



REPORT FROM STATE CIRCLE 2010

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ELECTIONS

SB 400 - No Representation Without Population Act - is sponsored by Senator Pugh and 12 additional senators. The bill is cross-filed with HB 496 and has 83 sponsoring delegates. This bill requires that individuals incarcerated in state or federal prisons at the time of the decennial census shall be counted at their last known address rather than at the address of the correctional facility in which they are incarcerated. This change in how individuals are counted would apply to the population count for state legislative districting and the legislative districting that is used to elect a county's governing body. Federal law does not require states to use the Census data in

redistricting state legislative districts. Using these counts to draw legislative districts enhances the votes of districts with prisons and dilutes the votes of all other districts, especially the districts where the prisoner resided before incarceration. For example, Maryland's prisoners are disproportionately from Baltimore, but the majority are incarcerated elsewhere. A hearing is scheduled in the Senate EHEA Committee for March 4, 2010. While the League is disappointed that there appears to be no legislation filed this year relating to reforming the process of redistricting in Maryland, this legislation is a positive step towards equal representation.

Delegate King has sponsored **HB 660 - State Officials - Limitations of Terms**. This bill proposes a Constitutional amendment to impose a limit of two consecutive terms for the office of Senator or Delegate in the General Assembly, Attorney General, Comptroller or Treasurer. The Maryland League has adopted a position opposing term limits for state elected officials. There is no hearing scheduled for this bill.

HB 797 – Election Law – Early Voting – Delay of Implementation has 22 delegate sponsors. This bill would delay the implementation of Early Voting in Maryland until 2012. It's an Emergency Bill that requires a three-fifths vote in the House and Senate.

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The bill is scheduled for a hearing on March 16, 2010. The League believes that the State Board of Elections and local election boards have been working diligently towards implementing this election reform that was approved by voters by referendum in 2008, and we will oppose the proposed delay in its implementation.

Senators Harris, Haines, Jacobs, Kittleman, Munson, Reilly, and Stoltzfus are sponsors of **SB 711 - Election Law - Qualification of Voters - Proof of Identity** which requires a voter to present a current and valid government issued identification card in order to vote. A hearing is scheduled for March 11, 2010, and LWVMD will present testimony opposing this legislation. Similar and identical legislation has failed to gain committee approval for the past several years.

SB 6 - Elective Franchise - Registration and Voting at Polling Places, a pre-filed bill sponsored by Senator Muse was reported in RSC 1. The bill proposed a Constitutional amendment to authorize the General Assembly to enact Same Day Registration, allowing a voter to register and vote at a polling place on Election Day or during Early Voting at an early voting center. This bill was withdrawn, but has been replaced by the identical **SB 417 and HB 322**. A hearing is scheduled on the Senate bill on February 25, 2010 and on the House bill on March 16, 2010. The League supports this election reform.

EDUCATION

As anticipated in RSC 2, additional legislation to qualify for the Race to the Top federal funding has now been introduced in both houses of the legislature at the request of the Governor and State Superintendent of Schools. **HB 1263/SB 899 - Education Reform Act of 2010** (Speaker for the Administration plus 4)/President for the Administration) would require a three year probationary period, rather than the current two years with an optional third year, to qualify for tenure; would make data on student achievement a significant component of teacher and principal evaluations; and would provide a state stipend for highly effective teachers or principals working in the lowest achieving 5% of Title 1 (low income enrollment) schools. Although many school teachers and principals have not supported the first two requirements in the past, the Maryland State Education Association has given this legislation their full support.

At the request of the Governor, the Speaker and six delegates and the Senate president and Senators Pinsky and King have introduced **HB 467/SB 275 - Education - Maryland Longitudinal Data System**. This statewide longitudinal data system would track the performance of students from kindergarten through college and integrate several currently separate data bases to better tell how students relate to their teachers. The system would enable student data to be exchanged among agencies and institutions in Maryland; would generate student achievement information that could improve Maryland public schools; and should improve our chance of securing a federal Race to the Top grant. (HB 467 hearing on 2/24; SB 275 hearing on 2/17)

Violence in our public schools statewide has also become a focus of the legislators. Speaker Busch and eleven others have introduced **HB 1160 - Safe Schools Act of 2010**. The courts would now be required to report to the county school superintendent if a child is found to be delinquent or in need of assistance and under the custody of a local department. School security officers and the state's attorney would be added to those who must be notified by law enforcement agencies if a student is arrested for a reportable offense (defined in the Criminal

Law article) or for an offense related to gang membership. Students convicted of rape or other sexual offenses would be prohibited from attending the same school or riding the same school bus as the victim; the superintendent and principal could implement this prohibition for other reportable offenses. In addition, the State Board of Education (SBE), after consulting with Juvenile Service, the State Police and local school

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systems, would be required to develop a model policy to address gangs and gang like activities in the schools. Required provisions of the policy are delineated, and each county board would also need to establish a similar policy after consulting with various local groups. Regular school security meetings with relevant groups and individuals would be required for each middle and high school as would a memorandum of understanding between each county's school superintendent and state's attorney to foster coordination of gang prevention activities.

