



THE WASHINGTON REPORT

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Dear District 43 Friends,

We have finally reached my favorite month: January. Why is Maryland's coldest month my favorite?
LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2023!!!

This has been an incredible week! I headed off to Annapolis on Wednesday to join my Senate and House Colleagues for the 445th Legislative Session. I was very excited to be returning to the Capitol and represent the 43rd District once again. Whether you are a new friend in 43B or you've been with me on my 13-year journey, I will always put you first. We will be sending out regular updates of the going-on; legislation hearings, voting, events, upcoming issues, and of course we want to hear from you about your legislative priorities and ideas.

I want to give you an exclusive preview of just a few of the many pieces of legislation I will be working on this session. These examples highlight my priorities this year but are by no means all I will be focused on. I already have 26 potential bills - and more co-sponsorship and sponsorship requests are coming in daily. I remain committed to helping pass legislation that promotes moral and innovative progress for Maryland. My legislative agenda for 2023 encompasses fairness, diversity, and social justice; removing barriers to education, healthcare, well-paying jobs, and small business entrepreneurs; community development; public safety; affordable water and utilities; consumer protections stopping unfair, deceptive, and fraudulent business practices - and much more.

I have submitted several bills already for Session 2023 which include a study on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's), a comprehensive worker cooperative statute, an amended version of the Trans Health Equity Act, an increase in funding to the Hunger Free Campus program, and a Energy Retail Choice Reform bill. We are also hard at work on bills regarding water and utilities, oral healthcare for children, lo-bono aid for elderly estates, alcoholic beverage licensing in the 43rd, automatic voter registration, and so much more!

In Committee-related news, State Senate President Bill Ferguson announced committee assignments last week. I am proud to announce that he has asked me to join the **Joint Committee of Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review** as **Committee Chair**. I have enthusiastically accepted this new challenge. The official press release regarding my promotion stated:

“Other leadership changes announced include...Sen. Mary Washington, D- Baltimore City, as Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR).

As the new administration begins, these new chairs will serve crucial roles over the next year and beyond,” said [Senate President] Ferguson. “Each of these senators will bring a unique perspective and a responsive style of leadership, and each understands the importance of collaboration.”

In my new role as Chair of the Joint Committee of Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) I intend to hold my fellow legislators accountable.

“The AELR Committee functions as the watchdog of the General Assembly in overseeing the activities of State agencies as they relate to regulations. The committee’s primary function is to review any regulations that are proposed for adoption by a unit of the Executive Branch of State government to determine whether the regulations conform both with the statutory authority of the unit and the legislative intent of the statute under which the regulations are proposed. To assist in this task, each regulation, after submission to the committee and prior to publication in the Maryland Register, is analyzed for legal sufficiency by legislative staff of the Department of Legislative Services. Fiscal analysts with the department evaluate the Executive Branch agency’s assessment of the economic impact of a proposed regulation. The committee also ensures that the

regulations are proposed and adopted in compliance with the State Administrative Procedure Act. In addition, the committee may consider policy issues relating to specific regulations, respond to inquiries made by members of the General Assembly or the public, and request additional information from the adopting unit regarding proposed regulations.” - from the [MGA official description document](#).

After serving the 43rd District for over 12 years, I know I am ready to get into the weeds of Maryland policy. It is so important that we hold ourselves accountable for our actions. We all have the best intentions, but legislative regulatory minutiae are often overlooked in our haste to help. In my new role I intend to make sure these oversights are caught and handled efficiently before they are enacted.

In other great news for the Senate, the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee is now named the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. This change in legislative oversight will allow us to tackle new issue areas and make sure all relevant legislative areas fall under our purview:

“The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee is being restructured to tackle the State’s most contemporary and pressing challenges and will now be named the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment (EEE).

Under this new name, EEE will handle all energy and utilities-related legislation, positioning Maryland to develop policies that reflect the constant intersection of energy and utilities policy with environment and climate change policies. Additionally, the Senate Finance Committee will have jurisdiction over all health occupations and alcoholic beverages legislation to ensure that the Senate is reviewing issues related to public health and business regulation comprehensively.”

I am proud to announce my renewed role as a dedicated member of the newly renamed Education, Energy, and Environment Committee, which has continued my lifelong commitment to improving policy in these areas. I have also had the pleasure of serving on the joint committee for Youth and Family and the joint committee for Ending Homelessness and will continue to serve on these committees dutifully and happily.

As you know, I took office as a state delegate in 2010, and fulfilled two wonderful terms in the House of Delegates. In 2018 I was appointed to the Maryland State Senate. Serving the 43rd District has been, and

continues to be, the great honor and privilege of my life. These exciting new and continued roles will afford me the opportunity to meet some of my long-term goals in energy, regulation, education, and environmental policy for the State of Maryland.

I want to thank Bill Ferguson and Governor-elect Wes Moore for asking me to serve in these incredible roles. I am also deeply grateful to my family for continuing to support me, and to my district for their confidence in reelecting me in November. I truly could not do this job without the guidance of my colleagues, friends, and civic organizations. This community means everything to me, and I will always support and protect it with all the tools at my disposal.

Thank you for your confidence in me, and for the experience of a lifetime. I am excited to see what the future will bring as we step into a new era of politics in Maryland.

In Partnership,



Mary L. Washington, PhD
State Senator for Baltimore's 43rd District

Please keep reading for the following information:

1. Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
2. Upcoming Meetings and Events
3. In the News
4. A Minute with Mary

FAQ's Answered by the Office of Senator Mary Washington:

1. How do I watch a bill hearing?

How to watch: Floor sessions and committee hearings can be viewed live from the MDGA website or YouTube:

Senate - @mga-session-senate445

House - @mga-session-house9230

2. How do I testify for a bill?

Written and/or 2-minute oral testimony options

Oral testimonies have in-person and via Zoom options

You will need a MyMGA account through the MDGA website to sign up for witness testimony 2 days prior to a bill's hearing

*Each committee has their own rules for testimony

3. How do I book a tour of the Capitol?

Visiting Annapolis for session: Virtual and in-person guided tours (information on DLS site)

Please contact: Megan Ford, Visitors Program Coordinator 410-946-5423

4. I am a constituent of the 43rd in need of help, how do I reach out?

Our office always wants to help! You can email us at mary.washington@senator.state.md.us, or you can go to our website and fill out our contact form:

<https://www.senatormarywashington.com/constituent-services>

5. How will I get updates on the Senator's weekly legislation?

This Newsletter! We will be producing a version of this newsletter weekly with all relevant updates. We also have Instagram, Facebook, and our website

www.senatormarywashington.com - which will all be regularly updated with bill and hearing information.

6. I am a member of a community association or of the overall community, and I want to see my event appear in the next newsletter. How do I ask your office to do this?

If you haven't registered with our office yet, please fill out this form:

<https://forms.gle/adg1Z3ijNGRtfPHb9>. For event and meeting updates, please email us a graphic of the event, and all relevant information you would like to see included to

mary.washington@state.senate.md.us.