



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 25, 2022

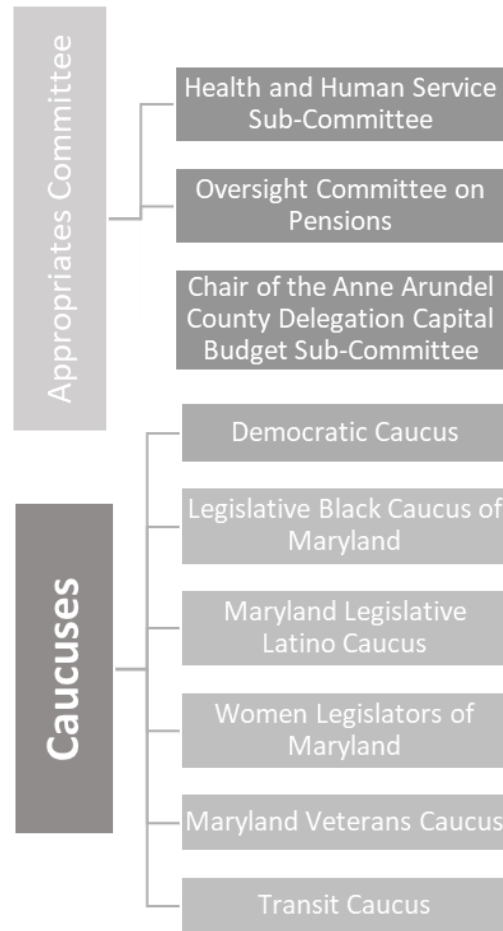
Dear District 30A Friends and Neighbors:

It continues to be my great joy to represent you as your Delegate in the Maryland General Assembly. It is with you and your concerns in mind that I do this work, and I am particularly thankful for those who have reached out to my office to share your requests. Much of the legislation we passed this year came from those of you who reached out to our office, which has made my commitment to this work even stronger. I'm proud of the work we've done together.

It has also been a year of working together with my colleagues here in the General Assembly. This year I proudly resumed my seat on the *Appropriations Committee* and served as Chair of the *Anne Arundel County Capital Budget Subcommittee*. I was also grateful to represent your concerns through my participation in six legislative caucuses.

Altogether, there were over 3,000 bills introduced this last session, and I am proud of the ways we were able to work together for the good of the people of Maryland. We passed bills to help our environment, public safety, struggling families, those in need of medical assistance, retirees on a fixed income, and support our kids through childcare resources and reforms to the juvenile justice system.

I sponsored 13 bills, and worked together to co-sponsor 58 additional bills with my colleagues. I was even able to work across the aisle on some great legislation to provide tax relief for veterans and retirees, and co-sponsor another bill which gave us all a gas tax holiday. This has been a record year for us in the Henson office. We passed 6 bills as primary sponsor, and an additional 20 bills as co-sponsor. These bills have run the gamut of impact in our community, they include:



- support for our public defenders (**HB90**);
- bonuses for educational support staff (**HB1349**);
- tax relief for small business owners (**HB274**);
- cost cuts for persons with diabetes, high blood pressure and other chronic medical conditions (**HB364**);
- support for the Banneker Douglass Museum and the Maryland Commission on African American History & Culture (**HB1048**); and
- support for urban farmers (**HB540**).

In future sessions, I look forward to revisiting our working to improve indoor air quality in rental housing (**HB361**), increase mental health support for our university students (**The Cameron Carden Act of 2022/****HB872**), provide greater opportunities for faith based family supports (**HB982**) and reform our child support enforcement system (**HB1293**;**HB262**). Although we were not able to pass legislation this session for these important issues, I will use my time in the interim to continue to build support for these and other critical matters that impact families throughout Maryland.

In addition to transformational policy, I am excited for projects we have been able to fund, specifically in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. Continuing in the spirit of our friend, the late Speaker Mike Busch, who tirelessly fought for capital improvement projects in our community, this year's budget will bring more than \$60 million to District 30A, much of which went to capital projects you requested. This funding supports projects in all areas of our community including transportation, education, environment, housing, parks and recreation, historic preservation, and public safety. Thank you for working together with me to help bring needed resources and funding to our District.

