

445th Legislative Session | February 7, 2023, Volume IV



Greetings from Annapolis!

We are nearly a full month into session! Finally, ALL of my bills have been drafted by DLS, and most have been submitted to the Secretary of the Senate. DLS describes this process as “dropping it into the hopper.” Then the bill or resolution is numbered, stamped for approval and codification and printed for first reading. We have “dropped” 24 bills with about six coming out this week. [Click here](#) to see a full list.

STATE OF THE STATE

History was made last week when the Maryland General Assembly convened a joint session of the House and Senate to witness **Governor Wes Moore's very first State of the State Address**. The Governor, energetically and full of convictions, shared the priorities for his administration and his vision for a cleaner, more prosperous, and equitable Maryland. The following were among portions of Governor Wes Moore's address that spoke to me:

ENDING CHILD POVERTY

“No group deserves our help more than the children of Maryland. In a state with the highest median income in the country, one in eight of our children lives in poverty.”

RESTORING STATE GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES

"If we are going to execute on this vision, if we are going to make this state work again, we need people willing to serve. We need talented individuals who put the whole before the self. We need folks like you...Public service is what will help our state reach its full potential."

FILLING VACANCIES AND INCREASING WAGES

“Right now, Maryland's government has nearly 10,000 vacancies, with just under 6,100 in the executive branch alone. That means needs are not being met... It's why I am proud that my budget makes state government a more attractive place to work, with competitive wage increases to fill positions like registered nurses, attorneys, and emergency response technicians.”

FULLY FUNDING PUBLIC EDUCATION

"We can no longer separate our vision for economic prosperity from our duty to make Maryland public schools the best in the nation. The two are inextricably linked. And to achieve those twin goals, we need more teachers –

and we need to do a better job supporting the teachers we already have... We made the largest investment in public education by any governor in our state's history."

Additionally, standing behind his words, Governor Moore put an additional \$500 million in his budget above the required mandated funding the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

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.

In Partnership,

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT

Ketanji Brown Jackson - the first black woman to serve as a US Supreme Court Justice, was sworn on February 25, 2022. I am honored to acknowledge her accomplishments for Black History Month, and I am definitely looking forward to reading her upcoming memoir: "Lovely One".



[READ "THE ANNAPOLIS REPORT" ONLINE](#)

HERE'S THE LATEST

Senator Washington Appointed to Joint Committee Electric Universal Service Program

Reactivated in 2020, the Joint Committee was established to overview the Electric Universal Service Program originally formed in 1999 following the restructuring Electric Competition Law. The Act provided funds for an ongoing and non-lapsing universal service program which helps low-income customers maintain electric service. The program provides bill payment assistance, arrearage retirement payments, and weatherization.



BALTIMORE CITY & COUNTY LEADERS DRAFT "REGIONAL TASK FORCE ON WATER SYSTEMS"

Baltimore's system for water delivery and its treatment plants have faced staffing shortages and neglect in recent years. The pandemic compounded those problems, leading to otherwise avoidable public health crises over the last few years. Last week, City and County leaders joined forces to propose legislation that will create a Task Force on Regional Water and Wastewater. A comprehensive and thoughtful approval to governing and maintaining this utility is an essential function and should be accomplished regionally with the jurisdictions the system serves.



BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART NAMES NEW DIRECTOR

Congratulations and welcome to Asma Naeem, the new director of the Baltimore Museum of Art. Pakistan-born, Ms. Naeem is the first person of color to lead the institution in its 109-year history.

MARYLAND SENATE SESSION 2023

Last Week on the Senate Floor...

FIRST BILL PASSED IN THE SENATE 9-8-8 TRUST FUND (SB 3)

The first bill out of the Senate Chamber will **fund the Maryland's 988 suicide and crisis hotline**. Sponsored by President Pro Tem Malcolm Augustine, it will require a \$12 million appropriation for the hotline in 2025. **SB 3 bill passed on the Senate floor unanimously.**

CANNIBIS REFORM INTRODUCED!

(SB0516 / HB0556)- Both chambers of the Maryland General Assembly introduced bills to move the state closer to opening up the adult consumption cannabis market. **These bill levies a sales tax, sets inspection regulations, and outlines license eligibility.** We are committed to establishing an intentional equity-based framework for licensing both established and emerging cannabis products and businesses.

Training to Improve Access to Reproductive Healthcare

2/3 of Maryland counties do not have access to the full range of reproductive health care services. This bill will ensure the safety of those seeking abortion services by ensuring that healthcare professionals who provide these procedures we well trained. SB provides a \$3.5 million appropriation for the further development of a robust formal training program. The Maryland Department of Health must identify a nonprofit group to oversee administration, tap providers for training, and settle on a curriculum.



