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**EDUCATION**

**Aid to Nonpublic Schools**

**SB 825** Education - Nonpublic Schools - Programs for Students with Special Needs (Ramirez) requires nonpublic schools which receive BOOST or textbook funding to have an approved program for students with special needs before July 1, 2018. Hrg 3/8 EHEA

**Accountability and Curriculum**

**HB 978**/SB 871 Education - Accountability - Consolidated State Plan and Support and Improvement Plans (Protect Our Schools Act of 2017) (Luedtke/Zucker) is meant to shape the way Maryland implements the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Comprehensive School Improvement Plans must balance academic test scores equally with other quality indicators. An educational accountability program shall include at least three other quality indicators that measure comparative opportunities. For elementary schools, quality indicators could be class size, case load, chronic absenteeism and climate surveys. For secondary schools advanced placement courses and international baccalaureate programs, dual enrollment opportunities, career and technology education programs and opportunities for industry certification are added. When the county board identifies a school needing improvement, a plan must be worked out with all parties involved; and, include evidence-based interventions, be based on school-level needs assessments, and identify resource inequities and budgetary needs. While additional interventions may be required after two or three years without improvement, the bill forbids creation of a state-run school district (as in **SB 618-RSC 2**), conversion to a charter school, scholarships for students to attend nonpublic schools, or contracting with a for-profit company. Hrg 2/28 W&M; Hrg 3/8 EHEA

To subscribe to *Report from State Circle*, please visit LWVMD website or call 410-269-0232.
HB 1268 Education - Student Achievement Gap Standard - Establishment (Maryland Student Achievement Act) (A. Washington) requires MSDE to establish standards to measure and identify student achievement gaps between racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, gender, and English language learner groups. The department shall issue best practices to close the gap over a five-year period in reading and math assessments, graduation rates, and ninth grade dropout rates. Before July 1, 2019, each local district must trace the gap for the past 20 years, develop a five-year plan, identify implementation costs per pupil, and hold public hearings. Hrg 2/28 W&M

SB 908 Maryland Education Development Collaborative – Established (Ferguson plus 6) establishes an organization to advise the Maryland State Department of Education on adoption and implementation of best practices and policies to promote 21st century learning and preparation for employment across a diverse student body. Hrg 3/8 B&T

HB 1502 Task Force to Expand Dual Language Programs in Maryland (Gutierrez plus 48) establishes a task force to create a framework for dual language immersion programs, increase the number of programs and identify possible funding sources. Recommendations for certifying teachers would be due October 2017, and a final report on other recommendations October 2018. Hrg 3/7 W&M

Prekindergarten
HB 1080 Education - Universal Prekindergarten – Established (Walker and Hixson) By the 2018–2019 school year, all eligible children would be admitted free of charge to at least a half-day of publicly funded prekindergarten programs established by county boards. Beginning in FY2019, counties would receive a state grant for each child enrolled in prekindergarten the previous year equal to .5 times the per pupil foundation. Funds must come first from the Education Trust Fund, and then from the General Fund. Hrg 3/3 W&M

Discipline
HB 1222 Maryland School Discipline Reform Act (A. Washington plus 6) requires each county school board to adopt the Maryland Guidelines for a State Code of Discipline. MSDE would be required to collect discipline data in electronic form and disaggregate data by race, ethnicity, gender, disability status, and English language proficiency for reports organized by state, county, and local schools. The department must adopt standardized training practices for school safety personnel by July 1, 2018. The training must be based on national best practices, consultation with the Maryland agencies involved in training police and school security personnel, and consultations with organizations working on conflict resolution and dispute settlement. Hrg 2/28 W&M


Update on bills previously reported in the RSC:
HB 150/SB 170 Budget Bill - Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) (RSC-1) Funding hearing as part of Maryland State Dept. of Education Aid to Education Budget. Hrg 2/23 APP House Education and Economic Development Subcommittee; Hrg 3/6 B&T Education, Business, and Administration Subcommittee
**LWV of Maryland**

**REPORT FROM STATE CIRCLE**

February 24, 2017

**SB 171/HB 151 Creation of a State Debt - Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2017 (RSC-1)** Capital Public School Construction Program. Hrg 3/7 B&T Capital Budget Subcommittee; 3/8 APP Capital Budget Subcommittee

**HB 152/SB 172 The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) (RSC-1)** Hrg 2/28 APP; Hrg 3/1 B&T

**HB 257** Education - Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program - Administration (Maryland Meals for Achievement for Teens Act of 2017) (RSC-2) Passed second reading.

