



June 2, 2023

Greetings from Baltimore!

TGIF!! It has been two months since the 445th Session of the Maryland General Assembly came to a close, and though the policymaking has ended for the season, our office is busier than ever! I have been thrilled to be back in Baltimore, and I have attended events and taken up issues important to the community and to Maryland overall.

In April and May Governor Moore signed 810 bills into law. These bills included gun control legislation, reproductive rights, updates to the Blueprint for Maryland, better benefits for veterans, a budget for Maryland in 2024, improvements to safety and security, infrastructure updates, and more. He signed 9 of my bills into law, including my social work workgroup, affordable life wills and estate planning for Seniors, and the Trans Health Equity Act.

Now that session is over, and we've had a sufficient break from the chaos and fun of the legislature, I get to work in the community to help constituents with individual issues, meet with advocates and interest groups, kick off interim workgroups, taskforces, and committees, and continue to advocate for issues that were put aside during session 2023.

For example, I serve as the Senate Chair for the Joint Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review Committee (AELR), which operates throughout the year. This is due to our mandate to review all proposed regulations from state agencies to make sure they meet legislative intent, and that all changes to the Code of Maryland Regulations meet procedural due process standards.

The Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee will continue to meet for briefings on a wide range of topics during interim, and I will continue building on the momentum from session. I have met with a number of the new cabinet secretaries, department and agency heads. I plan to continue building relationships within the new administration. I look forward to continuing our fruitful interdepartmental collaboration.

I also serve on task forces, workgroups, and commissions which meet during interim. These include, the Social Determinants of Health Taskforce, Joint Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP) Workgroup, Workgroup on Adaptive Reuse of Vacant Commercial Spaces, Maryland Commission on Health Equity, Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness, Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, Maryland Student Data Privacy Council, and others still to come!

My office offers constituent services for a number of different areas, such as

unemployment issues, scholarship applications, speaking requests, SNAP/EBT questions, grants and funding workshops, resources for nonprofits, small businesses, community associations, and more! We are starting up our community conversation interim 2023 series soon, so stay tuned! If you have an issue area you would like to learn more about, please feel free to reach out and we will help you however we can.

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,



Legislative Updates



Senator Mary Washington and advocates at the signing of the Trans Health Equity Act,

Trans Health Equity Act is Signed by Governor Wes Moore!

What does SB0460 - The Trans Health Equity Act do now that it is law? This law 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.

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.



PRIORITY BILLS PASSED

- **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)
- **SB893** Educator Shortage Act
- **SB0608** Human Services - Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council
- **SB0382** Accessory Dwelling Unit Promotion and Policy Task Force Primary in the Senate
- **SB551** Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023
- **SB0610** Primary and Secondary Education - Virtual Education
- **SB555** Fair Wage Act
- **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
- **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
- **SB552** Family Prosperity Act
- **SB0381** Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Class A-7 Licenses

**Senator Washington Interim Service:
Committees, Commissions, Taskforces, and
Workgroups**

Education, Energy, and the Environment

The Education, Energy, and Environment Committee continues to meet with experts in the fields of energy and environmental concerns, students, educators, and interest groups, partners and collaborators on climate change, learning, and resource building. We are looking forward to furthering our own knowledge-bases, and growing interest in the issues that impact all Marylanders. The interim period is critical for building relationships across governmental stakeholders, policy experts, constituents and advocates.

AELR

During the interim, the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review (AELR) works to review proposed regulations from newly implemented legislation and regulatory changes from state agencies like updated procurement policies. We also periodically review and evaluate existing regulations, and monitor their implementation. Every 8 years under the Regulatory Review and Evaluation Act (§§ 10-130 through 10-139 of the State Government Article), a review and evaluation of the regulations of all units in the Executive Branch of State government is reviewed as a submitted "work plan".

All proposed regulations are submitted to the AELR Committee for review at least 15 days before they are submitted to the Maryland Register for publication. Often changes are negotiated between the committee and the agency before publication. The committee is not required to give its explicit approval in order for a proposed regulation to become effective. In the usual course, the unit may adopt a proposed regulation 45 days after the regulation was published in the Maryland Register. Thirty of the 45 days must be reserved as a public comment period.

