

Newsletter #5

We are two-thirds of the way through this year's legislative session, with almost exactly a month left before the end of session. *We still have a great deal of work to get done, the budget needs to be passed and many legislative proposals are still waiting for votes. Crossover is March 25, so all of the House Bills should crossover to the Senate by the end of that day.*

Community Managers

House Bill 576

I was excited today when my Condo Managers bill was successfully voted out of the House and into the Senate. This bill, which has been over a year in the making, would require the licensing of Community Ownership Community Managers. Currently there is no system or law in place to regulate condo or homeowner managers. This bill works to remedy that by establishing guidelines for a Board of Common Ownership Community Managers, requiring continuing education and a licensing exam as a part of the certification process for community managers. Marylanders have the right to know that they are doing business with someone who is educated and accountable, and this bill secures such a right. *The vote was 103 in favor, 35 opposed.*

This bill was supported by condo and homeowners associations, property managers and the Department of Licensing and Regulation. Yet, 34 republicans voted against the bill; partisanship at its worse. Thank you Delegates Norman, Hogan and McMillen for being consistent in your votes, voting for the bill in committee and on the floor!

Special Election by Mail

House Bill 1443

I have recently sponsored House Bill 1443 (HB 1443), it is enabling legislation that permits the County Council to explore the opportunity to allow the people of Anne Arundel County to vote by mail to fill a vacant Council position. Specifically HB 1443 allows the County Council to place a charter amendment on the ballot; this amendment would ask the voters of the County whether they want the opportunity to fill vacant council positions by a vote by mail election. Currently County Code requires that vacancies on the County be filled by appointment. There have been several vacancies on the council over the past few years; these vacancies have been filled by the remaining Council Members. This bill works to give the power back to the people of Anne Arundel County.

Please visit my website www.pambeidle.com, to voice your opinion on whether or not you would like the opportunity to fill a Council vacancy through an election held by mail.

Gun Control

House Bill 294

Last Friday the House Committees heard House Bill 294 (HB 294), the Governor's Firearm Safety Act, and this Tuesday they heard other firearm legislation. I was pleased to see many of my constituents who came to Annapolis to testify, and I enjoyed talking with those who stopped by my office to share their opinion about the current 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 particularly attractive, background checks, the mental health initiatives, 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. I will be voting in opposition to this bill unless the bill is significantly amended.

School Safety and Security

The Anne Arundel County Delegation was very fortunate to have a presentation by Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Mr. Bob Yatsuk from AACPS and Lt. Doyle Batten from Anne Arundel County Police Department, Director of the School Resource Officers about the security program in place at our schools. They described the role of School Resources Officers in our schools, the surveillance camera system, the audio/visual access control intercoms at school doors, the visitor accountability system that tracks visitors to the schools and many more programs that keep our children safe.

The Anne Arundel County security program is extremely innovative and is constantly changing to keep up with current technology including a smart phone app that is being implemented. We are truly at the forefront in providing a safe school environment for our children. You can see a list of the school initiatives at:

<http://www.pambeidle.com/PDF/SchoolSecurityInitiatives3-2013.pdf>

I offer my commendation to the School System and the County Police in their efforts to make Anne Arundel County a leader in school safety.

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.