**HB 287** Hunger-Free Schools Act of 2017 (RSC-2) Passed second reading with amendments.

**HB 425/SB 651 Public Schools - Suspensions and Expulsions (RSC-2)** Hrg 2/14 W&M; Hrg 3/8 EHEA

**HB 516/SB 581 Workgroup to Study the Implementation of Universal Access to Prekindergarten for 4–Year–Olds (RSC-2)** Hrg 2/14 W&M; Hrg 3/1 B&T

**HB 590/SB 609 State Board of Education - Membership - Teachers and Parents (RSC-2)** Hrg 2/21 W&M; Hrg 2/22 EHEA


**HB 845** Education – Public School Indoor Air Quality (RSC-2) Hrg 2/21 APP


**HB 975 Digital Equity for All Maryland Students Act of 2017 (Frick) Cross file for SB 370 (RSC-2)** Hrg 2/28 W&M

**SB 537** Public Health – School Buildings – Minimum Health Standards (Healthy Schools Program) (RSC-2) Hrg 2/21 B&T

**SB 557** Education – Maryland Education Opportunity Account Program – Established (RSC-2) Hrg 2/23 B&T

**SB 618** Education - Achievement School District – Establishment (RSC-2) Hrg 3/8 EHEA

**SB 657/HB 366 Public Schools - Wellness Policy - School Meals (RSC-2)** Hrg 3/8 EHEA; Hrg 2/9 W&M

**SB 1024** Education - Grant forDeclining Education Aid (McFadden and Ready) Cross file for HB 684 (RSC-1) Hrg 3/15 B&T

*Lois Hybl*
CAMPAIGN FINANCE

**HB 551** Election Law - Private Loan to Campaign Finance Entity of Candidate – Prohibited
(Cluster plus 18) would completely outlaw the practice of candidates seeking loans from private individuals (other than their spouse) to help fund their campaigns. Candidates could still seek loans from financial institutions. Currently, there is no limit on loans that candidates can receive from private parties, and there is concern that seeking loans is a way to go around the campaign contribution limits that are part of current election law. This bill goes farther than **SB 259** reported on in **RSC 1** which specifies a time-table for repayment of private loans. Hrg 2/23 W&M

**HB 898** Election Law – Campaign Finance – Coordinated Expenditures (Ebersole plus 13) would more clearly define what is and is not a coordinated expenditure. This is important because coordinated expenditures are subject to contribution limits, but independent expenditures have no limits. An independent expenditure occurs when funds are spent on a political campaign communication that expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate that is not made in cooperation or consultation with the candidate, or the candidate’s authorized election committee or political party. Without a clear definition of when coordination has taken place, it is difficult to hold parties accountable for exceeding contribution limits. In addition to a lengthy attempt to define what constitutes coordination, the bill also lays out fines and a procedure for prosecuting violations. It was introduced as **HB 1201** last year. Hrg 3/2 W&M

**HB 1498** Campaign Finance – Political Organizations – Disclosure (Washington and Tarlau) expands reporting requirements for political organizations that make independent expenditures. An independent expenditure is political spending by individuals or organizations without coordination with a candidate. This bill requires that the person making the expenditure, and a person who exercised direct control over the expenditure, be identified in reports filed with the State Board of Elections (SBE). It further requires that within 48 hours of an expenditure of $50,000 or more for campaign material that is a public communication (defined in the bill), the campaign must identify someone who will be accountable, and in Maryland, if there is a violation of the limitations on independent expenditures. The process for doing this and a form will be prescribed by SBE. A civil penalty for failing to do so may be levied by SBE. Hrg 3/2 W&M

**SB 832** Public Funding and Small Donor Act for General Assembly Elections (Pinsky plus 3) would create a public funding program for candidates running for the House or Senate in the Maryland General Assembly. The candidate would have to prove that he or she is a viable candidate by raising money from small donors in the district. The candidate must raise donations of less than $250 from at least 350 individuals to qualify, and may then apply for a specified amount of matching funds dependent on the type of race he or she is facing. This bill has been introduced many times before. It would have the same funding sources as the current law regarding public funding for gubernatorial candidates. Hrg 3/3 EHEA

**HB1363** Maryland Small Donor Incentive Act (Mosby plus 17) would provide a public campaign financing system for candidates for the General Assembly. The provisions are very similar to those in **SB 832** but it also mandates an annual state budget appropriation of $1,000,000 to the Fair Campaign Finance Fund. Hrg 3/8 W&M

**Update on bills previously reported in the RSC:**
**HB 118** Election Law - Persons Doing Public Business - Reporting by Governmental Entities

SB 130 Election Law - Ballot Issues - Contributions or Donations by Foreign Principal (RSC 1) passed the Senate 46-0 on Third Reading.

Nancy Soreng

BUDGET

Capital Budget—In addition to the Operating Budget for the upcoming fiscal year, the Governor proposes and the General Assembly must pass a Capital Budget HB 151/SB 171. In large part supported by bond issues, the capital budget is used to pay for large purchases – infrastructure, buildings, capital equipment etc. Real estate may also be acquired and grants are made to local governments and other organizations for development and improvement purposes. The current Capital Budget authorizes the creation of a state debt of $1,013,267,000, of which $995.0 million is new debt, and the balance is recycled debt and bonds of other governmental entities. It also includes $9.4 million in pay as-you-go (PAYGO) projects from general, special and federal funds. These amounts are $70 million below the amount recommended by the Spending Affordability Committee.

The big winner – as far as capital funds are concerned – is the environment. In addition to general fund bonds, $300 million of non-tax-supported revenue bonds are authorized for the Maryland Department of the Environment to further capitalize the Water Quality and Drinking Water Revolving Funds to fund loans to local governments. A provision in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) of 2017 would authorize the use of $60 million of tax supported revenue bonds in the Bay Restoration Fund to fund biological nutrient removal project grants to local governments. Total environmental programs will get increased funding of $371.8 million to $799.8 million.