Over the next few months, AELR will be focused on reviewing and implementing new cannabis regulations as well as Blueprint-related regulations.

PUBLIC SERVICE POSITIONS

I also serve on a multitude of task forces, workgroups, and commissions during interim. Some of the groups I am a member of include:

- Social Determinants of Health Taskforce
- Joint Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP) Workgroup
- Workgroup on Adaptive Reuse of Vacant Commercial Spaces
- Maryland Commission on Health Equity
- Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness
- Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families
- Maryland Student Data Privacy Council
- and others still to come!

Workgroups and Taskforces



*Senator Washington with members of the Social Workers for Equity and Against Racism
Annapolis, MD*

SOCIAL WORK WORKGROUP POSTED

This year, we passed legislation (SB871) to address inequities in the social work profession. Our bill, which was signed by Governor Moore last month, creates a workgroup to study and make recommendations on what requirements are necessary to become a licensed social worker in Maryland.

The workgroup will include 23 members, including a State Senator, a State Delegate, the Secretary of Health or designee, the Secretary of Human Services or designee, the Chair of the Maryland Commission on Health Equity, the Executive Director of the BSWE, the Chair of the BSWE or designee, the Director of the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing or designee, a representative nominated by the Maryland Association of the Deaf, a representative of the NAACP Maryland, a representative of the Baltimore Legacy Chapter of the ABSW, two representatives from ASWB, a representative NASW-MD, a representative from the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work, three Deans of Social Work including one dean that must be from an HBCU, three social workers from Western MD, Eastern Shore, and Central MD, and two individuals harmed by the licensure exam.

If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of this workgroup, please email our office and/or [CLICK HERE](#) to submit an application.

OTHER BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, TASKFORCES AND WORKGROUPS:

Through specialized groups, the Governor draws upon the expertise of private citizens and public servants to help solve problems of government. Many of these boards must complete their work by a prescribed date. Others are ongoing. They may receive staff or other administrative support from an executive department or agency. Interagency committees, councils, boards, and task forces often are formed to coordinate the work of government agencies in a particular field.

The Governor's office of appointments is always seeking qualified and passionate individuals interested in civic duty to fill vacancies on boards, commissions, workgroups, and taskforces. Some of the most prominent upcoming and open positions are on the following:

- Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force to study approaches to water and wastewater governance in the Baltimore region

- Maryland Commission on Health Equity to determine ways for state and local governments to work collaboratively and to implement policies and laws to reduce health disparities and to increase health equity across the state
- Accessory Dwelling Unit Task Force to survey and document a representative sampling of State and local codes, ordinances, laws, and policies regarding the development and operation of accessory dwelling units in areas zoned for single-family residential use
- Board of Social Work Examiners
- Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives

A full list of [commissions, task forces, and workgroups can be found here](#)

A full list of boards and [board descriptions can be found here](#)

You can apply for these positions through the [Governor's office of appointments HERE](#)

Senator Washington in the Community

Community Meetings and Events

APRIL

Met with the Pride of Towson Elks Lodge and their Potential Builders for their renovation and restoration project

Wide Angle Youth Media Board and Staff Mixer

Celebrated Earth Day with a Homily at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church

Q&A with the Baltimore County Progressive Democrats

Friends of Herring Run Parks National Arbor Day Celebration

Northwood Baseball League Inc. Annual Opening Day & Parade

MAY

Education, Energy, and Environment Committee members welcomed the Ecosystem Research Institute of Japan

Grand Opening of Tea Horse Sichuan Bistro celebration

Opened the Festivities at the 54th Annual Towson Spring Festival

Community meeting with the West



Senator Washington and County Executive Calvin Ball at the grand opening of Ping Wu's Tea Horse Sichuan Bistro. Ping Wu is also the founder and owner of the Red Pepper Sichuan Bistro in Towson, MD, and is a resident of the 43rd District.

