

February 9, 2011

This has been the first week of Public Hearings in my committee, Environmental Matters. Legislative Session is really busy going forward with Bill Hearings 3 or 4 days per week, voting sessions and meetings with opponents and proponents of hundreds of bills. As of today, 763 House Bills and 827 Senate Bills have been submitted for consideration.

While the 2012 Budget continues to be of utmost importance, the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Budget and Tax committee are focused on the budget and budget hearings.

I am the primary sponsor of eleven bills, five of the bills have public hearings scheduled. You can view each of my bills at the General Assembly website: <http://mlis.state.md.us>. They are:

- HB 62, Anne Arundel County – Property Tax Credit – Property Leased to Nonprofit Schools - hearing date February 9, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.
- HB 250, Vehicle Laws – Motor Scooters and Mopeds – Protective Headgear for Minors – hearing date February 15, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.
- HB 395, Homeowners Associations – Enforcement Powers – hearing date February 24, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.
- HB 396, Natural Resources – Administrative Procedures – Electronic Citations, Inspections and Hearing – hearing date February 23, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.
- HB 512, High Performance Homes – Rebate Program – hearing date February 24, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.

My next newsletter will report on the remaining bills.

Redistricting

Tuesday we heard a presentation on “redistricting.” Redistricting, the process of re-drawing Congressional, Legislative and Council district lines, occurs every ten years after the decennial census data is approved. This year will be the first time that I will be directly involved in this issue. Maryland is expected to receive the new census data by February 15.

Congressional

Both the Maryland Constitution and statutes are silent on the matter of congressional redistricting. Congress has given the state legislatures authority to redistrict the congressional seats. The only federal statutory requirement is that congressional districts be single-member districts. The Maryland congressional plan is introduced as a

regular bill in the [General Assembly](#) and must be passed by both houses and signed by the Governor who has veto power over the plan.

It is anticipated that the Congressional redistricting process will take about six months. In late August or early September, the legislature will meet in a Special Session to vote on re-apportionment. As you know, Anne Arundel County is currently represented by four Congressmen. It will be interesting to see if the new plan still includes four districts, or if we will have fewer Congressmen to represent us. I am anxiously awaiting this proposal.

Legislative

[Article III, Section 5](#) of the Maryland Constitution requires the Governor to prepare a legislative districting plan following the decennial census. The Governor must present the plan to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates. The presiding officers must have the plan introduced as a joint resolution on the first day of the regular session in the second year following the decennial census (January 9, 2002). If the [General Assembly](#) has not adopted another redistricting plan by the 45th day of the session, the Governor's plan as presented becomes law.

This means that Governor will present new Legislative District boundaries to the General Assembly on the first day of 2010 Legislative Session. The Legislature will have 45 days to amend the Governor's redistricting plan or the Governor's plan will be the approved plan. I expect significant changes to the boundaries of District 32. The current boundaries include the prisoners housed at the Jessup prison facilities in the District 32 count. Due to recent changes to the law, the prisoners will no longer be counted at the prison, but will be counted in their home districts or State. <http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/43const/html/03art3.html>

Tourism Board

Tourism has a tremendous impact in my District, as you know our district is home to BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, 28 hotels, the Arundel Mills Mall and Maryland Live!, which will soon be the states' largest casino. Recently I received the honor of being appointed to the Maryland Tourism Development Board. This Board helps guide tourism policies in our State. I am one of three members of the House of Delegates appointed to the 24 member Board.

BRAC Joint Committee

The effects of BRAC are being felt throughout Anne Arundel County life including housing, roads, and education. As BRAC is a major program affecting my district, I was

extremely pleased to be named to the Joint Committee on Base Realignment and Closure. The Committee provides legislative oversight of the State's response to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. In cooperation with State and local governments, the Committee seeks to speed the approval of improvements to the infrastructure needed to support the influx of people and jobs associated with the realignment of federal military bases in Maryland. Such improvements are needed in planning and the infrastructure for education, health care, housing, transportation, and water and sewer.

Please feel free to let me know how you feel about these and any other issues; your thoughts and ideas are always important to me. I can be reached at Pamela.beidle@house.state.md.us or at 410-841-3370 if I can be of any assistance. During the session, I get thousands of letters and emails, be sure to include your name and address when you write to me. My staff -Vincent LaMartina and Nancy Lipin Crawford - and I read each and every piece of correspondence and will get back to you as soon as possible.

For more frequent updates about my activities in Legislative Session 2011, please visit my Facebook page, Delegate Pam Beidle.

Best regards,