Throughout the year, one of the great joys in our office is helping you access resources in our community. This is why we send out our bi-weekly newsletter, which is always full of amazing opportunities and resources for you. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been accessed through the programs we highlight in this newsletter as well as countless other resources and opportunities for us to serve one another.

It is my great honor to represent you as your Delegate in the Maryland General Assembly. Thank you for trusting me to be your voice. More specifics on everything listed above is available in the attached report. I can't wait to see what we accomplish next year as we continue to work together.

With Respect and Deep Appreciation,



Delegate Shaneka Henson District 30

# Session 2022 Legislative Report

## Crimes, Corrections & Public Safety

**Stalking–Criminal Definition (HB148/SB328)** alter the definition of stalking to include conduct currently defined as stalking that occurs in person, by electronic communication, or through the use of a device that can pinpoint or track the location of another without the person’s knowledge or consent.

**Stalking–Training and Prevention (SB134)** requires MPTSC to require, for entrance-level police training curriculum and minimum courses of study of the application and enforcement of the criminal laws concerning stalking as they pertain to electronic surveillance or tracking, including services available to victims, related prevention methods for victims, and how victims may request additional assistance to identify and preserve digital evidence.

**Violation of Protective Order Enforcement (HB817)** except for certain offenses, the bill prohibits a sentence imposed for a violation of a protective order from being served concurrent (together with) with a sentence for any crime based on the act establishing the violation.

**Warrant Apprehension & Absconding (SB585)** requires the Governor, for fiscal 2024 through 2026, to include each year in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$2 million for local law enforcement agencies to be used as grants for warrant apprehension efforts. The bill also modifies the definition of “absconding” as it relates to parole and probation to include leaving an inpatient residential treatment facility that an individual was placed in pursuant to a court order for drug or alcohol treatment without the permission of the administrator.

**Cannabis Legalization (HB1)** is a proposed constitutional amendment, which if approved by the voters at the next general election to be held November 8, 2022, will authorize an individual at least age 21 to use and possess cannabis in the State beginning July 1, 2023.

- **Criminal Provisions for Personal Cannabis Cultivation:** subject to approval of cannabis legalization by constitutional amendment, beginning July 1, 2023, a person age 21 or older may cultivate up to two cannabis plants.
- **Resentencing and Release:** Effective January 1, 2023, House Bill 837 authorizes a person incarcerated for a conviction related to cannabis under § 5-601 of the Criminal Law Article to apply to the court for resentencing, and the court must grant the application and resentence the person to time served. If the person is not serving another sentence, the person must be released from incarceration.
- **Expungements:** Beginning January 1, 2023, a person who is convicted of possession of cannabis under § 5-601 of the Criminal Law Article may file a petition for expungement of the conviction after the satisfactory completion of the sentence including probation (rather than the current waiting period of the later of four years after the conviction or the satisfactory completion of the sentence).

**Ghost Gun Ban (SB387/HB425)** prohibits a person from purchasing, receiving, selling, offering to sell, or transferring an unfinished frame or receiver unless it has been imprinted with a serial number by a federally licensed firearms manufacturer or federally licensed firearms importer. A violator of the provisions relating to required imprinting is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment for up to five years and/or a fine of up to \$10,000. Each violation is a separate crime.

**Firearms Dealer Security (HB1021)** prohibits a licensed firearms dealer from conducting business and storing firearms at a location unless (1) the premises on which the licensed dealer operates is equipped with specified security features or (2) outside business hours, the licensed dealer locks all firearms stored on the premises in a vault, a safe, or a room or building that meets specified requirements.

**Juvenile Justice Reform (SB691)** makes changes to the juvenile justice process by implementing the recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Reform Council. The bill, among other things, limits the circumstances under which a child is subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. It further creates a permanent Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging and Best Practices to research evidence– and research–based practices to improve child welfare, juvenile rehabilitation, mental health services for children, and prevention and intervention services for juveniles.

**Local Cybersecurity Support Act of 2022 (HB1202)** codifies the Cyber Preparedness Unit Emergency under the Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) to assist local governments to be prepared for and respond to security hack and other incidents. It requires local governments to report cyber security incidents to the local emergency manager, security operations center in DoIT, and the MD Joint Operations Center.

