

March 2, 2011

The pace of the Session is truly beginning to speed up. We are in public hearings four days a week after our daily floor session. In between session and committee, we are busy meeting with sub-committees, constituents, organizations, community advocates and lobbyist. Currently there are: 1308 House Bills and 947 Senate Bills that have been submitted for consideration. March 28<sup>th</sup> is "crossover." This means that all bills in the House and Senate have been heard and voted on so the bills can crossover to the other body.

The House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Budget and Tax committee are still focused on the budget and budget hearings. Last week, Moody's Investors Service again awarded Maryland a AAA bond rating and stable outlook for Maryland's bond program. In assigning the AAA bond rating, Moody's cited Maryland's **history of "strong financial management policies**, stable economy with high personal income levels, and ability to maintain positive available reserves, despite sustained pressure on its budget." Maryland remains **one of only eight states** in the country to maintain a AAA bond rating, through the global recession.

## **Budget**

The House Appropriations Committee will complete their budget recommendations in the next two weeks. The House will hear amendments and vote on the budget. Then the budget will crossover to the Senate. The last few days of Session will be spent reconciling the House and Senate versions of the budget. The House version funds education with "flat funding" and protects teachers' pensions for the coming year. Only 45% of the school budgets come from the counties. State funding for education is very important to provide adequate education and continue to keep Maryland as the number one State in the country for education.

## **Gas Tax**

Many of you have inquired about my position on increasing the gas tax. While I understand that we have a great need for road improvements in District 32, I cannot support an increase in gas tax unless we have a constitutional amendment that protects the funds in the Transportation Trust Fund from being transferred to the General Fund.

## **Legislation**

My bills have begun their journey through the legislative process. Eight of my bills have already been heard in committee, HB 887, will be heard on March 10 and two have yet to be scheduled.

In my last newsletter I updated you on several of my bills. The remaining bills are:

**HB 630, Building Standards, - High-Performance Homes** was heard on February 24 and was well received by the committee. It sets up "green building standards" for residential construction and for home renovation projects.

**HB 672, Creation of a State Debt – Anne Arundel County – Reece Road Community Health Center** is scheduled to be heard with the other Bond Bills on March 12<sup>th</sup>. It will provide bond money to aid in construction of the Severn Community Health and Wellness Center. The building will be approximately 32,000 square feet, with a health center/urgent care center, as well as a community center operated by the Boys & Girls Club, who will provide their full range of programs, including mentoring, recreation, job preparation and STEM education.

**HB 887, Real Property – Condominium – Rescission of Sales Contracts** will permit a Condominium sales contract to be rescinded for specified amendments that affect materially and adversely the purchaser's rights.

**HB 942, Common Interest Community Managers Act**, will require all individuals acting as Managers of Condominium or Homeowners Association to complete an education requirement and have a license. This will promote highly knowledgeable community managers, well equipped to meet the challenges of today's communities.

**HB 1050, Construction Permits – Expiration Dates** was heard by the Environmental Matters Committee on February 24<sup>th</sup>. This bill will continue to allow an automatic extension on permits that have been issued but construction has not been completed.

You can follow the progress of these bills and any others at the General Assembly Website: [www.mlis.state.md.us](http://www.mlis.state.md.us). The site contains the most up to date information for each bill. You can check by sponsor, subject or bill number.

## **Linthicum Crime**

As you may be aware, many of my constituents in Linthicum are extremely concerned about increasing crime in the area. As a Linthicum resident myself, I share these same concerns about neighborhood crime. LSIA held a community meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss the situation. I have met with Senator DeGrange, Delegate Mary Ann Love,

Delegate Ted Sophocleus, the MTA Director, MTA Security and the Anne Arundel County Police Department to discuss *all* options available to resolve the situation, including the possibility of closing the station or modifying the hours of operation. As information becomes available to me, I will certainly pass it along to you. Please remember to report any suspicious activity to the Anne Arundel County Police.

Please feel free to let me know how you feel about these and any other issues important to you. I can be reached at [Pamela.beidle@house.state.md.us](mailto: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,

Pamela G. Beidle  
State Delegate