School construction funds include $280 million for traditional school construction funds, the same amount as last year, but $30 million above the amount for the previous year. In addition, the budget includes $40 million for local school systems with significant enrollment growth and relocatable classrooms.

The Governor proposes zero funding for local initiatives traditionally chosen by the House of Delegates and the Senate. In fact, zero funds for such projects are included in the five year planning period fiscal 2018 thru 2022. The construction of a new Baltimore Justice Center has been eliminated from the 2017 Capital Improvements Plan, and $11.3 million, instead of the planned $67.5 million, is proposed for the Prince George’s Regional Medical Center.

The proposed capital budget for state facilities increases by $69 million, but budgets for housing and economic development, higher education, and transportation are lower than last year.

Barbara Hankins

TAXES

HB 463 Maryland Estate Tax – Unified Credit (Tarlau, et al.) reduces the amount that can be taken as the unified credit on estates valued above $3 million.Hrg 2/22 W&M
**HB 615/SB 357 Business Relief and Tax Fairness Act** (Healey, et al./Pinsky, et al.) Among other provisions, requires that certain corporations use combined reporting in computing Maryland taxable income. Hrg 2/22 W&M; Hrg 2/22 B&T

**HB 872** Tax Credits – Enterprise Zones, RISE Zones, and Maryland Job Development Projects (Chair - by request, Dept. of Commerce) reduces from 10 to 5 years the period an enterprise zone is effective, and creates the Jobs Development Tax Credit. Hrg 3/3 W&M


**HB 1018 Corporate Income Tax – Rate Reduction** (Buckel, et al.) would gradually reduce the corporate income tax rate from 8.25 percent to 6.25 percent, effective in years beginning after December 31, 2020. Hrg 3/1 W&M

**HB 1038 Income Tax Rates** (Bucket, et al.) would reduce the personal income tax rate 0.25 percent for each tax bracket. Hrg 3/8 W&M

**HB 1104/SB 276 Inheritance Tax – Exemption Evidence of Domestic Partnership** (Hixon, et al./Madaleno, et al.) reduces the evidence required for a domestic partner to be exempt from inheritance tax on real property held in joint tenancy with the decedent. Hrg 3/1 W&M; Hrg 3/8 B&T

**HB 1186/SB 927 Excise Tax and Sales Tax – Cannabis** (M. Washington, et al./Madaleno, et al.) establishes the Maryland Cannabis Tax, a facilities tax and a distribution tax; allows cannabis businesses to deduct ordinary business expenses from the Maryland income tax; and establishes the Cannabis Distribution Fund which shall be distributed to various drug education programs and workforce development programs. Hrg 3/9 W&M; Hrg 3/8 B&T, JUD

**Update on bills previously reported in RSC:**
**SB 236 Income Tax - Personal Exemptions - Inflation Adjustment** Hrg 2/8 B&T

**SB 237 Income Tax - Standard Deduction - Inflation Adjustment** Hrg 2/8 B&T

**HB 378 Cybersecurity Investment Incentive Tax Credit - Eligibility and Sunset Extension** Hrg 2/22 W&M

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**Barbara Hankins**

**ELECTIONS**

**HB 361 General Assembly – Special Election to Fill a Vacancy in Office** (Tarlau plus 33) requires the Governor to declare a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of a State senator or delegate if the vacancy occurs at least 21 days before the filing deadline for the next statewide primary and general election. The Governor appoints a person to fill the vacancy until the special election, based on recommendations of the pertinent party central committee, as is the current practice. If the vacancy occurs after 21 days prior to the filing deadline for the next statewide primary and general election, the appointed individual serves for the remainder of the term. Hrg 2/7 W&M
HB 532 Election Law – Qualification of Voters – Proof of Identity (Parrott plus 13) requires a voter to show a government-issued photo identification in order to cast a regular ballot at a polling place. Hrg 2/23 W&M LWVMD opposes

HB 1056 Election Law – Court Offices – Nonpartisan Elections (Flanagan plus 11) would require that the following court officers be elected in nonpartisan elections: Clerk of the Court, Judge of the Orphans’ Court, Register of Wills, Sheriff and State’s Attorney. The Maryland League studied this issue in 2009-2010, and while we came to consensus that partisan elections should be abolished, we did not come to consensus on an alternative method of selections (nonpartisan election, appoint by other entity, etc.). The League’s study did not include the office of State’s Attorney. Hrg 2/22 W&M

SB 711 Election Law – Elections by Mail (Conway) would require that all elections in Maryland be conducted by mail. The bill also requires the State Board of Elections to adopt regulations to carry out the legislation and, in conjunction with local boards of elections, to select a voting system for tabulating ballots and votes cast in an election by mail. During a 2000 statewide study conducted by LWVMD, League members did not reach a consensus on all-mail balloting. Hrg 2/23 EHEA

Lu Pierson

REDISTRICTING REFORM

HB 962 Elections - Study Commission on the Redistricting Process in Maryland (McComas plus 8) calls for the assembly of a commission to study the redistricting process in Maryland. This commission would be comprised of 15 people, to be selected in a specific manner detailed in the bill. Their duties would be to examine the state’s current congressional and legislative districting processes, and consider them alongside those processes of other states, and receive testimony from individuals who are considered knowledgeable on the subject, as they deem necessary. There is no call for public feedback. The commission would draft their recommendations and provide them in a report to the governor by December 31, 2018. Hrg 3/3 HRU

HB 966 Legislative and Congressional Districting (Hill plus 6) proposes a constitutional amendment which would require the creation of a Redistricting and Apportionment Commission to divide the state into consecutively numbered districts. Some of the guidelines set out for the drawing of the General Assembly legislative districts are that they would be in compliance with the guidelines set forth in the U.S. Constitution, and population numbers between districts may not vary more than two percent.

