

OBIE PATTERSON
Legislative District 26
Prince George's County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Dear Residents of the 26th Legislative District,

The attached report focuses on a few major statewide issues that came before the 2019 Session of the Maryland General Assembly. It contains summations of issues provided by the Senate Leadership Team; President of the Senate Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President Pro Tem Katherine Klausmeier, Majority Leader Guy Guzzone and Democratic Caucus Chair Jim Rosapepe.

This report reflects only a small portion of the hard work of both the Senate and House members. It demonstrates the willingness to come together, to work together, for the betterment of our State. I'd like to think that our budget this year is a budget of heart by ensuring that those programs needing help the most were well served.

This was one busy year! My committee, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs (EHE) received over 500 Bills; most of us could hardly wait for "Sine Die" the final adjournment. Nevertheless, it was a great honor to serve as one of the 47 Senators for our State. In addition to serving as a member of the EHE Committee and the Alcohol and Education Subcommittee, I serve as Deputy Majority Whip, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight and Vice Chair of the Prince George's Senate Delegation.

I expect to shortly open a District Office in Fort Washington. Delegate Veronica Turner will share the space with me. We're in the final stages so look for the official Opening Day information to be released in May.

In closing I want to say **Thanks** to all of you; for your prayers, letters, emails, calls, text messages and just your outpouring of Love. It is a privilege and honor to represent you and 26th District in Annapolis.

Respectfully,

Obie Patterson

Senator Obie Patterson

General Overview of Statewide Key Legislation

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan Commission)

Senate Bill 1030/House Bill 1413 is a piece of legislation considered to be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to modernize Maryland's outdated school funding formulas. The Blueprint will be costly but as each piece of the Blueprint is implemented, the state's education system takes giant leaps forward. To fund the initial recommendations of the Kirwan Commission, the General Assembly set aside \$225 million dollars. This funding includes:

- \$75.0 million for teacher salaries
- \$65.5 million for special education grants
- \$54.6 million for low-income jurisdictions
- \$31.7 million for pre-kindergarten programs
- \$23.0 million for tutoring services
- \$2.50 million for teacher training
- \$2.00 million for more guidance counselors

Companion legislation of Senate Bill 1030, mandated \$355 million in funding in fiscal year 21, \$500 million in fiscal year 22, with \$130 million of that funding contingent upon additional revenue legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2019 and 2020.

Protecting Obamacare in Maryland

Senate Bill 802/House Bill 814 created a check box on state income forms that allows the state's healthcare exchange to determine if an uninsured individual qualifies for free or low-cost health insurance. Senate Bill 239/House Bill 258 extends to 2023, a 1% fee placed on Maryland insurance companies to stabilize the Affordable Care Act and helps to keep premium costs down. Senate Bill 868 keeps the protections currently guaranteed by Obamacare in Maryland law.

Keeping Prescription Drugs Affordable

Senate Bill 759/House Bill 768 created the Prescription Drug Affordability Board to review the cost of prescription drugs and increases in their prices. Additionally, this Board will look for the best ways to bring down costs and will have the power to recommend upper level payment limits.

Clean Energy Jobs [Senator Patterson, Co-sponsor]

Senate Bill 516/House Bill 1158 increases job opportunities as it creates some 20,000 new jobs within the wind and solar energy growing and evolving field. The wages for these jobs will be "family sustainable". This bill will reduce Maryland's reliance on fossil fuels.

Reducing Childcare Cost [Senator Patterson, Co-sponsor]

Senate Bill 870/House Bill 810 increased funding for the Maryland Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and expands income eligibility. Prior to this legislation, income eligibility was set at \$50,000 or less. Now single tax filers making up to \$92,000 per year and married filers making \$143,000 per year are eligible.

Raising Minimum Wage [Senator Patterson, Co-sponsor]

Senate Bill 280/House Bill 166 will gradually increase Maryland’s minimum wage to \$15 per hour by January 1, 2025, for employers with 15 employees or more. The gradual increase for employers with 15 or more employees is as follows:

1/1/2020	\$11.00	1/1/2021	\$11.75	1/1/2022	\$12.50
1/1/2023	\$13.25	1/1/2024	\$14.00	1/1/2025	\$15.00

Local Key Legislation

Intern/Apprentice Jobs

Senate Bill 754/House Bill 1266 establishes a National Capital Strategic Economic Development Program to provide investment in local housing and businesses focused on areas of impact and need of revitalization in Prince George’s County, particularly the 26th District. I was able to amend the bill to ensure a strong emphasis was placed on Intern and Apprentice jobs for Career Technical students.