☞ **DELEGATE HENSON SPONSORED BILL – Office of the Public Defender - Placement and Collective Bargaining (HB90)** this legislation makes attorneys in OPD subject to specified State employee grievance procedures and collective bargaining provisions (from which they were excluded in existing law).

## **Economics & Business**

**Paid Family and Medical Leave/Time to Care Act of 2022 (SB275)** establishes the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Fund to provide up to 12 weeks of benefits to covered workers who need to take extended time away from work to care for themselves or a loved one. This will allow workers to take paid time off for events like the birth or adoption of a child, caring for an aging family member or caring for themselves during a medical emergency without having to endure hardship.

**Retirement Income and Senior Tax Credit (HB1468/SB405)** provides a nonrefundable credit against the State income tax for Marylanders who are at least age 65 and income does not exceed \$100,000 (\$150,000 if married filing jointly). The amount of the tax credit is equal to \$1,000 for an individual or if only one of the individuals filing a joint return is an eligible individual; and \$1,750 if married filing jointly and both individuals are at least age 65.

☞ **DELEGATE HENSON SPONSORED BILL – Education Support Professionals - Bonus and Report (HB1349)** in an effort to support and increase recruiting and retention of Education Support Professional (aides, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, etc.), this bill provides a \$1,000 bonus to each non-certificated education support professional, half in fiscal 2024, the remainder in fiscal 2025.

☞ **DELEGATE HENSON SPONSORED BILL – Property Tax - Exemptions for Business Personal Property – Alterations (HB274)** removes the requirement of small businesses to pay "Business Personal Property Tax" for small businesses with assets under \$20,000. In total, this bill will assist over 14,000 small businesses from filing this return with SDAT.

## **Environment**

**Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 (SB528)** this landmark legislation strengthens Maryland’s commitment to mitigating the effects of climate change by setting achievable goals to reduce greenhouse gasses and meet the goal of net-zero statewide emissions by 2045. This bill is the result of nearly a year’s worth of work and it continues to prove that Maryland is a leader when it comes to addressing climate change.

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Targets** - This bill requires Maryland to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% from 2006 levels by 2031, which is 20% greater than requirements under current law. Additionally, the state is required to achieve net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.
- **Environmental Justice** - The bill requires the MDE, in coordination with the Commission on Environmental Justice to address issues of climate equity for communities disproportionately affected by climate change and defines in law what it means to be an “overburdened” or “underserved” community. It is important to remember that these communities are distinct, diverse, and located across the state.
- **Maryland Commission on Climate Change Working Groups** - The bill also establishes four workgroups under the purview of the MCCC to help further the goals of the bill.
- **International Green Construction Code (IGCC)** - Requires the Department of Labor to adopt the 2018 version of the International Green Construction Code and ensure that each subsequent version of the code is adopted by the state within 18 months to keep Maryland in line with top green building design and performance standards.
- **Building Energy Performance Standards for Existing Buildings** - The bill requires MDE to develop building energy performance standards to achieve a 20% reduction in net direct greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net-zero direct by 2040. To help MDE develop necessary guidelines, building owners must report direct emission data to MDE each year, starting in 2025.
- **Building Energy Transition Implementation Task Force** - This task force will work to make recommendations for programs and incentives to reduce emissions from the building sector through retrofitting and electrification.

- **Public Service Commission** – extends the EmPOWER Maryland program energy savings requirement beyond 2% by requiring each electric company to procure or provide cost effective energy efficiency and conservation programs and services to customers to reach gross energy savings of 2.25% in 2025 and 2026, and 2.5% in 2027.
- **Electric Distribution System Planning** – Under this section of the bill, the PSC and MEA are required to assist utility companies in acquiring federal funds under the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act for electric grid improvement projects. This will greatly improve the quality of services provided and help improve the grid for future energy advancements.

**Zero-emission Vehicles School Buses & Electric School Bus Pilot Program (HB696)** promotes the expansion of electric school buses by requiring county boards of education to purchase electric school buses if there is available federal, state, or private funding and ensures MDE works with county boards and private school bus contractors to develop a sufficient electric school bus infrastructure. This will help improve air quality for our kids, drivers, and neighbors, improve electric grid reliability and reduce costs for ratepayers.