SENATOR WASHINGTON was the FLOOR LEADER for the first time this session for Senate Bill 127, MD Longitudinal Data System Center - Student FAFSA Data.

SENATE PRESIDENT SPEAKS ON BLACK HISTORY MONTH

One the first day of Black History, Senator Bill Ferguson recognized and honored the contributions of Black Marylanders throughout our State's History. Specifically, he asked members to join him in thanking Senators in the chamber who are current or formal members of the U.S. Military: State Senators Ben Brooks, Arthur Ellis, Michael Jackson, Ron Watson, and Will Smith for their service and sacrifice to our State and nation.

[VIEW FLOOR PROCEEDINGS HERE](#)

SPONSORED BILLS & UPCOMING HEARINGS



Senator Washington's sponsored legislation dropped last week with bill numbers

- **SB0459** Correctional Services - Restrictive Housing - Limitations (Maryland Mandela Act)
- **SB0460** Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender–Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)
- **SB0347** Baltimore County - Class B-ECF/DS License - Towson University
- **SB0351** MD Legal Services Corporation - Affordable Life Wills and Estate Planning for Seniors Program
- **SB0382** Accessory Dwelling Unit Promotion and Policy Task Force
- **SB0380** Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Water Affordability Assistance
- **SB0381** Baltimore City - A7 Liquor License - Modifications



FOR A FULL LIST OF BILL NUMBERS, TITLES, SUMMARIES, AND HEARING DATES, PLEASE CLICK HERE

UPCOMING BILLS & HEARINGS OF INTEREST IN THE SENATE

SB0041 (HB0249) | Baltimore City - Property Tax - Retroactive Exemption | Budget and Taxation

SB0026 - Sen Augustine
Maryland Medical Assistance Program, Maryland Children's Health Program, and Social Services Programs – Eligibility and Enrollment

SB0172 - Sen Rosapepe
Employment for Minors - Opportunities for Work (Job Opportunities for High School Students Act)

SB0247 - Sen Kramer, et al
State Personnel – Collective Bargaining – Faculty, Part–Time Faculty, and Graduate Assistants

SB0166 - Sens Waldstreicher and Hettleman
Housing and Community Development - Adaptive Reuse

SCHEDULED BILL HEARINGS

- **SB0251** Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs – Alterations **EEE 2/07 at 2:00 p.m.**
- **SB0349** Psychologists - License and Registration Issuance and Renewals - Electronic Means **FINANCE 2/14 at 1:00 p.m.**
- **SB0399** Environmental Health Specialists - Revisions **FINANCE 2/14 at 1:00 p.m.**
- **SB0351** Maryland Legal Services Corporation - Affordable Life, Wills, and Estate Planning for Seniors Program **JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS 2/16 at 1:00 p.m.**



EDUCATION, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (E³) COMMITTEE

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN (E³)

BRIEFINGS

Public Service Commission

The Maryland Public Service Commission regulates electric and gas utilities and retail suppliers, local phone companies (land lines), private water and sewer companies, passenger motor vehicle carriers for hire (sedans, limousines, buses, Uber, Lyft), taxicab companies (in some jurisdictions) and bay pilot rates. In its decisions, the Commission must give consideration to economic, environmental, climate and labor impacts.

PJM Energy

PJM seeks to help states facilitate decarbonization policies cost-effectively, efficiently, and reliably. To do this they are studying energy transition to wind and solar power- heading towards a greener future through green policy initiatives. One of these initiatives is RPS facilities where all energy produced is tagged and tracked, and then a renewable energy certificate is given based on the activity - these can be “cashed in” or traded to help with meeting energy standards between/within businesses. Fun Fact: Maryland is generally a net importer of power - meaning we need to make sure energy we are bringing in needs to meet our green standards as well. Some takeaways on energy markets: Maryland has long and short-term markets called capacity markets and energy markets. Capacity markets are 3-year forward looking market that effectively procures power to be there 3 years in the future - where energy units receive payment for existing. Energy markets are the actual production of watts that are produced to meet demand at any given time.

Blueprint for Maryland AIP briefing

The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future marks an unprecedented investment in Maryland’s public education system that serves nearly 1 million pre-K12 students. AIB was established solely to focus on the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future and the vision and goals that the Blueprint set to transform the State’s public education system to be world class.

