – no action in House, unfavorable report from Senate EHEA committee.

HB 41 (Smigiel plus 9) **Election Law – Petitions – Public Verification and Counting of Signatures** – No action

HB 42 (Smigiel plus 9) **Election Law – Petitions – Resubmission of Signatures** – No action

HB 388 (O'Donnell) **Public Benefits – Requirement of Proof of Lawful Presence** – Unfavorable report by Appropriations Committee.

Diana Haskell

DEATH PENALTY

The two House death penalty bills, **HB 949**, advocating repeal, and **HB 586**, which would add killing in a correctional institution as a capital offense, were heard by the Judiciary Committee March 20. **SB 872**, the repeal cross-file of HB 949, was heard by Judicial Proceedings March 7. No action has been taken in either chamber.

Marcia Reinke

MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCING

The only bills being followed by RSC deal with drugs. See *Drug* section on page 5.

Marcia Reinke

DRUGS

At an unusual Saturday session March 24 the House approved lower sentences for those caught with small amounts of marijuana. **HB 350**, which as amended received a 16-4 favorable report from the Judiciary Committee, passed to Third Reading by a vote of 102-29. It would set the maximum penalty for possession of under seven (originally 14) ounces to 90 days and a \$500 fine. One of the aims of this bill is to keep less serious drug possession cases out of the circuit courts where they have been clogging the dockets. Cross-filed **SB 214** was heard by Judicial Proceedings February 8 without action.

Also receiving a favorable report from Judiciary and advancing to Third Reading in the House by a vote of 106-33 is **HB 96** which would allow for probation before judgment in matters dealing with the possession of a controlled substance. It is scheduled for a first reading in the Senate on March 27.

All bills dealing with the legalization of medical marijuana are currently stalled. The three House Bills, **15, 1024** and **1158** each of which would legalize medical marijuana, but in different ways, (See *RSC 1, 2* and *3*) were heard jointly by the Health and Government Operations and Judiciary Committees March 9, with no action. Judicial Proceedings heard **SB 995**, a cross file of HB 1158, on March 21 with no action to date.

Marcia Reinke

GUN CONTROL

On March 5, a U.S. District Court judge loosened restrictions governing fire arms possession by declaring unconstitutional a provision regulating who can carry a handgun. Judge Benson Legg said that the state requirement that those applying for a permit to carry show they have “good and substantial reason” to do so “infringes the right to keep and bear arms.” The existence of the right is all the reason needed. The case is being appealed. (*Baltimore Sun*, March 6, 2012.) Based on the judicial decision, proposed legislation that would make the applicant responsible for proving eligibility will not go forward. Meanwhile, the State Police will continue to issue licenses and permits under the old law.

Update on previously reported bills:

HB 618, setting up a task force to Study Access of Individuals with Mental Illness to Regulated Firearms, passed in the House. Senate Hearing is rescheduled for 3/27.

HB 209, cross-filed with **SB 640**, passed in the Senate. The House hearing is scheduled for 3/28. This bill expands the law prohibiting a person from possessing a regulated firearm in MD if that person has been convicted of a violent crime in another state.

HB 512 regarding dealer record keeping: hearing rescheduled for 3/29.

A number of previously reported bills failed: **HB430, 488, 1066, 1100, 1104, 1113, 1114**.

No new gun control legislation was introduced since RSC 4 was published.

Doreen Rosenthal

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

No further action has been taken on any of the campaign finance bills previously reported on in *RSC 1 - 4*.

Nancy Soreng

ELECTIONS

Not very much committee action has taken place relating to election and voting bills. Only a few bills have moved from the House to the Senate. **HB 173 - Election Law - Voter Registration Agencies - Electronic Signatures**, passed on Third Reader 98-37 and has had a hearing scheduled on March 22nd in the Senate Education Health and Environmental Affairs committee. The bill authorizes a person registering to vote at a voter registration agency to consent to the use of an electronic copy of the individual's signature that is on file with the agency as the individual's signature for the voter registration application. Such a process is in place for voter registrations that will take place at the MVA, but this bill adds other voter registration agencies, including military recruitment centers, public higher education institutions and agencies providing services to disabled persons. An MVA driver's license or identification card number will be required in order to register through the online voter registration system, though absent uniformed services or overseas voters can register online with a Social Security number.