SB 836 - Education - Students Arrested for Reportable Offenses - Prohibition Against Attending School with Victim (Lenett plus 6) would incorporate the provisions prohibiting the provocator from attending school or riding a school bus with the victim. **HB 1371 - Public Schools - Student Gang Activity Records and Reporting** (George plus 11) would define a student gang member as an individual who is part of a public school environment and has, with one or more others, been physically violent to another person, acted disorderly, applied graffiti to school property or possessed weapons, drugs, etc. Public schools would have to keep records of the students involved, facts about the incident and make this information part of the student's permanent school record.(SB 836 hearing on 3/17)

Companion bills **HB 932/SB 814 - Public Schools - New Construction or Renovation - Children's Environmental Health** (Rice plus 9/Lenett plus 2) would require local school boards to adopt an environmental health plan for school construction and renovation projects that includes standards for hazardous substance removal, integrated pest management, mold and moisture containment, indoor air quality and testing for radon. Standards currently implemented for school construction generally do follow these policies.(HB 932 hrg 3/2)

Currently, standards for substitute teachers are the responsibility of each local board of education. **HB 760 - Public Schools - Substitute Teachers - Qualifications, Training and Study** (Kaiser plus 10) would establish statewide qualifications for substitute teachers, including orientation and training for substitutes, principals and permanent teachers. (Hearing on 3/10)

The issue of how to count school system attendance (ADA) or enrollment as a factor in the school funding formula has again come to the forefront. Companion bills, **HB 1036/SB 866 - Education - Enrollment - Average Daily Attendance** (Hixson plus 4/King plus 7) would phase in an application of the absentee rate to the calculation of ADA that would be defined as the sum of students attending school each day divided by the sum of student membership each day. Currently, membership on September 30 each year is the enrollment factor used in the formula. This may seem technical, but because school attendance varies rather dramatically among the 24 local school systems, the practical per pupil funding for school systems with high absenteeism is enhanced using the current methodology.

HB 1154 - Education Funding Formula - Average Daily Attendance (O'Donnell plus 24) differs only in making the absenteeism rate immediately fully applicable rather than phasing it in. (HB1036 and HB 1154 hearing on 3/17)

Students who have served as student members of their local school boards would be financially recognized if companion bills **HB 1179/SB 888 - Office of Student Financial Assistance - Public Service Scholarships - Student Members of County Boards of Education** (Murphy plus 18/Middleton) passes. Under specified conditions student board members who have served a full term and graduated from high school would be eligible for an annual \$1,000 public service scholarship for each of four college years. (SB 888 hearing on 3/10)

Additional bills have been introduced on subjects discussed in RSC 2:

HB 723 - Education - Age of Compulsory Attendance – Exemptions (Hixson plus12) (hrg on 3/3) is a cross file of SB 239.

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HB1131 - Education - Maintenance of Effort Waiver - Appeal Process (O'Donnell plus 2)(hrg on 2/24) would permit a county government or school board to appeal a SBE maintenance of effort waiver decision to the Office of Administrative Hearings. The latter's decision would be final.

HB 853 - State Department of Education - Personal Financial Literacy State Curriculum (Stein & Krebs) (hrg on 3/17) would require each county school superintendent to certify by September 1 each year that personal financial literacy is being taught in the county. HB 764 - Financial Literacy Curriculum - Graduation Requirement (Carter plus 3)(hrg on 3/3) is the cross file of SB 264.

HB 946 - BOAST (Proctor plus 74) (hrg on 3/17) is the cross file of SB 385.

HB 632 - Maintenance of Effort Penalty (Howard plus 15)(hrg on 2/24) would prohibit imposing a penalty for FY 2010. HB 1131 - Education - Maintenance of Effort Waiver - Appeal Process (O'Donnell plus 2)(hrg on 2/24) would permit a county government or school board to appeal a SBE maintenance of effort waiver decision to the Office of Administrative Hearings. The latter's decision would be final.