Towson Neighborhood Association

Towson High School Students presented policy research projects to Senator Washington and a Proposal Panel

43rd District Post-Session Townhall featuring Senator Mary Washington, Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Delegate Elizabeth Embry, and Delegate Cathi Forbes

Spoke at the National Honor Our LGBT Elders Day Celebration for the LGBT Health Resource Center

Meeting at Morgan State University Center for Advanced Energy Systems and Environmental Control Technologies (CAESECT) to discuss Hydrogen-Electric Engines

Enoch Pratt Library Reception and Author Panel with Georgia Voting Rights Advocate Stacey Abrams



Senator Washington, Delegate Cathi Forbes, Police Commissioner Robert McCullough, and Councilman Mike Ertel



Senator Washington and members of Morgan State University's CAESECT Lab

In the News

[AFRO spotlight on Black excellence: meet the Maryland legislators who got their start in the classroom](#)

by Tashi McQueen AFRO Political Writer

May 18, 2023

[BALTIMORE'S BEST: Voting now open for The Baltimore Sun's Best 2023 Readers' Choice Contest](#)

VOTE FOR SENATOR WASHINGTON

[The Movement to Stop Dollar Stores From Suffocating Black Communities](#)

May 17, 2023, Aallyah Wright

[Maryland Governor Signs Trans Health Equity Act](#)

May 5, 2023, John Riley

43rd District Legislative Bond Initiatives Awarded

The 43rd District received 16 capital grants during the session which they may access starting June 1st. The Department of General Services administers these grants, and offers a comprehensive workshop for awardees and prospective grant applicants. These workshops will be on June 22nd and August 22nd. Please contact our office for further information on signing up for one of these sessions.

Still Looking for a Summer Internship? Look no further!

Our office offers internships for High School Juniors and Seniors, undergraduates, and graduate student fellowships. These positions are available year-round (depending on availability) with the possibility to participate further in our office and in Maryland politics. We offer internships in:

- Public Policy
- Marketing
- Graphic Design
- Political Research
- And More!

Get your stolen food stamps and welfare (EBT benefits) back!

Over the last several months, more than 2,300 Maryland adults and families with Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards have had their food and cash benefits stolen from their accounts. The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) is launching a simple, seamless and swift process for reimbursing stolen benefits and getting your money back. If you or someone you know has been personally affected by stolen EBT benefits, you can now submit a claim for reimbursements. Here's how:

1. Click the link to view the [EBT Fraud Claim Attestation form](#)
2. Complete the form
3. Type your name on the signature line of the form and click the submit button
4. For more information visit [this website](#) or call 1-833-330-7328. Outreach flyers are available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Dari, French, Pashto and Ukrainian.

Constituent Services:

Do you have an issue you need help with? Are you interested in having the Senator or her staff attend or speak at an event? Hop on my [website](#) and fill out our contact form and we will get back to you as soon as we can! We are very excited to announce our new Community and Legislative Affairs Coordinator, Dustin Branch, who can handle a vast range of constituent inquiries.

Senator Washington is very active in the community, and we would love to feature pictures of the Senator at your event or in your community (especially if it's a great selfie!) [Click Here](#) to upload photos for the Senator's website.

43RD DISTRICT COMMUNITY BOARD

THIS WEEKEND!!!

May was Mental Health Awareness Month!

Self Care and self love are so important - and very often so hard to achieve on our own. Asking for help is the bravest thing you can do for yourself.

Give the Maryland Mental Health 988 hotline a call if you are struggling, and if you aren't reach out to someone who is! You never know how much of an impact you can have in someone's life until you



reach out.

This year, the Maryland Senate passed legislation to help Marylanders through our Behavioral Health Package:

Gardening Tips with Senator Washington

A top tip - native plants of Maryland are a beautiful way to accentuate any garden. If you live in Towson, they might also be able to win you a local award! The 3rd Annual **Towson Native Garden Contest** is underway, and I am so excited to walk through Towson and see the incredible blooms that Maryland has to offer. Native plants, shrubs, and trees are vital to support our local ecosystems— which include the pollinator, songbirds, and other wildlife that share our communities.

[Check out more here!](#)

**Doing Business With
The Maryland Transportation Authority**

Free Development Workshop
Division of Civil Rights & Fair Practices (CRFP)
Wednesday, June 14, 2023
9am to 1pm
Register on Eventbrite
(<https://tinyurl.com/jjxmw565>)

MDOT Headquarters
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076
Harry Hughes Conference Room

- ◆ Network with Primes, MDTA Procurement Officers and MDTA CRFP Compliance Officers.
- ◆ Learn about resources to assist in growing and strengthening your business.
- ◆ Understand the MBE/VSBE/DBE Programs and your role as a prime or subcontractor.

