

445th Legislative Session | April 5th, 2023 | Legislative Day 86



Greetings from Annapolis!

It's official - we are in that last week of the 445th Legislative Session! It has been a whirlwind three months, with some heartbreak and many victories along the way. My bills have had a fantastic run this year, with 14 bills ready to pass.

Each bill sits at a different stage of the legislative process. One of my bills was just released from Rules committee on the House side - this means that it needed a special dispensation to be re-referred to a House committee for a hearing and voting. This is by no means the end for this bill, it just means we have to fight a bit harder for it than the others. All of my other bills have been heard in the House, and are either waiting in committee for a vote, or are on the House floor! We have 4 bills that are headed to the Governor's desk to be signed into law, which is the last stage in this process.

I have also been hard at work amending bills and discussing changes to help strengthen other legislator's bills. I am so pleased at the spirit of collaboration and the attention paid to the greater public good as we work together to improve the lives of Marylanders. Our incredible delegates have been hard at work presenting their bills in front of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee.

The budget has officially passed! The Maryland General Assembly officially approved the budget on Monday, April 3rd. This is especially good news, as it means that we will not need to extend session in order to finalize the plan for 2024.

I have from now until April 10th - Sine Die - to pass my bills, as this is when Legislative Session officially adjourns. Monday marks the official 90th, and last, day of Maryland General Assembly Session 2023.

We are hard at work on our Sine Die letter, so stay tuned for our end-of-session official update. We are also coordinating with the 43rd District Legislators to plan a townhall for all of you to have the opportunity to hear about and ask questions about the 2023 session.

That's it for now. Please read below for more Annapolis happenings and updates. As always, I want to hear from you - please email mary.washington@senate.state.md.us with any questions, comments, or concerns. And if you are on social media, tag us in your post!

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Washington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Washington" clearly distinguishable.

[Click here](#) or read on to see a full list of all my bill names, numbers, texts, hearing dates, and more.

READ "THE ANNAPOLIS REPORT" ONLINE

April is Climate Justice Month!!

Check out the [University of Maryland's School of Public Health's Legislative Environmental Justice scorecard report from 2022](#) (see below or click on the link). I was honored to be ranked 3rd in Environmental Justice for legislators in Maryland with a score of 98.99% - and I will keep fighting for environmental justice this April and beyond.

MOST NOTABLE

The first 2 tables show each Maryland legislator's name, their percentile calculated in the methods section, their chamber (House or Senate), and their party (Democratic or Republican). The higher the percentile, the more the legislator's votes were in favor of medium and high priority bills relating to environmental justice from 2019 - 2021.

Top 10 Overall Legislators

Name	Percentile	Chamber	Party
Rosenberg S	100.00	House	Dem
Henson S	99.50	House	Dem
Washington M	98.99	Senate	Dem
Jones D	97.99	House	Dem
Smith W	97.99	Senate	Dem
Patterson O	97.49	Senate	Dem
Lam C	96.98	Senate	Dem



FDA Approves Naloxone as an over-the-counter drug

Naloxone, also known colloquially as "Narcan", is an opioid agonist that prevents overdoses. With the rise in deaths from Fentanyl use, this drug will be able to save lives of Marylanders and will relieve some of the burden from beleaguered first-responders who often run out Naloxone during shifts because of the number of overdoses. Maryland is 6th in the Nation in overdose deaths - with 2,800 deaths from drug overdoses last year.

Maryland Legislators Stop Ohio Wastewater from Being Processed in Baltimore

My colleagues and I from Baltimore City and Baltimore County came together over the past 2 weeks to plan how to prevent wastewater from the Ohio train derailment disaster from being processed at the Back River Water Treatment Plant. As many of you are aware, the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant has faced some difficulties in the past year, including an explosion several weeks ago that damaged centrifuges. While those damages are apparently being repaired, I still had doubts about the processing capacity of the plant. After extensive meetings with the Mayor's Office, the County Executives, and other concerned legislators, we decided that we could not take this water. The Mayor's office subsequently issued an order to stop the water from being processed in



Baltimore, effectively ending the potential disaster. I am working diligently with other legislators now to see what can be done to prevent Baltimore from becoming an avenue for crisis processing in the future.

[Read more here](#)



*Senator Mary Washington Speaking at the Trans Health Equity Act Rally,
February 28, 2023 , Annapolis, MD*

Trans Health Equity Act is Headed to Governor Wes Moore!!