Hearings now scheduled on RSC #2 bills:

House: all in W&M - HB 335 - 3/3, HB 439 - 2/24, HB 440 - 3/10, HB 505 - 3/3, Senate:SB 385 in B&T; others in EHEA - SB 385 - 3/3, SB 410 - 2/17, SB 452 - 3/10, SB 453 - 2/24.

Lois Stoner

DEATH PENALTY

Two more bills relating to the Maryland Death Penalty have been filed, bringing the 2010 total to four.

HB 994 Criminal Law – Death Penalty-Scientific Evidence (Conway plus 7) is similar to, but not a cross-file of **SB 404 – Death Penalty – Evidence (See RSC 2)**, both of which have the aim of increasing the types of evidence allowed for a capital prosecution. **SB 404** has been scheduled for hearing before Judicial Proceedings March 10 at 1 p.m.; and **HB 994** will be heard by Judiciary March 16 at 1 p.m. Also scheduled for hearing before Judiciary on March 16 is **HB 306** concerning the murder of a child during a sexual offense (*See RSC 2*).

Refiled from last year is **HB 1078 – Maryland Personhood Amendment (Dwyer plus 19)** aimed at a Constitutional Amendment providing that life begins at conception, that a fetus is a “person” and that a “person” may not be deprived of life. If enacted it would eliminate capital punishment, but also the right to an abortion. Assigned to the Health and Government Operations Committee, it has no hearing scheduled. Last year an identical bill died in committee.

The League opposes all of these bills.

Marcia Reinke

GUNS

Thirty-two bills relating to firearms have been filed at this writing, of which LWVMD is currently following five. Backed by the League, but withdrawn following an unfavorable report from Judicial Proceedings, is **SB 516**, which would have established an **assault weapons ban**. (*See RSC 1 and 2*).

SB 191, which would establish weapon-free higher education zones, (*See RSC 1 and 2*), has been set for hearing before Judicial Proceedings on March 11 at 1 p.m.

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HB 52, which would allow for firearms licenses issued by Delaware, Pennsylvania and Virginia to be valid in Maryland, has been heard by Judiciary with no report. (*See RSC 2*) A similar bill, newly filed in the Senate, **SB 842 Regulated Firearms – License Issued by Another State to Current or Former Member of the Armed Forces – Reciprocity (Kittleman plus 2)** has been scheduled for hearing before Judicial Proceedings March 11 at 1 p.m.

New is **HB 893 Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Victims of Domestic Violence (McComas plus 27)** which would authorize the Secretary of the State Police, in determining whether a handgun permit is necessary as a reasonable precaution, to consider whether the applicant is a person eligible for relief because a court has issued a final protective order under the domestic violence law. A hearing has been scheduled before the Judiciary Committee March 11 at 1 p.m. Last year this bill received a favorable recommendation from Judiciary but died on Third Reading by a vote of 51-86.

Marcia Reinke

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SB 833 (Request of Attorney General and 15 Senators) **Circuit Court Judges - Election, Qualifications, and Terms of Office** would amend the Constitution to alter the method of electing Circuit Court Judges to be retention elections. (JUD 3/9)

SB 874 (Frosh, Currie & Miller) **Circuit Courts and District Court-Creation in Areas of Greatest Need.** Proposes to increase the number of Circuit Court Judges by adding one to Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties and Baltimore City. Proposes to add one judge to District Courts in Baltimore City, Charles, Prince George’s, Montgomery, Harford, Frederick and Washington Counties. (JUD)

Update from RSC 2:

HB 106/SB248 Maryland Legal Services Fund-Surcharges. JUD 1/27 &JP2/4
HB 208 County Administrative Judge Responsibility Passed House 2/18. JUD 2/16
HB332 Orphans Judges Qualifications. JUD 2/17
HB 417 Baltimore City Orphans Judges Qualifications. JUD 2/17
HB 769 Orphan’s Courts Minors Guardianship. JUD Favorable 2/22
SB118 and SB119 Civil Jury Trials Amount in Controversy. Favorable JUD 2/22, XF HB436 JP 2/2
SB 220 Circuit Court Real Property Records Improvement. B&T 2/19
HJR4 and SJR 4 Judicial Compensation Commission Recommendations. Both Bills amended to maintain existing salaries. HJR 4 2/19 second reader SJR4 Passed Senate 2/16 47-0

Grace Kubofcik

BUDGET AND REVENUES

There has been no action taken on any of the bills previously reported. LWVMD submitted testimony on **SB 232** to B&T on February 16 in opposition to **SB 232 (Brinkley, et al)** which would extend the homestead exemption to second properties located more than 90 miles from the first property on the basis that it is inequitable given that it applies to only a small class of property taxpayers. We will be testifying at W&M on February 25 in favor **HB 584 (Ross et al)** which would require combined reporting from corporate taxpayers. This type of reporting would capture corporate income which is currently diverted to other states.