This bill lays out parameters for who will constitute this 9-person commission, as well as who will select the members of the commission. It calls for balance in the commission makeup that is representative of the two largest political parties based on voter registration data in Maryland, and also regards the need for diversity representative of the population of Maryland.

A strong emphasis is placed on public participation in the process of redistricting. There is a call for the commission to hold public meetings prior to the drawing of the maps, provide public access to their redistricting software, and display proposed maps for comment. All of the aforementioned
would be included in the constitutional amendment that would be proposed to the voters during the next general election in November 2018.

Finally, this bill calls for the establishment of a commission to study the matter of Congressional redistricting and make recommendations regarding the criteria by which the districts should be drawn, who should draw the maps, how to make the process nonpartisan, and how to partner with other states in the country to make congressional districting nonpartisan throughout the country. Emphasis is given to working with states that are gerrymandered in favor of the “opposite majority party than Maryland.” This portion of the bill would take effect in July 2017, without the need for a Constitutional amendment. Hrg 3/3 HRU

**SB 1023 Independent Congressional Redistricting Commission – Mid-Atlantic States Regional Districting** (Zucker plus 25) provides for a change to the current Congressional redistricting process by authorizing the creation of a 5-person commission to draw district lines. Four of this commission’s members would be appointed by the leadership of the majority and minority parties in the House and Senate, and the final member would be selected by these four. The Department of Legislative Services would provide the commission with the necessary census data, and would staff the commission. The bill lays forth some prohibitions regarding who can serve on the commission, and also goes on to describe criteria that will need to be met when drawing the districts. These include, but are not limited to, regard for natural boundaries, and practical equality in population. Any plan put forth will only go into effect if it is found that New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina in the Mid-Atlantic Region adopt a substantially similar plan for redistricting their respective Congressional districts. Hrg 3/3 EHEA

**Update on bills previously reported in RSC:**
**SB 252/HB 385 Constitutional Amendment – Redistricting Reform Act of 2017** (The President, by request of Administration) (RSC-1) Hrg 3/3 EHEA; Hrg 3/3 HRU

**SB 146 Congressional Districting Process** (Pinsky) (RSC-1) After a few attempts to schedule a hearing on this bill, it has been recorded as withdrawn, with an unfavorable report. EHEA

**TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT**

**Update on bills previously reported in RSC:**
**HB 27 Open Meetings Act - Minutes - Required Internet Postings** (Barkley) Hearing held in HGO. No further action.

**HB 169/SB 91 State Board of Elections - Open Meetings - Video Streaming and Recording (State Board of Elections Transparency Act)** (Korman) Hearing held in HGO and EHEA. No further action.

**HB 438/SB 253 Legislative Transparency Act of 2017** (Speaker by request of Administration) House bill assigned to ET and HGO. Hrg 3/3 EHEA

**HB 698/SB 362 Public Information Act - Records Relating to Alleged Job-Related Misconduct by Law Enforcement Officers** (Barron, et al.) Hearing held in JUD and JPR. No hearing yet scheduled in EHEA.

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*Ashley Oleson*

*Barbara Schnackenberg*
ENVIRONMENT: RENEWABLE ENERGY

HB 410/SB 313 Economic Development – Maryland Energy Innovation Institute (Speaker – request of the Administration plus 34/President - request of the Administration plus 18) establishes a Maryland Energy Innovation Institute as part of the A. James Clark School of Engineering at the University of Maryland. Establishes an Advisory Board, staff and consultants, funding from SEIF Hrg 1 pm 2/14 ECM; Hrg 1 pm 2/14 FIN

HB 867 Natural Resources - State-Owned Land - Wind Facilities (Barve plus 8) authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to use land that is owned and managed by the Department for the generation of electricity from a wind energy facility. Hrg 1 pm 3/1 ET

Update on bills previously reported in the RSC:

HB 110 Electric Vehicles and Recharging Equipment Rebates and Taxes Extension (RSC-1) Hrg 2/16 ET

SB 184/HB 514 Energy Efficiency Programs - Calculation of Program Savings and Consideration of Cost Effectiveness (RSC-1) ECM - Favorable with Amendments Report in the House

SB 921/HB 1106 Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2016 (RSC-2) Passed