Mission statement: The Blueprint’s overarching goal is to improve the quality and equity of Maryland’s education system so that all Maryland students, regardless of where they live, household income, race, ethnicity, gender, language spoken at home, disability, and any other unique characteristic, can leave high school



BILL HEARINGS

SB0144: (Sen Feldman) Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs - Energy Performance Targets and Low-Income Housing

This bill requires DHCD to procure or provide energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) programs and services for electricity customers for the 2024-2026 EmPOWER Maryland Program cycle, subject to specified requirements. The EE&C programs and services must be designed to achieve a target annual incremental gross energy savings, compared to 2016, of at least 0.53% in 2024, 0.72% in 2025, and 1.0% in 2026. The bill also establishes (1) the Green and Healthy Task Force, staffed by DHCD and (2) several reporting and planning requirements for DHCD and the Public Service Commission (PSC), including that DHCD develop a plan to provide energy efficiency retrofits to all low-income households by 2031.

SB0280: Child Care Providers - Registration and Licensing - Exemptions

Exempting certain family childcare homes, large family childcare homes, and childcare centers located on a military base or federal property or certified by a branch of the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Coast Guard from certain registration and licensing requirements for childcare providers in the State.

SB0339: Election Law – Recounts – Procedures

Requiring a petitioner for a recount to select the method for conducting the recount; limiting the methods from which the selection must be made to rescanning the ballots using certain vote tabulating equipment, a manual recount of voter-verifiable paper records, or any other recount method approved by the State Administrator; and requiring a local board of elections to preserve and store certain voter verifiable paper records in a certain manner and count only voter-verifiable paper records in a manual recount.

globally competitive and prepared for success in postsecondary education, work, and life.

BILL STATISTICS 2023

Blueprint for MD Timeline:

March 2023 – Initial Blueprint Implementation Plans are due from local education agencies, Maryland State Department of Education, and other agencies responsible for implementing components of the Blueprint.

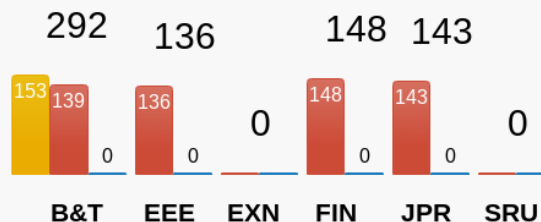
July 2023 – Each local education agency, in collaboration with the community colleges, shall develop and implement a program of study for students who have not met the College and Career Readiness standard by the end of the 10th grade.

July 2024 – Local education agencies begin implementing a new career ladder system aligned to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

July 2026 – Minimum teacher salary in Maryland must be at least \$60,000 in every local education agency by this date.

Introduced in Committee Senate Committees

Total: 719



43RD DISTRICT CONSTITUENT & COMMUNITY MATTERS



Elijah E. Cummings Democracy and Freedom Festival

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 | 1:30pm – 8:45 pm | Location: Reginald F. Lewis Museum 830 East Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21202

OR CHECK OUT...

Reginald F. Lewis Museum Permanent Collection. Where every day is Black History.

The Lewis Museum has over 400 years of history in its permanent collection. Take a journey through Maryland African American history in the areas of industry, politics, leisure activities, sports, media, the arts, education, the military and more.

Monday, Thursday to Saturday: 10am-5pm; Sunday: 12pm-5pm
Tuesday – Wednesday: Closed

Black History Month Writing Contest:

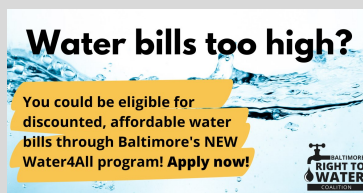
The Baltimore County Public School Offices of English Language Arts

RESOURCES & HAPPENINGS



The Maryland Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a new program providing benefits for water and wastewater costs for low-income households experiencing hardship with their water bills.

You can apply online by visiting: <https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md>.
or by calling 1-800-332-6347.



For Baltimore City Residents: Water4All is a new water billing discount program designed to create more equitable access you may apply [HERE](#) or call (410)

and Social Studies are co-sponsoring the annual Black History Month writing contest. A winner will be selected in each of the following grade level bands: Grades K-2, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12. Students are asked to write in response to the following quotation from **Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first Black woman to serve as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice:** *"Our children are telling me that they see now, more than ever, that, here in America, anything is possible."* Students are asked to write about an African American activist, artist, athlete, author, musician, scientist, or other public figure who has helped them see that anything is possible. All entries must be submitted by Friday, Feb. 10. [CLICK HERE](#)

KEEP IN TOUCH

43rd District COMMUNITY BOARD

If you are member a 43rd District neighbor, HOA or community association and want to see your event appear in the next newsletter, please email us mary.washington@state.senate.md.us or call our office at (410) 841-3476.

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 or email me.

Until next week...

Your Senator,