There have been a couple of Constitutional Amendments submitted which would limit the ability of the state and local government to raise taxes. A hearing was held in W&M on February 9 on **HB163 (Miller et al)** a

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Constitutional Amendment entitled Taxpayers' Bill of Rights. This bill has been seen before. It would require taxpayer approval for new State or local taxes, tax rate increases, etc. and impose spending limits on the state.

HB 653 (Impallaria, et al) is a proposed Constitutional Amendment entitled **Taxes – Limitations**. It would provide that the maximum ad valorem tax on real property could not exceed the rate in effect on November 2, 2010 as applied to the full cash value of a property and that all real property be assessed at the 2010 full cash value. A hearing is scheduled for February 25 at W&M.

HB 204 (Norman et al) would establish a task force to review property tax assessment procedures and the assessment appeals process. It was heard in W&M on February 4.

HB 395 (Barve)/SB 336 (King et al) would move the final reporting date of the Maryland Business Tax Reform Commission to December 15, 2010. It is currently required to file an interim report in December of this year and a final report on December 15, 2011. The task force is charged with evaluating the current business tax structure and making specific recommendations for changes. HB395 will be heard at W&M on February 25.

Barbara Hankins

AIR QUALITY

One of the recommendations of the Climate Commission Report was that the state lead by example. Heating and energy usage contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and must be reduced. To set an example, the state adopted the High Performance Building Act of 2008 which required new or renovated state buildings to meet the silver standard of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) criteria. Silver is the second of the ratings which are: certified, silver, gold and platinum. There are waiver provisions. This year two bills extend that requirement to other state-funded projects.

SB 215/HB 1040 (Frosh, et al; Bronrott plus 35 others) **High Performance Building Act – Applicability to Recipients of State Aid** extends this standard to private organizations who receive state capital funds, B&T, HGO.

SB 234/HB 1044 (Robey plus 13, Bronrott plus 54) **High Performance Building Act – Applicability to Community College Capital Projects**, B&T hrg 2/24, HGO, extends the requirement to community college projects.

SB4 79 (Stolzfus) **State Capital Projects – High Performance Buildings – Green Globe Buildings Initiative**, B&T 2/24 adds the Green Globe rating of the Green Buildings Initiative to the ratings that may be used. The Secretaries of Budget and Management and General Services can approve additional rating systems under the current law.

Carol Filipczak

TRANSPORTATION

An emphasis of the environmental community this year is to change the transportation process to gain greater accountability and to consider transportation's effect on climate change.

SB 760/HB 1155 (Pugh & Harrington/Lafferty) **Transportation – Consolidated Transportation Program – Evaluation and Selection of Proposed Capital Projects** (B&B/ W&M and ENV hrg 3/2). This bill alters the process and criteria for selecting capital projects by requiring a statement of why the project is needed and how

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it satisfies the goals of state transportation, the State Development Plan and the Climate Action Plan. It ensures that our transportation and land use decisions work together, it considers alternative modes earlier and requires greater accountability from the proposing agency or local governments. The League will support these bills.

HB 1404 (Gaines plus 25 others) **Maryland Department of Transportation – Transit Review and Evaluation** ENV, hrg 3/16. This bill asks the State Highway Administration to review and evaluate:

best practices across the country, transit priority treatments on roadways such as signal prioritization, use of shoulders or bus-only lanes and queue jumps. A report is due at the end of 2011.

Two additional bills have been filed that index the fuel tax. **SB 827** (Madaleno) **Motor Fuel Tax – Index, B&T**, indexes the gas tax to the wholesale price and adjusts it four times a year. **HB 969** (Barkley, et al) **Motor Fuel Tax – Adjustments, W&M** hrg 3/2, increases the tax by ½ cent to 24 cents per gallon, indexes the tax to the *Engineering News Record* construction cost index and adjusts it once a year but not more than one cent at any time.