SB 315/HB 406 Clean Cars Act of 2017 (RSC-2) Hrg 2/14 FIN; Hrg 2/23 ET

SB 393 Electric Vehicle Excise Tax Credit – Extension (RSC-2) Hrg 2/22 B&T

SB 715/HB 773 Clean Energy Storage Technology (RSC-2) Hrg 3/07 FIN; Hrg 2/23 ECM


Betsy Singer

ENVIRONMENT: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

HB 1325/SB 740 Oil and Natural Gas - Hydraulic Fracturing - Prohibition (Fraser-Hidalgo plus 56/Zirkin plus 22) would prohibit hydraulic fracturing and repeals the Department of the Environment regulations for fracking and elimination of the moratorium due to expire 10/1/2017. Hrg 2/22 ET; Hrg 2/28 EHEA

SB 862 Environment - Hydraulic Fracturing - Moratorium and Referenda (Conway plus 23) would prohibit the Department of the Environment from issuing permits for hydraulic fracturing of a well for the exploration or production of natural gas in Maryland until 10/1/19, and prohibit fracking in a local jurisdiction unless the people had voted in a referendum. The current moratorium on fracking in Maryland expires in October 2017. Hrg 2/28 EHEA

Shari Glenn
ENVIRONMENT: LAND USE

HB779/SB719 Conserving Working Waterfront Farms Act of 2017 (Mautz, et al./Eckardt) alters the criteria under the Critical Farms Program of the Maryland Agland Preservation Foundation (MALPF) to make preserving waterfront farms a priority. The Critical Farms Program was established in 2005, but has never been funded. The purpose of the Critical Farms Program is to provide interim or emergency financing for the acquisition of agricultural preservation easements on critical farms that would otherwise be sold for nonagricultural purposes before the next round of easement offers under the regular MALPF cycle. The law allows counties to determine whether a property qualifies for the program through a list of criteria established by the Foundation. Currently, the primary criteria for all MALPF easements are soil productivity and location. Under this bill, the Critical Farms Program would also consider wildlife habitat enhancement, shoreline protection and water quality protection. The bill also requires that priority status be afforded to working waterfront farms located in the Critical Area under the Critical Farms Program. Hrg 2/22 ET; Hrg 2/21 EHEA

Susan Cochran

ENVIRONMENT: STORMWATER, BAY, PHOSPHORUS, PESTICIDES, RECYCLING, TREES, & OTHER:

HB 477/SB 396 Natural Resources - Protection and Restoration of State-Owned Lakes (Beitzel/Edwards) would establish the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund. It specifies that the purpose of the Fund is to protect and restore State-owned lakes. It requires the Department of Natural Resources to develop a budget. Any interest earning of the Fund must be credited to the Fund. The DNR, in coordination with local governments, organizations, and citizens, has to develop an annual work plan that prioritizes and details projects that will receive funding from the Fund. Hrg 2/14 EHEA; Hrg 2/22 ET

HB 557/SB 440 Environment - Water Management - Sediment Control at Large Redevelopment Sites (Stein, et al./Conway & Salling) prohibits a county or municipality from issuing a grading or building permit until the developer submits a grading and sediment control plan approved by the Department of the Environment, if the property that is the subject of the permit is, or is included in, a large redevelopment site. It requires the Department to determine specified criteria for large redevelopment sites, and provides the authority of the Department as the approval body for large redevelopment sites. It defines the term ”large redevelopment site”. Hrg 2/22 ET; Hrg 2/14 EHEA

HB 656/ SB 472 Environment - Municipal Stormwater Charges - Property Subject to Charges (Barve, et al./Young, et al.) provides that property owned by the State or a unit of State government, a county, a college or university, or a local school system is subject to stormwater charges imposed by the governing body of the municipality within which the property is located. Hrg 2/15 ET; Hrg 2/14 EHEA

HB 885 Environment - Chesapeake Bay - Vessel Sewage Discharge Areas (Howard, et al.) requires the Department of the Environment, in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources, to designate areas in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary waters where a vessel may discharge sewage. It also requires a specified vessel operator and lessee to ensure that the discharge of sewage from specified vessels takes place in specified areas. Hrg 2/24 ET

HB 886/SB 890 Environment - Refuse Disposal Systems - Public Notice and Hearing Require-
ments (Pena-Melnyk, et al./Rosapepe) requires the Department of the Environment to provide notice and hold a public hearing before the Secretary of the Environment may approve the amendment or renewal of a permit for a refuse disposal system. Hrg 2/24 ET; Hrg 2/28 EHEA

**HB 924** Natural Resources - Oyster Management - Prohibited Actions (Gilchrist, et al.) prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from reducing or altering specified oyster sanctuaries until the Department develops a fisheries management plan for the scientific management of the oyster stock following completion of a study and reports. Hrg 2/24 ET

**HB 1063** Agriculture - Maryland Healthy Soils Program (Stein, et al.) establishes the Maryland Healthy Soils Program for specified purposes, and requires the Department of Agriculture to provide incentives, including research, education, technical assistance, and, subject to available funding, financial assistance, to farmers to implement farm management practices that contribute to healthy soils. It also requires the Department to determine whether the Program may be implemented in a manner to enhance other specified programs. Hrg 2/22 ET