HB 226 – Election Law – Citizens Who Have Not Lived in the United States – passed on Third Reader in the House 84-53. The bill would allow a citizen who had never lived in the United States but who has a parent who is a resident of the State for purposes of voter registration to register to vote in Maryland. Because of an amendment to the legislation in the House, voters who register pursuant to this law would only be allowed to vote in federal elections.

The Voters' Rights Protection Act of 2012 (HB 314) passed the House on Third Reader and has had a first reading in the Senate Education Health and Environmental Affairs and Judicial Proceedings committees. Should this legislation pass, the Attorney General would be authorized to institute an injunction to prohibit a person from committing or continuing to commit a violation of election law.

SB 339 – Elective Franchise – Registration and Voting and Early Voting Polling Places had a hearing on February 16 in the Senate Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee. The cross-filed **HB 147** was referred to the Ways and Means Committee in the house. The legislation, a proposed Constitutional Amendment – gives the General Assembly the power to provide for Election Day registration, but only at Early Voting polling places.

A bill that allows voters who receive an absentee ballot to request that their name be put on a list to receive absentee ballots for the next regularly schedule primary and general elections. Amendments to the bill in the House, which passed, **HB 657 - Election Law – Subsequent Election Absentee Ballot List** adds a section requiring a Court to report the name and residence address of an individual under guardianship for mental disability if the court finds that the individual cannot communicate a desire to participate in the voting process. Such persons under mental guardianship are not eligible to register to vote under current law, but this bill adds the requirement that the Court report this information.

Finally, **SB 178 – Election Law – Absentee Ballots Internet or Facsimile Transmission** had received a favorable report by the Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee. The bill requires that absentee ballots be sent by mail unless the ballot is requested by a military or overseas voter or a disabled voter who needs to use an online ballot-marking tool to vote independently. Under current law, any voter may request delivery of an absentee ballot through the internet. SBE received a federal grant of over \$600,000 from the Federal Voting Assistance Program to establish an online ballot delivery system that will allow voters to mark their ballots and then print the ballot and return it by mail. Ballots marked online will include a bar code on the printed ballot that will allow election officials to automatically recreate the voted ballots on ballot paper that can be read by optical scan voting machines.

Lu Pierson

ENVIRONMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Updates:

HB 1397 – passing bicycles initiative failed. **SB 559** – prohibiting smoking in vehicle with child under age 8, hrg 3/27 1p.m. **SB 177** – nonfunctioning traffic control signals hrg 3/27. **SB 185** – child seating and safety seats hrg 3/27, similar **HB 313** passed House. **HB 1329** – membership of Transit Commission, favorable report ENV.

Barbara Ditzler

ENVIRONMENT

HB 614/SB 798 - Stormwater Management - Watershed Protection and Restoration Program (Hucker et al./Raskin et al.) passed the House of Delegates by a vote of 90 - 48. Under this legislation, counties and municipal corporations must establish by July 1, 2013, certain funds which will be used to provide financial assistance for implementing local stormwater management plans. The purpose of this legislation is to reduce pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. The Senate bill has been heard in EHEA but at this writing it has not been reported out of committee.

HB 445/SB 236 - The Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012 - These Administration bills were based on recommendations of the Task Force on Sustainable Growth and Wastewater Disposal. The legislation requires local jurisdictions to use a defined four-tier system for residential development with the intent of reducing the use of septic systems. The intent was to provide the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) with the authority to block some local zoning decisions on certain new residential developments which would rely on the use of septic systems. Local governments balked at ceding this control to MDE and that provision was eliminated before the Senate passed the amended bill.

The House EMC has held a hearing on HB 445 but at this writing, has taken no further action.

Update on bills reported in RSC 4:

HB 1123/SB 636 – Presumptive Impact Areas – Damage Caused by Gas Wells in Deep Shale Deposits - passed the House with amendments - Senate hrg 3/6

HB 1170 - Fracking Records Transparency Act - unfav

HB 1204/SB 798 – The Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Fee - passed the House with amendments, Senate hrg 3/6.