Update from RSC 2: - all hearing are on 3/2 in W&M

HB 710 - commission on transportation funding, HB 732 - priority funding of BRAC projects, SB 725 has been crossfiled in B&T, HB 282 - bicycle and pedestrian, HB 367 - monies dedicated to highways only, HB 479 - fuel tax increase.

Carol Filipczak

MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS/AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HB 805 Property Tax – Homestead Credit for Seniors with Two Homes (Heller et al) This bill is similar to SB232 (RSC1) but provides the second homestead tax credit only to seniors. As with SB232, the loss of tax revenue is difficult to justify in the state's current fiscal crisis. It is being heard in Ways & Means on March 3rd.

HB 869 Real Property – Affordable Housing Land Trusts (Clagett et al)/**SB 780 Real Property – Affordable Housing Land Trusts** (Raskin). Affordable Housing Land Trusts are a mechanism for maintaining affordable housing that has been used successfully in many jurisdictions. Low/mod income home purchasers sign an agreement with the nonprofit housing group that requires the property be sold to a low or moderate income family. Profits from the resale are shared by the home-owner and the nonprofit. Tax assessment reflects the restriction on resale. These bills set up the legal mechanisms for Land Trusts to operate in Maryland. Both bills are being heard March 4th in Environmental Matters and Judicial Proceedings.

SB 243 (RSC 1) is being heard on February 24th, an Action Alert has been distributed asking members to contact their Senators in JPR in support of the bill.

HB 746 (RSC 2) is being heard March 3rd, the companion bill SB845 is being heard March 4th.

Ruth Crystal

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

The **Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act, SB 582** (Madaleno, et al) will be heard on Wednesday, March 3rd at 1:00 pm in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. **HB 808** (Barnes, et al) has been introduced in the House Judiciary Committee and will be heard on Thursday, March 4th at 1:00 pm. Delegate Frank Conaway has introduced **HB 1279, Marriage – Valid Between Consenting Adults** which provides that a marriage between consenting adults is valid in Maryland and making the Act contingent on the passage and ratification of a specified constitutional amendment and **HB 1176, Marriage – Valid Between Consenting Adults** for the purpose of adding a new section to the Maryland Constitution to establish that a marriage between consenting adults is valid in this State; and submitting the amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection. A hearing is scheduled for both of these bills on Thursday, March 4th at 1:00 pm in the JUD Ctte.

The following bills have been introduced: **SB 852** (Stone, et al) **Same Sex Marriages – Foreign Jurisdictions – Invalidity** to be heard on March 3rd in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee; **HB 1079** (Dwyer, et al) **Maryland Marriage Protection Act** will be heard on March 4th in the JUD Ctte. The LWVMD opposes those bills.

Other bills relating to family law and domestic partnerships have also been introduced, including **HB 1272**, (Mizeur, et al) **Family Medical Leave Act** which requires employers in the State that are subject to the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide specified leave to an eligible employee with respect to the eligible employee's ...domestic partner and the son or daughter of the eligible employee's domestic partner. This bill has been referred to the ECM Ctte; no hearing has yet been scheduled. **SB 600** (Raskin, et al) crossfiled with **HB 1241** (Dumais, et al) **Family Law – De Facto Parents** requires a court to determine that an individual is a de facto parent if he or she has acted in a parent-like role with a minor child performing the duties and responsibilities of a parent. **SB 600** will be heard on Wednesday, February 24th at 1:00 pm in the JPR Ctte. and **HB 1241** will have a hearing on Thursday, March 18th at 1:00 pm.

Sherry Hyman

ENVIRONMENT – WATER, WASTE TREATMENT AND LAND USE

SB 653 (Lenett et al) **Coal Combustion By-Products - Minimum Standards – Beneficial Use**. Fly ash and slag are examples of coal combustion by-products that are a problem in Maryland, as they contain many harmful elements that may be dispersed into air, soil and water. Coal combustion by-products are used in road construction and building materials as well as used for land reclamation and more. Senate Bill 653 will require that all use and disposal of the by-products that come into contact with the ground be done in a manner that complies with the best engineering practices to prevent or to control and capture leachate generation and fugitive dust emission. Also, any construction or addition to the land must conform to the silt control and permit requirements of the MDE, and shall use engineering practices protective of human health as required for land fill of these by-products. (EHEA. - hrg 3/2)