**HB 1070** Department of the Environment - End-of-Life Management of Mattresses – Study (Hill, et al.) requires the Department of the Environment to study, identify, and make recommendations regarding matters that relate to the end-of-life management of mattresses in the State. It also requires the Department to consult with State agencies and persons in carrying out activities. It goes on to require the Department to report its findings and recommendations to the governor, and to committees of the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2017. Hrg 2/24 ET; ECM

**HB 1204/SB 932** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Atrazine Study (Hill, et al./Smith, et al.) requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with the Department of the Environment and the Department of Agriculture, to study and make recommendations regarding the impact of atrazine in the State. It specifies the parameters of the study, and requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to report the findings and recommendations to the governor and committees of the General Assembly on or before October 1, 2018, and to make the report available to the public on its website. Atrazine is a frequently used herbicide. Hrg 3/1 E&T; Hrg 3/9 EHEA

**HB 1352** On-Site Sewage Disposal - Historic and Culturally Significant Properties – Regulations (Rose, et al.) requires the Department of the Environment, on or before December 31, 2017, to adopt regulations providing for the correction of failing on-site sewage disposal systems located on historic and culturally significant properties; and requires that the regulations to be designed to facilitate the use and preservation of, and to accommodate specified characteristics associated with, historic and culturally significant properties. Hrg 3/1 ET

**HB 1355** Sewerage Systems - Residential Major Subdivisions in Tier III and Tier IV Areas (Rose, et al.) authorizes a local jurisdiction to authorize a residential major subdivision served by on-site sewage disposal systems, community sewerage systems, or shared systems in Tier III and Tier IV areas under specified circumstances. It exempts specified residential major subdivisions from specified provisions of law, and specifies that the Act does not create new development rights. Adequacy of the system for major development is an issue here. Hrg 3/1 ET

**HB 1488** Tidal Fish Licenses - Oyster Authorizations – Revocation (Mautz, et al.) authorizes, rather than requires, the Department of Natural Resources to revoke the authorization to catch oysters of a person who the Department finds or concludes has knowingly committed one of specified
offenses, and authorizes a person whose authorization to catch oysters is revoked under specified provisions of law to apply for reinstatement of the authorization after 2 years. Hrg 3/8 ET

**SB 773 Community Healthy Air Act** (Madeleno, et al.) requires the Department of the Environment, on or before July 1, 2018, to conduct an assessment of the Department's compliance and the compliance of concentrated animal feeding operations with air quality laws and regulations. It requires the Department to report to the General Assembly on or before October 1, 2018 on specified emissions and the Department's compliance and the compliance of specified feeding operations with specified State and federal regulations and the findings of the specified assessment. Hrg 2/28 EHEA

**Update on bills previously reported in the RSC:**

**HB 121 Environment - Hazardous Material Security – Repeal** (Chair for Administration, MDE) (RSC-1) ET – Favorable report

**HB 125 Environment - Emergency Action Plans for Dams** (Chair for Administration MDE) (RSC-1) ET - Favorable with amendments

**HB 537 Environment – On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems and Funding for Wastewater Treatment Facilities and Sewerage Systems** (Parrott, et al.) (RSC-2) Hrg changed to 3/1 ET

**HB 830/SB 386 Pollinator Habitat Plans - Plan Contents - Requirement and Prohibition** (Healey & Frush/Nathan-Pulliam, et al.) (RSC-2) Hrg 2/22 ET

**HB 1239/SB 280 Environment - Nonwoven Disposable Products - Advertising and Labeling** (Frush and Gutierrez) House bill now filed comparable to SB 280 (RSC-2) Hrg 2/14 EHEA; Hrg 3/15 ECM

Nonwoven disposable wipes clog toilets, sewer systems, and wastewater treatment facilities due to their inclusion of plastic fibers, some of which are released into waterways as microplastics. **SB 390 Oyster Poaching – Administrative Penalties – Gear Violations** (RSC-2) EHEA – Unfavorable report

*Linda Silversmith*

**ETHICS**

**HB 1006 Elections - Public Official in Executive Unit – Elected Public Office** (McDonough) prohibits public officials with decision-making authority (or their closest advisors) from running for public office while holding such positions in state agencies, departments, commissions, boards, and councils. Hrg 3/9 1pm W&M

**Update on bills previously reported in the RSC:**

**HB 370/SB 354 Richard E. Israel and Roger "Pip" Moyer End-of-Life Option Act** (Pendergrass plus 42/Guzzone plus13) (RSC-2) Hrg 2/16 1pm HGO/ Hrg 3/7 1pm JPR

*Betsy Sexton*
TRANSPORTATION

Update on bills previously reported in the RSC:

HB 402/SB307 Repeal of the Maryland Open Transportation Investment Decision Act of 2016 (Road Kill Bill Repeal) (RSC 2) Hrg 3/3 APP LWVMD opposes

SB 265/HB 285 Washington Metrorail Safety Commission Membership Act (RSC 2) passed Senate

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

HB 359 Child Neglect – Reporting – Commission of a Crime of Violence in Presence of Minor (Angel plus 23) expands the definition of neglect to include the commission of a crime of violence in the presence of a minor. In addition to making it an event certain professionals are required to report, the bill makes the violator subject to imprisonment not exceeding five years; in addition to, and separate from, any sentence imposed for the crime of violence. Hrg 2/9 JUD