Barbara Schnackenberg

OFF-SHORE WIND ENERGY

Late-breaking news, as of Monday afternoon, March 26, is that the House Economic Matters Committee voted 13 to 8 in favor of this year's Offshore Wind Energy Act (HB 441), a bill sponsored on behalf of Governor O'Malley. Delegates have said that they anticipate being able to have a full floor vote later this week as well. The bill, as passed, reduces the cap on the subsidies to be paid monthly by ratepayers and industrial and commercial users.

Most of the action during the past few weeks by the organizations and individuals in the MD-Wind coalition has been aimed at lobbying individual legislators in order to get **HB 441** out of the House committee or its companion bill **SB 237** out of the Senate Finance Committee. These committees had their hearings back in late and mid-February, respectively. The Senate bill still appears stuck in committee.

A large Circle of Support, or rally, around the Maryland State House to support this legislation is scheduled for Monday evening, April 2. Buses will be available to bring supporters from Baltimore, Montgomery County, and some other locations. Details are available at <http://www.marylandoffshorewind.org/> LWVMD certainly encourages you to sign up and attend.

Reviewing some salient facts: This year's Offshore Wind Energy Act specifies that a portion of Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard be met using the energy generated by offshore wind turbines. The MD-Wind Coalition, of which LWVMD is a member, ensured that those testifying at committee hearings included representatives of public health fields, labor, and minority communities as a way of showing that the bill has multiple -- not just environmental -- benefits. The offshore wind plan is expected to create 1,800 construction jobs and increase electricity production, but will likely add to Marylanders' monthly bills from 2017 through 2037.

As mentioned in earlier issues, the proposed wind turbines would be built 10 miles off the shore of Ocean City in areas leased by the federal government. The effect of the decreases in subsidies (from \$2 to \$1.50 for ratepayers and similarly an increase of just 1.5% instead of 2.5 % for industrial and commercial users) would likely be to decrease the capacity of the wind farm to be built from the 300 to 600 megawatt range to 200 megawatts.

Linda Silversmith

SOCIAL POLICY

CHILDREN'S ISSUES

HB 1102, crossfiled as **SB 626**, places civil misdemeanor penalties up to \$100,000 on mandated reporters who fail to report child abuse and neglect to the appropriate authorities and sets up a fund for the prevention of abuse and neglect. Both of these bills have been heard by the appropriate committees, but no further action has been taken. LWVMD has submitted written testimony in support of this bill pointing out that civil penalties are more likely to be enforced than criminal penalties. Advocates for Children and Youth, an advocacy organization, is supporting the general principle of this bill, but suggests that neither professionals nor the general public should be penalized for failing to report child neglect, which can be much more difficult to identify than child abuse.

No further action has been taken on **SB 63** and **SB 140**, which also seek to penalize failure to report. Both remain in the Senate's Judicial Proceedings Committee.

SB 566, requiring the State to fund only evidenced-based home visiting services has passed the Senate with some amendments. The crossfile **HB 699** has passed the House. Due to different amendments passed with each bill, new hearings on these bills will be held.

No further progress is reported on **SB 613** crossfiled with **HB 1256**, which requires the state to train employees to report sex abuse and neglect.

HB 860 crossfiled with **SB 1082**, expanding the definition of sex abuse, has passed the House. SB 1082 has been referred to the Judicial Proceedings Committee and was heard on 3/21.

HB 103, which would have extended medical coverage to income-eligible young people aging out of the foster care system, received an unfavorable report and was withdrawn.

Two budget issues remain unresolved. The Governor will issue a Supplemental Appropriations bill which may restore some funds for the home visiting programs that have been discussed in previous issues of RSC. The lack of sufficient funds for child care subsidies has not been remedied by the budget and waiting lists continue to grow. There are now 17,000 children awaiting child care subsidies in the State. The Governor has tried to add some money for these subsidies using State General Fund dollars.

Debbie Ehrenstein

MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

HB 168/SB 277 Human Relations – Housing discrimination – Source of Income. After many years of trying to pass legislation banning discrimination in housing based on source of income, we thought the combined efforts of an amazing and dedicated group of advocates and a large number of concerned and committed legislators would finely mean success.

We almost made it, with sufficient votes in the Environmental Matters Committee and the full House and Senate. Unfortunately, we were short of the necessary votes to get the bill out of the Judicial Proceedings Committee in the Senate and so both bills were withdrawn.