SB 462 Chesapeake Bay Retail Choice Act of 2010 (Raskin et al)/**HB 351** (Carr et al) This plastic bag act has an interesting twist. Although it requires retail stores to charge their customers 5 cents each for plastic bags, it also has the store give the customer 5 cents for every bag they supply themselves for filling. The stores keep a portion of the money they charge and the money collected by the state goes to the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund and for administrative costs. The bill would require the MDE to conduct a public information and outreach program. (ENV - hrg 3/10)

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SB 359 (Lenett et al)/ **HB 930** (Frush et al) **Fertilizers and Pesticides - Release Reporting.** Reports to the Department of Agriculture of the release of fertilizers and pesticides would be required annually. This is a step toward controlling pollution of air and water. (EHEA hrg 3/4 ENV)

SB 513 (Conway and 18 others)/**HB 1257** (Holmes et al) **Vessels – No -Discharge Designation for Maryland.** This bill is a cleaner waters bill that seeks to more clearly regulate the overboard discharge of treated and untreated sewage into the waters of Maryland by vessels both large and small. Standards for marine sanitation devices are included. More enforcement and inspection would be conducted by a broad range of local, state enforcement officers and the US Coast Guard. The penalty for violations can be up to \$10,000. The bill also requires the State to initiate a process with the EPA to designate Maryland waters as a no-discharge zone.

Susan Cochran

HEALTH CARE

Health Care Reform at the Federal level may be moving to the front burner again. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is again talking about putting the House bill on the budget reconciliation bill which would only require a majority vote up or down. President Obama is trying to negotiate with the Republicans. The AMA is worried about the 21 percent decrease in Medicare reimbursements scheduled to take effect on March 1, as they see physicians dropping out of Medicare.

The Assignment of Benefits bills, **HB 147 and SB 314**, which have been filed by Senator Robert Garigiola and Delegate Dan Morhaim, chairmen of the Joint Committee on Health Care Delivery and Financing, are having a difficult time in both committees. The Senate bill was heard last week and the House bill is scheduled for next week. Basically, this bill would mandate that the carriers send the check to non-participating physicians when patients assign their insurance benefits. The chairmen's bills cap the payments to these non-par physicians.

The increase in Nurse Practitioners independent practice bills, **SB 484 and HB 319**, are moving forward and are about to be heard. It is difficult to tell what their status is at this point in the session as the hearings are coming up.

There have been more than six work sessions on **SB 279 and HB 525**, the Governor's bills on False Claims. Lt. Governor Anthony Brown has been chairing a work group trying to reach a compromise with the medical community, but none has been reached.

The liability insurance apology bill, **SB 358** was heard in the Senate last week and probably has enough votes to move it out of committee. Senator Frosh, chairman of the committee has acknowledged that there are enough votes. The bill could reach the floor within the next 10 days. In the end no bill on a Health Court in the circuit court system was submitted.

Neilson Andrews

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Major changes in the governor's Office for Children (GOC) funding

Changes in the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund in the FY2011 budget have put Local Funding for Children's Services at risk. This drastic change from a model supporting local decision making through local management boards, (LMBs) to a centralized model with decision making and control at the state level, through the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) will produce a decrease of \$4 million in FY 2011, causing the loss of hundreds of jobs and services in the LMBs.

LMBs and local jurisdictions will no longer be assured to receive prevention and early intervention funds, and many local efforts which have produced extremely effective results, both in fundraising and services, may be gutted. Many current and local grassroots programs developed under effective practice models will no longer be funded, especially impacting out-of-school-time activities, which the League has strongly supported.

Local decision making + Accountability = Resources for Local Needs. In a letter from County Executive Leggett to our State representatives, he notes; these funding changes are significant, leaving only \$2.3 million to be shared among 24 Local Management Boards. In addition, the LMBs would no longer receive state dollars earmarked for local programs, as they are proposed to be moved to the Governor's Office for Children. In light of these recommendations, it would appear the GOC is building bureaucracy and reducing services! In addition, over \$60 million leveraged by LMBs in the last two years alone to support each LMBs local system of care being built since 1992, is also at risk. Contact the members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Ctte, and your local representative, and the Governor!

MORE BUDGET ISSUES - FEDERAL & STATE

The proposed federal budget would increase the CHILD CARE BLOCK (CCBDG) funding by \$1.6 billion for the coming fiscal year (replacing stimulus money). And would add \$600 million to aid subsidized children and improve quality. Head Start and Early Head Start would get a smaller boost of \$989 million. Part C and Section 19 of IDEA would add some money for children with special needs!

Pat Plunkett