**Zero-emission Passenger Cars and Other Light-duty Vehicles (HB1391)** requires 100% of the passenger car state vehicle fleet to be ZEVs by 2031 and other light-duty vehicles to be ZEVs by 2036. The bill sets benchmarks for future ZEV state purchases to increase as necessary to meet the goals.

☞ **DELEGATE HENSON SPONSORED BILL** – **Agriculture-University of Maryland Extension - Urban Farmer Assistance (HB540)** this bill requires the University of Maryland Extension (UME) to hire (1) an extension agent dedicated to urban farm production methods and crop management and (2) an extension agent dedicated to urban farm and agribusiness management. Each extension agent must perform applied research and provide education for urban farmers, as specified.

## **Healthcare**

**Expanded Dental Coverage for Adults on Medicaid (HB6/SB150)** expands access to dental care by allowing adults with Medicaid to get dental coverage beginning January 1, 2023. This will expand dental coverage to the nearly 800,000 Marylanders without dental care.

☞ **DELEGATE HENSON SPONSORED BILL** – **Sales and Use Tax - Medical Devices - Exemption (HB364)** this bill exempts from the State sales and use tax the sale of the following items: (1) medical or clinical thermometers; (2) pulse oximeters; (3) blood pressure monitors; and (4) an N95, China KN95, Japan DS, Korea 1st Class, AS/NZS P2, or European FFP2 filtering facepiece respirator.

## Housing

**Require Landlords to Accept Federal Rental Assistance for Failure to Pay Rent (HB932)** requires landlords to accept a check of federal rental assistance provided by a tenant to avoid eviction. During the course of the pandemic, the state has received hundreds of millions of dollars from the federal government through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) which has helped Marylanders pay their rent during these difficult times. This bill clarifies existing law by specifically stating that a landlord must accept ERAP funds to stop an eviction just like any other allowed payment method.

**Require All Licensure from Landlords in Failure to Pay Rent Cases (HB174)** allows a tenant to make it an issue of fact at trial whether a landlord is in compliance with lead paint certification.

**Tenant Protection Act (HB 86/SB6)** increases protections for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking in lease terminations. It also improves transparency in utility costs when they are passed on to tenants and security deposit disbursement at the end of a lease.

**Housing and Community Development - Affordable Housing - Excess Real Property (SB744/HB927)** requires that, not later than 60 days after receiving a certain surplus property notice from the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), DHCD must, in consultation with the unit of State government that controls the property, determine if the property is suitable for use or redevelopment as affordable housing. If so they must develop a proposal to donate or sell the property to certain individuals who contract to buy or use the property as affordable housing. Separately, the bills require the Comptroller, after making the required distributions for paying income tax refunds and for costs generally related to administering the income tax laws, to distribute \$30 million in personal income tax revenue to the Rental Housing Fund within DHCD by June 30, 2022.

**Department of Housing and Community Development Funding** Several significant budget actions pertaining to DHCD are included in the fiscal 2023 budget bill. The Homeowner Assistance Fund receives \$100.0 million, Neighborhood Revitalization receives \$20.0 million, and \$50.7 million is provided for Emergency Rental Assistance in fiscal 2023. Rental Housing Programs – Capital Region also receives \$50.0 million for fiscal 2023 to supplement the \$67.5 million pay-as-you-go appropriation (and an additional \$30.0 million is provided to the Rental Housing Fund under SB744). DHCD also receives \$171.2 million as part of American Rescue Act’s funding to support broadband. Lastly, DHCD receives \$42.0 million to support homeownership programs, an increase from the \$26.0 million received in fiscal 2022.

## Childcare

**Child Care Stabilization and Child Care Expansion Grant Programs (HB89)** prioritizes family child care providers and providers most in need for the State’s \$50 million stabilization grant. This legislation will allow family child care providers and providers most in need a better opportunity to take advantage of the grant this fiscal year.

**Establishes the Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund (HB993)** creates a \$35 million revolving loan fund available to child care providers participating in the scholarship program. The loans will be at no interest and can be used for expansion, new construction/acquisition, and renovations of childcare facilities.

