

445th Legislative Session | February 21, 2023, Volume IV & V



Greetings from Annapolis!

So much has happened since our last report. Over 946 bills have been filed in the Senate, and over 1270 in the House of Delegates setting an MGA record. Six of my bills have been heard in committee and two have pass the Senate and are on their way to the House: SB0251 Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs – Alterations and State Board of Examiners of Psychologists - License and Registration Issuance and Renewals. And we have five (5) hearings scheduled over the next week in the Senate Finance, EEE and Judicial Proceedings. We are clearly up and running!

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

In the ever-present spirit of holiday, I wish each of you a happy belated Valentine's Day and trust that you were able to celebrate by doing all the things you love. I celebrated by spending an evening with Jodi at "Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Presents: Marvel Studio's Black Panther Live in Concert at the Lyric Baltimore." It was amazing. BSO is truly a Maryland treasure and deserving of our support for this creative and inclusive programming.

I was honored to start Thursday with the Legislative Black Caucus for our Annual Breakfast with the Governor. Being a member of the largest caucus in the United States and hosted in Government House with Wes Moore, the first African American Governor of Maryland and the First Lady, Dawn Moore made this year extra special. We are all history in the making.

One more thing. "I said what I said." I remain deeply concerned about the lack of transparency in the drafting of the conduit agreement between Baltimore City Government and BGE; the rushed, possibly out of order, vote by the Chair and two members of the Board of Public Works; the impact this vote will have on the increase of the cost of gas and electric for residential rate payers by Baltimore region; and finally, the intended and unintended consequences of granting a private, for-profit entity the right to exercise authority and power over a public asset and right of way. As a member of the Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee, I look forward to continuing my advocacy and policymaking on this issue.

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.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT

*This Black History month, we honor **Henrietta Lacks** for her contribution to a wife and mother of five children from Turner Station, Maryland, a community outside Baltimore where many of the African American steelworkers lived.*



*Born **Loretta Pleasant** on August 1, 1920, Mrs. Lacks died on October 4, 1951, at the age of 31 from an aggressive and invasive form of cancer. While undergoing treatment, doctors at the Johns Hopkins Hospital had taken samples of her cancerous cells for diagnosis and discovered a very rare genetic mutation: they could be kept alive and grown in the lab. Nobody asked Henrietta Lacks for consent to use her cells in research. For the last 70 years these “immortal” HeLa cell line and is used to study the effects of toxins, drugs, hormones and viruses on the growth of cancer cells without experimenting on humans. We recognize Mrs. Lack’s incredible contribution to science and medicine that has saved millions of lives, and millions more in the future. However, we must acknowledge that she was, in so many ways, a victim of racism, profiling, and injustice and her family’s right to privacy, consent, and compensation would be upheld.*

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

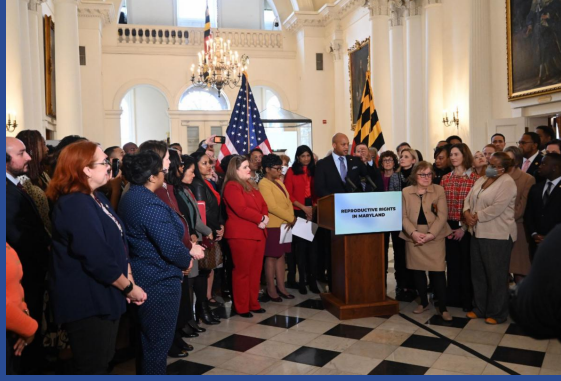
HERE'S THE LATEST

Baltimore Announces \$10.75 Million for Affordable Housing Developments

The Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) announced the **availability of \$10,750,000 in Affordable Housing Trust Fund dollars** to support new construction of affordable rental housing and/or rehabilitation of existing rental projects for affordable housing. **Mayor Brandon M. Scott** remarked "you can be an emerging developer, established developer, non-profit, for profit, or a community land trust" to apply. Friday, March 17, 2023, is the deadline, and applicants must demonstrate the capacity to complete and occupy projects within two years of executing a Funding Agreement.

Press Conference to Announce Reproductive Rights Package.

Governor Moore, Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller, Senate President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones came together on February 9th to hold the first joint press conference to announce the essential legislative package that would enshrine reproductive rights in the state of Maryland. In a post-Roe world, Maryland has a responsibility to lead and become a beacon of freedom on the national stage.



