

## Newsletter #4

The pace of the General Assembly is heating up. Committee hearings are longer, Sub-Committees are meeting and Committee voting session have started. Today, February 20, 2013, we had our first substantial hearing on the House Floor. We heard two bills on “Spice”- that is artificially created marijuana and amendments on the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Bill. There are several pieces of pending legislation I would like to take this opportunity to share with you. By the end of this week we will be halfway through our 90 Day Legislative Session.

### Jobs

**House Bill 227**, *EARN (Employment Advancement Right Now)* was heard by the Economic Matters Committee on February 12<sup>th</sup>. It provides funding for workforce training collaborations between businesses, local governments, and non-profits. EARN creates jobs by closing the gap between the workforce needs of employers and the skills of Maryland’s workforce.

### Elected School Board

**House Bill 703**, *Anne Arundel County - Board of Education - Selection of Members* is being considered by the Anne Arundel County Delegation. This bill would create a “hybrid” school board of 5 elected school board members, 3 appointed at large members and one student member. Currently, the Anne Arundel County School Board is entirely appointed with the exception of the student member. The student member is elected by their peer students. The proposed bill would allow each legislative district to elect their school board member. So there would be an elected member from District 21, 30, 31, 32, and 33. The elections would be “non-partisan” elections similar to the way that we currently elect judges. Please take the time to review HB703 and share your thoughts with me. This is an important decision and I appreciate hearing your opinion. The bill can be found at:  
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=hb0703&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2013RS>

### Death Penalty

**House Bill 295**, *Death Penalty Repeal and Appropriation from Savings to Aid Survivors of Homicide Victims* was heard by the Judiciary Committee on February 14<sup>th</sup>. This proposal would end the death penalty in Maryland, while preserving life without parole. The total cost to taxpayers of pursuing the death penalty is estimated to be three times as much as life without parole. The bill takes the savings from the repeal and appropriates the monies to aide survivors of homicide victims. Maryland currently has 5 inmates on death row and there has not been an execution since 2005.

This issue is a very controversial one. I believe that the death penalty needs to be in place for the most egregious of crimes, the killing of a police or corrections officer, multiple murders, and crimes against children. However, I would like to hear from you concerning the possible repeal of the death penalty.

### **Plastic Bag Fees**

**House Bill 1086**, *Community Cleanup and Greening Act of 2013* will be heard by the Environmental Matters Committee on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. This bill proposes placing a nickel (5¢) per bag fee on all plastic bags provided by a store at point of sale. This is expected to reduce litter and protect the environment. The bill also provides the opportunity for the stores to participate in a “Customer Bag Credit Program” crediting customers 5¢ for every reusable bag they bring to the store. I have a poll up on my website: [www.pambeidle.com](http://www.pambeidle.com) please visit and let me know if you support the fee, I truly appreciate your input.

Thank you for allowing me the honor to represent the constituents of District 32. Please continue to stay in touch. My contact information is: Pamela.beidle@house.state.md.us or (410)841-3370. My Legislative Assistant is Nancy Crawford and my intern for this session is Joanna McKee.