

Newsletter for February 6, 2013

SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS!

Congratulations to our own Ravens for winning the Super Bowl. I am so proud of our team! This win is good for our State and great for our local economy. Thank you Ravens' players!

BUSINESS CLIMATE WORKGROUP

House Speaker Michael E. Busch announced the creation of a special House workgroup to engage Maryland's business community and make recommendations for future legislation to encourage private sector investment in the State's economy. I was honored to be appointed to this workgroup.

The Business Climate Workgroup will make short-term recommendations for this session and long-term recommendations for next session to the Speaker and House leadership. Specifically, the Workgroup will examine key employment sectors in the State that are ripe for investment and innovation; research new creative financing mechanisms to stimulate infrastructure development; identify ways to improve regulatory streamlining, including capitalizing on existing programs like the O'Malley Administration's Maryland Made Easy and FastTrack programs; and, work with the Department of Business and Economic Development to serve as a forum to educate members of the General Assembly on what assets exist and how best to promote Maryland as a good place for economic development.

DECEMBER JOBS REPORT

Over the last 12 months, Maryland created 30,300 new jobs. Last month alone, Maryland's private sector created 7,700 jobs - our best December for private sector job growth since 1990. Our State has recovered more than 80% of the jobs lost during the recession, and our unemployment rate has been driven to 6.6%, 15% below the national rate.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Four weeks of Session are behind us and the Legislative agenda is starting to move quickly. This week we started hearings in the Environmental Matters Committee. Two of my bills were heard this week. HB 3, Valid Driver's Licenses for Mopeds and Motor Scooters; and HB 23, Condominiums and Homeowners Associations –Contracts for ReSale-Notice of Potential Special Assessments. (These and all bills can be found at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>.)

On February 14, the bill that I have worked on for three years will be heard - HB 576, Regulation—Common Ownership Community Managers. I feel very strongly that property managers should be licensed, just like Realtors, Insurance Agents, and CPA's, etc.

On Tuesday, the House of Delegates adopted a House Simple Resolution (HS1), In Re: Delegate William "Tony" McConkey Resolution of Reprimand. This resolution was in response to an Ethics complaint filed by Senator Edward Reilly. This was the first time that the House of Delegates had to respond to this type of Ethics Violation during my term in office. The entire report is available on the General Assembly website <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>.

FIREARMS SAFETY ACT

The legislation that seems to be generating the most controversy is the Governor's Firearm Safety Act of 2013. This bill not only does attempts to limit the purchase of "assault" weapons, but also addresses background checks, mental health and school safety. The text of the bill can be found at: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=billpage&tab=subject3&id=hb0294&stab=01&ys=2013RS>.

My offices, and the offices of all my colleagues, are receiving large volumes of letters, phone calls and emails from citizens who oppose, and others who support this legislation. Personally, as firm believer of Second Amendment rights, I have some issues supporting this bill in its present form. There are parts of it I find attractive, particularly the mental health and firearms training components, but other parts, as presently written, would impose excessive regulatory burdens on legitimate gun owners without providing any significant public safety benefit. This bill and the other "Gun Control Bills" will be heard by the Health & Government Operations (HGO) and/or Judiciary Committee, where they will be subject to public hearings and a Committee vote prior to reaching the House floor. I fully expect every bill to be heavily debated and many will never be voted out of Committee. As a member of the Environmental Matters Committee, I will not have a vote until a bill reaches the House floor.

I also believe Maryland citizens have a right to feel safe in their day-to-day lives, and that reevaluating current laws and regulations may be necessary in order to ensure this safety. I will be paying close attention to this issue as the session progresses.

I ask that you take some time to review this bill and vote on my poll at www.pambeidle.com. I would like to hear from you about this important issue.

DISTRICT 32 NIGHT

Team 32, Senator Ed DeGrange, Delegate Mary Ann Love, Delegate Ted Sophocleus and I are sponsoring "District 32 Constituent Night" on Monday, March 11, 2013, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Miller Senate Office Building, President's Conference Center. Following the reception you can attend the General Assembly Session beginning at 8:00 pm, in the State House. Please RSVP to James.degrange@senate.state.md.us or (410)841-3593.

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.