HB 799 Family Law – Marriage – Age Requirements (Atterbeary plus 27) repeals all the provisions permitting individuals under the age of 18 to marry in Maryland under certain circumstances. Hrg 2/23 JUD

JUDICIAL JUSTICE

HB 721/SB 674 Juvenile Services – Services & Programs for Females (Dumais/Kelley plus 26) requires the Department of Juvenile Services to provide services and programs for females substantially equivalent to those offered to males. Hrg 2/23 JUD; Hrg 3/1 JPR

HB 1255/SB 981 Juveniles – Mechanical Restraints (Jalisi plus 2/Muse plus 3) requires the Department of Juvenile Services to adopt regulations governing (and limiting) the use of mechanical restraints (such as handcuffs) on children in facilities and in transportation to and from facilities. Hrg 2/23 JUD; Hrg 3/1 JPR

HB 1256/SB 982 Juveniles – Strip Searches – Limitations (Jalisi plus 2/Muse plus 4) requires the Department of Juvenile Services to adopt regulations that prohibit the strip search of a child except under specified circumstances, including “a reasonable and articulable belief that the child is concealing drugs or an object that can be used as a weapon or to escape” after exhausting all other alternatives. Hrg 2/23 JUD; Hrg 3/1 JPR

Update on bills previously reported in the RSC:

SB 35 Juvenile Law – Informal Adjustment – Mental Health Program (RSC-1) passed Senate with amendment that did not change intent. JUD

Judy Morenoff
MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

**SB 728 HOME Act of 2017** (Smith plus 11) is a cross file of HB 172 reported on in RSC -1. Hrg. 2/28 JPR LWVMD supports

**HB 1305** Labor and Employment – Payment of Wages- Minimum Wage (Fennell) This bill would require that the minimum wage be increased for the 6-month period beginning July 1, 2017, to a minimum wage of $9.25 per hour; for the 18-month period beginning January 1, 2018, to a minimum wage of $10.10 per hour, and beginning July 1, 2019, to a minimum wage of $12.50 per hour. Hrg 3/7 ECM

**HB 1416/SB 962** Labor and Employment- Payment of Minimum Wage Required (Fight for Fifteen) (Waldstreicher plus 47/Madaleno plus 2) increases minimum wages for 4 distinct populations:
- For employees of firms employing 26 or more, minimum wage increases from $9.25 in July 2017 to $15 in July 2022
- For employees in firms of 25 or fewer, similar increase but doesn’t reach $15 until July 2023
- For tipped workers, tip credit is gradually abolished and they earn wage of full minimum wage by 2025
- Annual increases of 3.5% for Community Service Workers is continued annually thru 2022.

Hrg 3/7 ECM; Hrg 3/16 FIN LWVMD supports

**HB 1346** Residential Leases – Definition of Rent (Lafferty) defines "rent", for premises subject to a residential lease, as the fixed periodic sum for use and possession of the leased premises and does not include any additional payments (like water or gas and electric) due from the tenant to the landlord under the lease. Hrg 3/7 ET

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Ruth Crystal

GUN CONTROL

**HB 877/ SB 23** Handgun Permits - Alternative Expiration Date - Private Detectives, Security Guards, and Special Police Officers (McComas) authorizes granting an alternative expiration date for a permit to carry, wear, or transport a handgun that coincides with the expiration date of a license for a private detective, security guard, or special police officer. Hrg 3/14 JUD

**HB 891** Handgun Permits - Firearms Training Courses (Saab) changes the training requirements for applicants for permits to carry, wear, or transport a handgun. A new applicant will be required to take a minimum of 6 hours of training instead of 16 hours. To renew a permit, the applicant must take 2 hours of training instead of 8 hours. Hrg 3/14 JUD

**HB 905** Public Safety - Handgun Qualification License - Application Fee (Malone et al.) reduces the maximum fee an applicant must pay for a handgun qualification license from $50 to $25. Introduced in a prior session as: HB 301. Hrg 3/14 JUD

**HB 1036** Firearms - Handgun Permit - Preliminary Approval (Rey) An applicant may apply for preliminary approval of a handgun permit without completing a certified firearms training course if the applicant meets all other requirements. The applicant is required to complete the mandatory training requirement within 120 days after receipt of preliminary approval. Hrg 3/14 JUD
HB 1108 Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Disqualifying Crime (Rey) adds to those crimes that are disqualifying for applying for a handgun permit to include, a violation classified as a misdemeanor that carried a statutory penalty of incarceration of more than 2 years at the time of the commission of the crime. Introduced in a prior session as: HB 367 Hrg 3/14 JUD

HB 1396/ SB 826 Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting a Handgun - Penalties - Subsequent Offenders (Clippinger et al./Conway) prohibits the suspension of a sentence for wearing, carrying, or transporting a handgun for a person previously convicted of specified crimes, for example, carrying a handgun on school property. Hrg 3/8 JPR; Hrg 3/14 JUD

SB 946 Weapon-Free Higher Education Zones (Smith et al.) Prohibits possession of a firearm on the property of a public institution of higher education. Examples of exclusions include law enforcement officers, retired officers, or a person hired as a guard, all of whom must display credentials. The weapon must be concealed. A violation is a felony with a penalty of imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding $2,500 or both. JPR