Illegal Disposal of Bulk Items

House Bill 1155/The Prince George’s County Delegation This legislation for a “Clean County” authorizes the governing body of the County to adopt an ordinance to prohibit disposing of a bulky item on a highway or on public or private property and assess penalties.

New Home Drainage Defect

Senate Bill 1015/House Bill 219/The Prince George’s County Delegation This legislation requires the governing body of Prince George’s County to establish a program for the correction of drainage defects in new homes in the County. This legislation further requires that the County complete a written evaluation of the defect and collect data on homebuilders who have built homes with drainage defects.

Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 210

House Bill 187/The Prince George’s County Delegation This legislation, introduced by Delegate Valderrama, granted an increase to the number of speed cameras allowed to be placed on Maryland Route 210. I was happy to champion this legislation within the Senate and presented the bill to the full Senate floor for a favorable vote.

Daily Physical Activity - Student Health and Fitness Act

House Bill 110 This piece of legislation was sponsored by Delegate Walker and requires physical education to be provided in each public school beginning with pre-kindergarten through grade 12. I supported this bill through my Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee and on the Senate floor to a favorable vote.

Legislation Sponsored and Cross Filed by Senator Patterson

Prince George’s County-Video Lottery Terminals-Distribution of Local Impact Grants

Senate Bill 562/House Bill 458 requires that funds from the Video Lottery Terminals (VLT), provided to Prince George’s County, are to be used for public safety projects in the community and at least \$120,000 shall be distributed to the Town of Forest Heights.

Zoning-Special Exceptions-Construction or Operation of Landfills

Senate Bill 563/House Bill 1419 requires upon application by a property owner for a certain special exception to construct or operate a landfill to prepare an environmental justice analysis. The justice analysis must include specific descriptions and assessments and is required by the local governing body. This bill did not make the cut pursuant to Sine Die.

Health Occupations-Practice of Optometry-Therapeutically Certified Optometrists

Senate Bill 565/House Bill 835 intended to increase the number of training hours that therapeutically certified optometrists must attend as part of the continuing education requirement and prohibited the optometric use of certain pharmaceutical agents, devices or technologies. This legislation was merged into Senate Bill 447 creating a compromise by all concerned parties. The legislation had full support of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee as amended.

Privacy in Real Estate Transactions

Senate Bill 807/House Bill 1228 alters the current continuing education program of the State Real Estate Commission to include brokerage relationships and disclosures. This legislation prohibits licensees from disclosing confidential information obtained in anticipation of establishing a brokerage relationship without written consent.

Video Lottery Terminals – Minority Business Participation Goals – Enforcement and Reporting

Senate Bill 421 Sponsored by Senator Benson, this legislation requires construction related to video lottery terminals and procurement related to the operation, purchase or ongoing servicing of video lottery terminals, to meet the minority business participation requirements of the County to the extent possible, in instances where the County requirements are greater than those of the State.

Assisted Listening System Requirements

Senate Bill 1014/House Bill 1192 requires specific recipients of State funds to install assistive listening systems in assembly areas during construction or renovation projects where a public addressing system will be used. Furthermore, this legislation allows for a waiver process and the establishment of a Hearing Accessibility Advisory Board.

New Homes Drainage Defects

Senate Bill 1015/House Bill 219/The Prince George's County Delegation 408-19 issued legislation requiring the County to establish a program that collects and evaluates complaints of drainage defects. The County would also collect data on home builders who have built homes with drainage defects.

Education-Voluntary Ethical Special Education Advocate Certificate Program

Senate Bill 1016 calls upon the State Department of Education to establish a Voluntary Ethical Special Education Advocate Certificate Program by July 1, 2020, specifying qualifications and application procedures. The Department will issue the certificates and permit applicants to petition, for judicial review, decisions of the Department relative to the issuance or renewing of certificates.

Legislation Statistics

Total Bills Sponsored by Senator Patterson 10

Total Bill Co-Sponsored by Senator Patterson 77

For additional legislative information visit: **Hold CTRL and Click on link below**

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frm1st.aspx?tab=home>

Key Capital Funding Projects in District 26

Project Name	Funding Amount
Camp Springs Elks Lodge No. 2332	\$25,000
Forest Heights Safe Route to School Project	\$125,000
Prince George’s County Public Schools Marquee Signs	\$105,000

Capital Budget Adoption

Capital Projects	Grant Amount
Crossland HS Athletic Facility Improvement Bleachers	\$300,000
Crossland HS Athletic Facility Improvement Turf Field (Part of a group submission of 4 Schools)	GRANT