**Child Care Scholarship Program Improvements (HB995)** improves the child care scholarship program so that students on the edge of eligibility can be automatically enrolled and allows child care providers participating in the program to receive their payments faster.

**Bonuses for Child Care Providers and Employees (HB1100)** fences off \$16 million in the budget for child care providers to use for employee retention and new hire bonuses.

## **Veterans**

**Purple Star School Program (HB277/SB234)** establishes the Purple Star Schools Program. This will provide students from military families with better support and stability when they have to change schools. The Purple Star Schools Program is administered by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and recognizes public schools that provide strong services and support for military-connected students and their families when students transfer schools as a result of a parent or guardian's military service.

**Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury Alternative Therapies Fund - Establishment (David Perez Military Heroes Act (End 22 a Day)) (SB709)** establishes the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury Alternative Therapies Fund to support MDH in studying the effectiveness of and improving access to alternative therapies for post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries in veterans.

**Commission to Establish a Maryland Women Veterans Memorial (HB167)** establishes the Commission to Establish a Maryland Women Veterans Memorial to study establishing a memorial dedicated to Maryland women veterans.



## FY2023 State Operating & Capital Budget

The State’s FY 23 Operating Budget passed with a record \$2.4B in the Rainy Day Fund for emergencies and provides more than \$650M to fund the General Assembly’s legislative priorities like education, support for Marylanders with the greatest need, employee benefits and cost of living increases for state employees.

**☐ DELEGATE HENSON SPONSORED BILL – Commission on African American History and Culture – Alterations (The Senator Verda Welcome Act) (HB1048)** this bill makes the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) an independent unit in the Executive Branch of State government, rather than a part of the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI) and increases the Commission's operating budget and other budgeted aid increases the Commission’s capital budget.

This year’s capital budget is one of the largest in State history. Working with the Administration to target spending toward one-time infrastructure investment, the capital budget provides \$1.5 billion in funding for our most important priorities, including \$50.0 million for legislative bond initiatives. The General Assembly also preauthorized funding for nearly \$600 million for projects in future years.

### District 30A Funding Highlights

<b>Education</b>	
Children’s Theatre of Annapolis – Annex Renovation and Expansion	\$300,000
Bates Middle School	\$13,089,600
The Summit School	\$500,000
Monarch Academy	\$325,000
Annapolis Middle School Athletic Facility	\$100,000
<b>Healthcare</b>	
Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center – Hybrid Operating Room	\$600,000
State Aid through Local Health Grants	\$5,800,000
<b>Transportation &amp; Environment</b>	
Annapolis Overhead Utilities Undergrounding	\$500,000
Hillsmere Shores Marsh Creation	\$109,000
Annapolis Maritime Museum	\$150,000
City of Annapolis (transportation aid)	\$1,700,000

<b>Housing &amp; Shelter</b>	
Langton Green	\$100,000
Newtowne Community Resource Center (HACA)	\$1,500,000
Wellness House of Annapolis	\$200,000
Woodside Gardens Apartments	\$100,000
YWCA Trafficking Safe House	\$1,350,000
<b>Parks/Recreation &amp; Culture</b>	
Acton's Cove Park	\$100,000
Annapolis City Dock	\$1,200,000
Anne Arundel County Local Parks & Playgrounds	\$5,350,000
Blacks of the Chesapeake – Carr's & Elktonia Beach Acquisition	\$1,200,000
Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park Anne	\$25,500,000
Dr. Mary Church Terrell Pavilion	\$125,000
Rise and Shine Bakery	\$100,000
SPCA of Anne Arundel County	\$100,000
Stanton Community Center Renovation	\$600,000
Truxton Park Improvements	\$700,000
Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse	\$150,000
<b>Preservation</b>	
Ancient City Lodge No. 175 (Elks)	\$100,000
Historic Annapolis Restoration Anne Arundel	\$3,000,000
Hammond-Harwood House Preservation/Improvements	\$75,000
Universal Lodge No. 14	\$100,000
<b>Public Safety</b>	
Maryland State Police Barracks J Communications Room & Garage	\$232,000
State Aid for Local Police (AACO & Annapolis)	\$9,074,472

For more information, check out our 90 Day Report, A Review of the 2022 Legislative Session  
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/LegisLegal/2022rs-90-day-report.pdf>