I am so excited to announce that my bill, SBO460 has passed both the House and the Senate chambers and is officially headed to the Governor's desk! Governor Moore has promised to sign this legislation into law. I have worked on this legislation since 2021; taking up the mantle from those who came before me to fight for LGBTQIA+ rights.

What does SBO460 do? This bill addresses a critical gap in the healthcare of transgender Marylanders by ensuring that medically necessary gender-affirming procedures and services are covered by Medicaid. Gender-affirming care is medically necessary, as demonstrated by peer-reviewed research, and by physical and behavioral health care providers and advocacy organizations. We will be joining 26 states, 1 territory, and D.C. that have Medicaid policies that do not exclude health care related to gender transition for transgender people.

These services are federally reimbursable and cost only 0.005% of the MD Medicaid budget. Maryland will save costs from reduced long-term physical and mental health complications, such as a 84% reduction in suicide attempts. Reducing discrimination is a cost-saving measure; without gender-affirming care, transgender people are more likely to be "outed." Twenty-four percent of trans Marylanders are evicted or denied housing because they are transgender, and nationwide are 4 times more likely to be victims of violent crime.

I am honored to have been a part of this fight, and I would like to thank Delegate Ann Kaiser for co-sponsoring this bill in the House, and I would especially like to thank all of

the brave and persistent advocates who have made this bill possible. Thank you all.



Senator Washington presenting in Finance Committee with Sponsor Panels
[Check out more on this issue in the Baltimore Sun](#)

An Update on my Social Work Bills:

The social work licensure bills made it through the Senate and will hopefully be voted out of the House today. The bills look quite different from the original draft, so we wanted to provide an update on how the bills have evolved.

SB0871 was heard in the Senate Finance Committee on March 10. In an effort to find a middle ground between the advocates and those in opposition, the moratorium on the exam requirement was removed from the bill. The amended bill now mandates a workgroup to develop recommendations for an equitable path to social work licensure, extends the Board of Social Work Examiners (BSWE) through July 2025, and stipulates that the BSWE must notify applicants of receipt of their application within 15 days. The bill was then sent over to the House Health and Government Operations Committee and heard on March 30. The HGO Committee further amended the bill to include interim reports and expand the workgroup (including representatives from the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community and the NAACP), making it much more diverse and representative. While we no longer have the moratorium, we are still proud of how far this bill has come and are eager for the bill to pass and for the workgroup to get started!

SB0872 was also heard in the Senate Finance Committee on March 10 and, upon the committee's recommendation, was merged with **SB0145**. The amended version of SB145 that left the Finance Committee had authorized the Board of Social Work Examiners to issue a conditional or temporary license to practice social work to an applicant who, except for passing an exam, has met the appropriate education and experience requirements for a license issued to practice. However, after the bill was heard in the Health and Government Operations Committee and heard on March 30, SB0145 was amended, and the language from SB0872 that included temporary licensure was struck out. **SB0145 now only provides conditional licensing.** We are disappointed in the decision to remove temporary licensure and stand with advocates ready for a solution that immediately mitigates harm caused by not being able to pass the ASWB exam.

MARYLAND SENATE SESSION 2023

On the Senate Floor...

It's the Final Countdown...

With five calendar days until the end of the 2023 Legislative Session, 36 pieces of legislation have received final approval and are headed to the desk of Governor Moore for signing, revealing the amount of legislation about to move forward this week. However, more than 2,300 bills were filed this Legislative Session and only a fraction will ultimately end up becoming law. Of the many pieces of legislation that will be considered in this last week, these are some of the bills that have been watched closely by myself and the media:

HB0001/SB0686 - The Child Victims Act of 2023

HB0808/SB0859 - The Reproductive Health Protection Act

SB0001 - The Gun Safety Act of 2023

HB0824 - Possession and Permits to Carry, Wear, and Transport a Handgun

HB0556/SB0516 - Cannabis Reform

HB1035 - The POWER Act

SB0551/HB0546 - (Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act)

SB0893/HB1219 - Educator Shortage Act

SB0555/HB0549 - Fair Wage Act of 2023

HB0802/SB0620 - Sports Wagering Contracts - Prohibition

SB0720 - Maryland Horse Racing Act - Sunset Extension

In the News

[Maryland House of Delegates approves trans rights bill](#)
LA Blade Digital Staff

[March 28th, 2023: Senator Steve Hershey, Senator Mary Washington, Mass Shooting In Nashville C4 And Bryan Nehman podcast C4 with Bryan Nehman - morning show and podcast](#)

[Baltimore denies company's request to discharge treated water from East Palestine into city sewer system](#)
Baltimore Sun - Christine Condon and Emily