Update on bills previously reported in RSC:
HB 59 Public Safety - Assault Weapons – Replacements (RSC – 1) 3rd Reading Passed

HB 162/SB 16 Public Safety - Firearm Application (RSC – 2) 3rd Reading Passed JUD. 2nd Reading Passed JPR

HB 318/SB 467 Public Safety - Firearms Disqualifications - Antique Firearm (RSC – 2) Hrg 3/14 JUD

HB 339 Public Safety - Handgun Permits - Correctional Officer (RSC – 2) Hrg 3/14 JUD

HB 611 Handguns - School Employees - Handgun Permits and Carrying Weapons on School Property (RSC – 2) Hrg. 3/14 JUD

HB 663/SB 511 Public Safety - Permit to Carry, Wear, or Transport a Handgun - Qualifications (RSC – 2) Hrg 3/14 JUD, 3/8 JPR

HB 820 Handgun Permits - Universal Recognition (RSC – 2) Hrg 3/14 JUD

HB 821 Firearms - Permit to Wear, Carry, or Transport a Handgun - Expiration and Renewal (RSC – 2) Hrg 3/14 JUD

SB 23/HB 877 Handgun Permits - Alternative Expiration Date - Private Detectives, Security Guards, and Special Police Officers (RSC – 2) Hrg 3/8 JPR

SB 224/ HB 294 Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Definition of Convicted of a Disqualifying Crime (RSC – 2) Hrg 3/8 JPR

SB 245 Public Safety - Permit to Carry, Wear, or Transport a Handgun – Qualifications (RSC – 2) Hrg 3/8 JPR

Doreen Rosenthal
HEALTH

**SB 898**/**HB 1147 Health Insurance – Prescription Drugs – Dispensing Synchronization** (Astle, et al./Morales) would allow patients to get partial prescriptions and mandate payment to pharmacists by insurance companies. Hrg. FIN 3/9

**SB 553**/**HB 869 Recovery Residence Residential Rights Protection Act** (Hershey/Howard S.) requires practitioners to give patients needing residential treatment for abuse a list of American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) certified residences operating in the state. It also requires the DHMH to publish such a list. Hrg 2/23 FIN; Hrg 2/20 HG0

**SB 433**/**HB 1093 Substance Abuse Treatment – Inpatient and Intensive Outpatient Programs – Consent by Minor** (Klausmeier, et al/Young K., et al) allows parents and guardians to apply for admission for minors in need of treatment for substance abuse. Hrg 2/15 FIN – Favorable with amendments; Hrg 3/7 HG0

Update on bills previously reported in the RSC:

**SB 82**/**HB180 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Renaming** (Middleton/Morhaim) (RSC-1) passed the Senate and House with amendments, back in Senate.

**SB 38** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Updating Advisory Boards and Councils, (Middleton) (RSC-2) Hrg 2/1 HGO

**SB 110** Public Health – Expedited Partner Therapy – Pharmacist dispensing (Conway) (RSC-2) Hrg 2/15 HGO

**SB 169** Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Cost of Emergency Room Visits to Treat Dental Conditions (Middleton & Kasemeyer) (RSC-2) Passed Senate Hrg 2/10 HG0

**SB 363**/**HB 613 Pharmacists – Contraceptives – Prescribing and Dispensing** (Conway/Hettleman) (RSC-2) Hrg 2/10 EHEA; Hrg 2/1 HGO

**HB 185** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Distribution of Tobacco Products to Minors – Prohibition and Enforcement (Rosenberg & Waldstreicher) (RSC-2) Hrg 2/15 EM


Neilson Andrews

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**SB 220**/**HB 1279 Police Training Commission – Training Requirements – Human Trafficking** (Morales, et al./Lee plus 5) was introduced during the 2016 Regular Session as **HB 292** under Chapter 519 of 2016 reconstituted the former Police Training Commission as the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC), and required MPTSC to require that entrance-level and in-service police training conducted by the State, and each county and municipal police training school, include specified training relating to the criminal laws concerning human trafficking and appropriate treatment of victims of human trafficking. Interestingly, prior introductions of similar bills have received unfavorable reports from three different committees: **HB 292 of 2016** received an un-
favorable report from the House Judiciary Committee, SB 819 of 2014 received an unfavorable report from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee—its cross file, HB 608 received an unfavorable report from House Judiciary Committee and HB 1056 of 2013 received an unfavorable report from the House Judiciary Committee.

Currently, cross-filed with HB 1279—the bills’ language is amended to allow training to be conducted in person or online. Including training related to the criminal laws affecting human trafficking in MPTSC training curriculum will help law enforcement officers to identify victims of human trafficking—distinguishing victims from criminals, promoting victims’ safety, and to provide resources to meet victims’ needs. Hrg 2/28 JUD

**Update on bills previously reported in the RSC:**

**HB 258/SB 221** Adult Entertainment Establishments – National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Information – Sign Posting Requirements (Morales, et al./Lee, plus 5) *(RSC 2)* passed the House and the Senate issued a favorable report with amendments by JPR.

*Deborah Mitchell*