Ruth Crystal

HEALTH CARE

SB 238/HB 443, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Act of 2012, submitted by the Administration, but actually from the new Board of Directors of the Health Benefit Exchange. The bill has been strongly supported by the members of the League with suggested amendments. The bills are moving in both houses with amendments and should crossover on March 26. The House amendments have been posted, but the Senate amendments have not, so it is hard to ascertain if the bills will need to go to conference.

SB 234/HB 439 – Maryland Health Improvement and Disparities Reduction Act – These are also Administration bills and set up Health Empowerment Zones in areas where there is a lack of health care. They would pump \$4 million into certain underserved medical areas, yet to be determined. The House bill has passed second reader with amendments and the Senate should pass an identical bill before crossover.

HB 1341, Medicaid Sustainability Commission, which would have initiated the formation of a commission to study the status and sustainability of Medicaid and how to fund it in the future has been withdrawn.

SB 229, Health Insurance – Individual and Group coverage – Application of Federal Affordable Care Act, was submitted by Senator Thomas “Mac” Middleton for Maryland Insurance Administration, but has been withdrawn. The bill would have added preventive care to the list of specified provisions of the federal Affordable Care Act in the individual insurance market.

Delegate Nathan-Pulliam and Senator Pugh sponsored **HB 243/SB 179 – The Kathleen A Mathias Chemo Therapy Parity Act of 2012,** named for the late wife of State Senator James Mathias. The bill would make the co-pay and deductibles of oral chemotherapy purchased in a drug store equal to the chemotherapy given in a physician’s office. Identical bills have passed both houses.

HB 1407/SB 784, DHMH – Workgroup on Cancer Clusters and Environmental Causes of Cancer, also a late bill would initiate a workgroup to study the causes of cancer in areas of where there are decided clusters of the disease. Both bills has been voted out of their committees and may have passed over the weekend for crossover.

SB 180, Health Occupations – State Board of Naturopathic Medicine, sponsored by Senator Catherine Pugh and in Senator Joan Carter Conway’s committee, passed out of the committee with amendments on March 19 on a 9-2 vote and went to the Senate. Senator Conway asked to have the bill laid over on second reader Tuesday, so it did not come up for a vote until Wednesday, when it passed. However, significant opposition from the medical community was apparent as third reader approached. On Friday, Senator Conway asked to have the bill recommitted to her committee, which was done. Senator Conway was very unhappy at the outcome and will probably try to have the parties reach a compromise over the summer, although there has been little movement on either side.

HB 470, Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) – Preauthorization of Health Care Services has passed the House and is now in the Senate Finance Committee. It gives the MHCC the authorization to penalize the carrier and Pharmacy Benefit Managers if they don’t move to real-time authorization by the benchmark dates.

The *lay* midwives bill, **HB 1056 – Health Occupations – Licensed Midwives**, is similar in its scope to the naturopaths’ bill. It would license midwives who currently are not allowed to practice in Maryland. These midwives perform home births, and there is increasing evidence that they are practicing in the state. At the recent hearing the room was full of the Mennonite community asking to have these midwives licensed. The bill is not likely to pass this late in the session, but there may be further study during the summer to accommodate this group of people.

The sunset review of the Maryland Board of Physicians and the accompanying legislation has been put on hold until the 2013 session to allow an overall review of the Board and its functions ordered by Secretary of Health Joshua Sharfstein.

HB 123, Wireless Communication Devices, Enforcement of Prohibitions on Use While Driving is sponsored by Delegate Clagget was withdrawn. **HB 163, Prohibition on Use of Text Messaging – Exceptions**, is sponsored by Delegate Arora and would allow voice activated telephone devices. All of these bills are likely to be rolled into was also **HB 55, Motor Vehicles – Use of Text Messaging Device While Driving**, passed the House and has crossover an is on the Senate floor. Senator Pipkin special ordered the bill over the weekend. It addresses a correction regarding administrative penalties for minors.

SB 213/HB 207, Tanning Devices - Use by Minors, received an unfavorable report in Senate Finance so they are dead for this session. There was a suggested compromise allowing parental consent, but it must not have passed.

Neilson Andrews

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