SPONSORED BILLS

PASSED- HEADED TO THE GOVERNOR

- **SB0349** State Board of Examiners of Psychologists - License and Registration Issuance and Renewals - Electronic Means
- **SB0251** LGBTQIA+ Commission - Alterations
- **SB0460** Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)
- **SB0608** Human Services - Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council

PASSED HOUSE COMMITTEE

- **SB0382** Accessory Dwelling Unit Promotion and Policy Task Force Primary in the Senate
- **SB0610** Primary and Secondary Education - Virtual Education
- **SB0871** Social Workers - Licensure Examinations - Moratorium and Workgroup
- **SB0872 - NOW SB0145** (Senator West) State Board of Social Work Examiners - Temporary License to Practice Social Work

AWAITING HOUSE VOTE

- **SB0347** Baltimore County – Class B–ECF/DS (Education Conference Facility/Dining Service) License – Towson University
- **SB0351** Maryland Legal Services Corporation - Affordable Life, Wills, and Estate Planning for Seniors Program
- **SB0353** Higher Education - Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program - Alterations
- **SB0381** Baltimore City -

Opilo

East Palestine wastewater won't be processed at Baltimore facility following mayor's rejection
Baltimore Sun - Christine Condon

5 things to know about East Palestine wastewater diverted from Baltimore
Dan Belson, March 28

Lawmakers to propose emergency legislation to stop treatment of train derailment wastewater at Baltimore facility
March 26, Lilly Price

Here are seven bills to watch in Maryland focused on the LGBTQ+ population – Baltimore Sun
March 8th, Maya Lora

Maryland Gov. Wes Moore pledges to sign Trans Health Equity Act – Baltimore Sun
March 24th, Sam Janesch

Maryland Senate committee approves temporarily waiving national exam for nonclinical social workers – Baltimore Sun
March 17, Maya Lora

Alcoholic Beverages - Class A-7 Licenses

- **SB0501** Libraries - Aging Infrastructure Capital Improvement Grant Program - Established (merged with SB0502 - Enoch Pratt)
- **SB0874** Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program and Fund - Establishment
- **SB0876** Baltimore Regional Transit Commission – Establishment
- **SB0884** Maryland Department of Health - Workgroup to Study the Establishment of an Affordable Assisted Living Enhanced Care Program



[VIEW FLOOR PROCEEDINGS HERE](#)

The Budget:

RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS IN MARYLAND VALUES
 Maryland's \$63.1 Billion Budget as Passed by the Senate



EDUCATION, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (E³) COMMITTEE

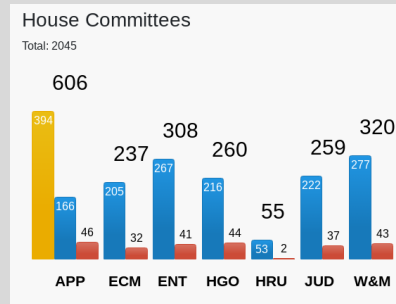
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN (E³)

Energy

EEE has spent quite a bit of time this session looking at utilities for Marylanders this session. We have gone over EmPOWER - the energy efficiency program, to see how we can improve and update it. We have also looked at the rising costs of energy, and how to lower energy bills and assist constituents unable to pay the new fees. We also wanted to look at utility shutoffs, and water and wastewater processing, and have had the opportunity to hear many bills and briefings addressing these topics.

Education

On the education front, my virtual education reform bill has moved to the House! We have also made sweeping improvements to the Blueprint for Maryland, including teacher recruitment incentives,



Recent & Upcoming House Bills

SB0931/HB1188 - Sen Hester Public Utilities - Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Solar Photovoltaic Systems

HB0016 - Del J. Lewis - Primary and Secondary Education - Title IX - Notice (Hear Our Voices Act)

supporting low-income students, and a \$500 million funding implementation.

Environment

This session my committee has looked at bills that alter Maryland's list of renewable energy sources and how to make renewables eligible for financial credits. We have reviewed solar bills, offshore wind energy goals, adjustments to the EmPOWER program, and many more. We remain dedicated to meeting the federal and the Governor's goals for sustainability in the coming years.