Press Conference on Women's Reproductive Rights (from MDGOV PICS)

Gun legislation hearings draw hundreds to Annapolis.

Gun Industry Accountability Act of 2023 prohibits firearm industry members from knowingly or recklessly creating, maintaining, or contributing to harm to the public through the manufacture or sale of a firearm-related product. The Attorney General or an individual may file a public nuisance suit against any industry member who violates this statute (SB0113, Senator Waldstreicher, Judicial Proceedings Committee and HB0259, Delegates Atterbeary and Rosenberg, Judiciary Committee).

MARYLAND SENATE SESSION 2023

Last Week on the Senate Floor...

My bill, **SB0251**, State Government - Commission on LGBTQIA+ Commission - Alterations, passed the Third Reading in the Senate on February 17th. It is now headed to the House.

Another one of my bills, **SB0349**, State Board of Psychologists - License and Registration Issuance and Renewals - Electronic Means is up for the third reading in the Senate. It was favorable with amendments at the second reading.

Several Legislative Bond Initiatives were introduced on February 20th. All bond initiatives are assigned to the Budget & Taxation Committee; that is where they are currently.



Governor Moore's Cabinet Advance to Confirmation

About half of Governor Moore's cabinet appointees are on their way to being confirmed by the Maryland Senate after the Senate Executive Nominations Committee unanimously recommended the secretaries Monday night. The next step will be a confirmation vote by the full Senate. The Senate committee will hear another batch of appointees next week as the executive branch is finalized.

[VIEW FLOOR PROCEEDINGS HERE](#)

3 HEARINGS IN ONE DAY!!



SBO353 Higher Education - Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program - Alterations Primary in the Senate - Hearing 2/22 at 2:00 p.m. (Education, Energy, and the Environment)

SBO873 Child Care Provider Stabilization Program - Established Hearing 2/22 at 2:00 p.m. (Education, Energy, and the Environment)

SBO380 - Water Affordability Assistance - Hearing 2/22 at 1:00 p.m. (Budget and Taxation 2/22/2023 - 1:00 PM)

EDUCATION, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (E³) COMMITTEE

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN (E³)

Fiscal Briefing for FY 2023-2024:

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

- The Governor's spending plan leaves a closing balance of \$2.3 billion at the end of fiscal 2023 and \$820 million at the end of fiscal year 2024.
- The Revenue Stabilization Account (Rainy-Day Fund) will have a balance of \$2.5 billion (10% of general fund revenues). With combined cash balances for a total of \$3.3 billion, the account will represent about 13.3% of general fund revenues.
- General fund spending declines in fiscal 2024 as the fiscal 2023 budget includes a one-time appropriation of \$2.3 billion to the Rainy-Day Fund.
- General fund expenditures will increase significantly due to accelerating planned rate increases for health care providers to align with an accelerated implementation of a \$15 minimum wage.
- Federal spending declines in fiscal 2024 as temporary federal aid from the American Rescue Plan Act begins to dissipate and will decrease funding available for many state programs like enhanced Medicaid matching funds and



Our office received the most emails and calls about **SB199: Primary and Secondary Education - Comprehensive Health Education Framework**

*For the record, under SB 199, **Schools must establish a health education framework** that includes, at a minimum, the topics of: health promotion, mental and emotional health, substance abuse prevention, family life and human sexuality, gender identity and sexual orientation, safety and violence prevention, healthy eating, and disease prevention and control.*

This comprehensive health education framework already exists - this bill in no way is creating this concept. All this bill does, in essence, is tighten the requirements to make sure all students get the highest level of science-based health education.

This framework must be fulfilled in an age appropriate manner. This

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

- Contingent up enactment of legislation proposed by the Governor. Tax relief proposals that reduce general fund revenues by \$204 million in fiscal 2024 and \$230 million by fiscal 2028 include:
 - Exempting military retirement income from the income tax.
 - Establishing a more robust Child Tax Credit.
 - Making temporary enhancements to the Earned Income Tax Credit permanent.

means that we are not exposing children to any material that they should not be subjected to at a given age.

Parents have the full option to opt-out of any curriculum set by the school district within this framework

Parents can stay fully informed and up to date on health subjects affecting their children, and may choose whether or not they would prefer their children to participate in this curriculum.

43RD DISTRICT CONSTITUENT & COMMUNITY MATTERS

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,



Meeting with advocates from the Alzheimer's Association

KEEP IN TOUCH