Email any questions to:
MDTAboutreach@mdta.state.md.us

<http://www.mdta.maryland.gov>

The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) wanted you to be aware of the upcoming Development Workshop with the Division of Civil Rights & Fair Practices (CRFP) which will take place on **Wednesday, June 14th, 2023 from 9am to 1pm.**

This is a great opportunity to network with Primes, MDTA Procurement Officers, and MDTA CRFP Compliance Officers and learn about resources to assist in growing and strengthening your business. The event will take place in the Harry Hughes Conference Room at MDOT Headquarters (7201 Corporate Center Drive Hanover, Maryland 21076). Participants should register on [Eventbrite](#).

BMORE THIS SUMMER
ENGAGE + CONNECT + BMORE

WHAT IS BMORE THIS SUMMER?

BMore This Summer is a youth engagement plan that takes an all-hands-on-deck approach to prioritize Baltimore's young people. All summer long, City agencies will activate free events and activities especially tailored for teens all across Baltimore from pool parties to skating, basketball, and so much more.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE OR VOLUNTEER IN BMORE THIS SUMMER?

PLEASE VISIT OUR ONLINE TEEN ZONE TO FIND OUT ABOUT EVENTS HAPPENING ACROSS THE CITY. WANT TO GET INVOLVED? SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER OR LEARN MORE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE.

**DPW Small Business
Development Program 2023
Register Today! 2023 DPW Small
Business Development Program
APPLICATION DEADLINE: 8/11/2023**

Training classes include:

- **Bonding:** Understanding how bonding and working capital operate in the construction industry.
- **Construction Accounting & Finance:** Learning about the dollars and cents of construction and how to do business with the City of Baltimore. Includes coverage of City requirements and procedures.
- **Construction Best Practices:** Specialized training for trenchless sewer repair, site restoration, manhole repair, and

PSA
BALTIMORE CITY'S
YOUTH CURFEW IS IN
EFFECT STARTING

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2023 THROUGH
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

WHO DOES THIS APPLY TO?
 • YOUTH AGES 18 AND UNDER

ARE THERE EXCEPTIONS?

- YOUTH ACCOMPANIED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN OR AUTHORIZED ADULT
- YOUTH IS AT OR HEADING TO/FROM A PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
- YOUTH IS RETURNING HOME WITHIN ONE HOUR AND ON DIRECT ROUTE FROM SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS OR VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY, OR PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LIKE MOVIE, PLAY, OR SPORTING EVENT
- YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN CITY-SPONSORED EVENTS WILL BE GIVEN CITY ISSUED WHISTBANDS TO VERIFY THEIR PARTICIPATION AND HAVE AN HOUR TO GET HOME AFTER THE END OF WHATEVER PROGRAMMING EVENT THEY ATTENDED.

WHAT ARE THE CURFEW HOURS?

WEEKENDS
 • YOUTH AGES 13 AND UNDER 9PM-6AM
 • YOUTH AGES 14-16 11PM-6AM

SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS: CIVIL FINES

- 1ST OFFENSE: WRITTEN NOTICE AND WARNING
- 2ND OFFENSE: \$50 FINE OR FAMILY COUNSELING
- 3RD OFFENSE: UP TO \$500 OR COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR PARENT

YOUTH CONNECTION CENTERS

RFA B. CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTER:
 2101 ST LO DR, BALTIMORE, MD 21215

CC JACKSON RECREATION CENTER:
 4910 PARK HEIGHTS AVE,
 BALTIMORE, MD 21215

FOR MORE INFORMATION
monse.baltimorecity.gov

- lateral connections.
- Contract Administration: Lesson on understanding and executing contracts.
- Estimating/Bidding: Hands-on training with actual estimating and bidding exercises
- M/WBE Certification: Guidance on how eligible firms can become certified as a Minority or Woman-owned Business



Do you have an event or information you would like to share on our District Community Board?

Submit it online anytime by clicking the button or please email us at mary.washington@state.senate.md.us, or call our office at (410) 841-3476.