HB0266 - Del Boyce, et al Public and Nonpublic Schools - Bronchodilator Availability and Use - Policies

HB0503/SB0923 - Del Stein, et al Natural Resources - Greenspace Equity Program - Establishment

HB0630 - Del Queen, et al Utility Account Holders - Victims of Abuse - Protections

HB1219/SB0893 - The Spkr (Admin), et al, Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023

HB0742 - Del Boyce - Election Law - Party and Elected Public Offices - Prohibition

HB0624 - Del Amprey Environment - Suppliers of Water - Notification Requirements

HB0976 - Del Henson, et al Mold Assessment and Remediation - Standards

HB0459 - Del Kaufman, et al Public Utilities - Street Lighting Equipment - Acquisitions and Reporting (County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act)

HB0834 - Del Fraser-Hidalgo, et al Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure - Requirements (Electric Vehicle Charging Reliability Act)

SB0923 - Sen Rosapepe Natural Resources - Greenspace Equity Program - Establishment (Jointly assigned to Education, Energy, and the Environment\Budget and Taxation)

43RD DISTRICT CONSTITUENT & COMMUNITY MATTERS

43rd District COMMUNITY BOARD

Maryland Civic Education & Engagement Leadership Summit

Strengthening Civics for All!

Thursday, April 20th
3:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Online

Register:
bit.ly/StrengtheningCivics
www.mdccivics.org



"Tia Mona" by Isabel Acuna Marin - one of last year's winners of the Congressional Art Award from Maryland.

Do you know a high schooler in the 43rd who loves art? **The Artistic Discovery Contest is open to all high school students in our District.** The winning artwork from our District's competition will be displayed for one year in the US Capitol. The exhibit in Washington will include the winning artwork from all participating congressional districts from around the country.

Students must complete the Student Information and Release Form and submit their artwork to be considered. To access [the 2023 Congressional Art Competition Student Information and Release Form](#), please [click here](#).

All artwork entries must be turned in to Kweisi Mfume's Office by **April 21, 2023**.

If you are member a 43rd District neighbor, HOA or community association and want



Gardening Tips with Senator Washington

I don't know about you, but I am loving this Spring weather! And with Spring comes all things green and growing. As many of you know, I am an avid gardener, and I want to share some plants native to Maryland that I like to grow and that thrive in Baltimore - just like I do!

1. Smooth blue aster (symphyotrichum laeve)
2. Cardinal flower (lobelia cardinalis)
3. Bergamot (monarda fistulosa)
4. Butterfly milkweed (asclepias tuberosa)
5. Orange coneflower (rudbeckia fulgida)

[Check out this amazing guide to Maryland Native Plants to learn more!](#)



to see your event appear in the next newsletter, please email us at mary.washington@state.senate.md.us, or call our office at (410) 841-3476.

DPW IS HOSTING A JOB FAIR ON

April 15, 2023
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Chick Webb Recreation Center
624 N. Eden Street, Baltimore, MD 21205

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer

For more information, please contact
LaKeisha Hunt at
dpw.recruitment@baltimorecity.gov
or at 410-396-3330



You can follow me on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or visit my website: www.senatormarywashington.com.

As always, I encourage you to contact me about the issues that matter to you or if you would like me to visit your community. Please feel free to call, tweet, or email me.

Until next week...

Your Senator,



CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

The Baltimore Police Department has noticed an increase in thefts of Catalytic Converters. Here is what you can do to prevent Catalytic Converter Theft.



What can you do to prevent catalytic converter theft?

- Park vehicle in well-lit areas or under motion detecting lights
- Etch the vehicle's VIN number and/or license plate # on the Catalytic Converter
- Have the Catalytic Converter welded to the vehicle. Install an anti-theft cover over your Catalytic Converter
- Install motion-sensor security cameras
- If and when possible – park in a garage, driveway or back into parking spots near structures (fences, walls, curbs)

Worried About Crime?

On April 12, the Public Safety and Government Operations Committee will hold a hearing. The meeting will be LO23-0030 (Legislative Oversight - Crime Reduction and Violence Prevention), a recurring hearing the PSGO Committee convenes to hold public safety leaders accountable. This hearing will focus on violence against youth in Baltimore given the worrying trends we've been seeing since last year.



Check out these local events in the 43rd:

Northeast District Police Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday April 8th 12:00pm - 2:00pm
Northwood Baseball Field 1801 Argonne Drive 21218

Spring Break Skate at Hopkins Plaza 03/31 - 04/08
www.godowntownbaltimore.com/springbreakskate

Downtown Baltimore Cherry Blossom Pop-Up Bar 04/06, 04/07/, 04/08, 04/13, 04/14, 04/15

E Baltimore Street

[www.godowntownbaltimore.com/cherryblo
ssombar](http://www.godowntownbaltimore.com/cherrybl
ssombar)