Presentation Overview

• Overview of the 2014 Legislative Session
• The Process: how does a bill become a law?
• Your Involvement
  o How to track bills on the Maryland General Assembly website
  o Who should you talk to?
    • Committees
    • Individual legislators
  o Additional advocacy opportunities
• Relevant legislation
• Conclusion
The 2014 Legislative Session

- Jan. 8 to April 7, 2014 (90 days)
- Jan. 21: bills should be requested by legislators by this date
- Jan. 31: introduction deadline for Senate
- Feb. 7: introduction deadline for House
- Feb. 17: Nurses Lobby Night in Annapolis
- Mar. 3: last day bills can be introduced without suspension of the rules
- Mar. 24: crossover deadline
- April 7: adjournment

- May 27: governor must sign or veto bills by this date
- Oct. 1: effective date for most non-finance bills

During the 2013 session, 2,610 bills were introduced, 766 passed.
The Process

- Legislator introduces a bill
- Bill is assigned to a committee for review
- Committee hearing open to the public
- Committee vote: favorable (with or without amendments), unfavorable, or without recommendation
- Second reading: open to amendment from the floor
- 3rd reading: floor vote
- If passed at 3rd reading in one chamber, goes to second chamber
- REPEAT PROCESS
- If passed at 3rd reading in second chamber, considered again in first chamber
- If accepted, sent to Governor for signature
Your Involvement

- Legislators will likely have introduced the majority of legislation before Lobby Day.

- Use the Maryland General Assembly website to keep track of legislation that is relevant to your interests.
  - Google search: “Maryland General Assembly”
  - mgaleg.maryland.gov

- Individuals or groups can discuss legislation with legislators or their staff.

- Individuals and organizations can submit written or oral testimony for a committee hearing.
Tracking Bills: Option 1

Sign up for email alerts:
Tracking Bills: Option 2

Track Bills Manually:

[Image of a web interface for tracking bills]

- **Number:** H860
- **Sponsor:**
- **Broad Subjects:** (File Code)
- **Narrow Subjects:** (One or Two)
- **Browse Subject Thesaurus:**
- **Committee:**
- **Statute Affected:**
- **Legislation List:**

[Options for changing session: 2013 Regular Session]
Tracking Bills: Option 2

Track Bills Manually: (continued)
Committee Information

- When tracking bills, note which committees the bills are assigned to.
- Look up committee information on the General Assembly website:

![Committee List](image)

**Senate Standing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Vice Chair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget and Taxation</td>
<td>Kaseemeyer, Edward J.</td>
<td>McFadden, Nathaniel J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</td>
<td>Conway, Joan Carter</td>
<td>Dyson, Roy P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Nominations</td>
<td>Kelley, Debroes G.</td>
<td>DeGrange, James E., Sr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Waddell, Thomas W.</td>
<td>Axte, John C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Proceedings</td>
<td>Fink, Ervin E.</td>
<td>Gladson, Lisa A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules</td>
<td>Klausner, Katherine</td>
<td>Fink, Ervin E.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**House Standing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Vice Chair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appropriations</td>
<td>Conway, Norman H.</td>
<td>Proctor, James E., Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Matters</td>
<td>Davis, Derek E.</td>
<td>Rudolph, David D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Matters</td>
<td>McIntosh, Magpie</td>
<td>Malone, James E., Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Government Operations</td>
<td>Hamm, Peter A.</td>
<td>Pendergrass, Shane E.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rules and Executive Nominations</td>
<td>Hiti, Anne</td>
<td>Walker, Jay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judiciary</td>
<td>Vallario, Joseph F., Jr.</td>
<td>Damalis, Kathleen M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ways and Means</td>
<td>Hixon, Sheila E.</td>
<td>Tumor, Frank S.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Environmental Affairs**

- Chair: Senator Joan Carter Conway
- Vice Chair: Senator Roy P. Dyson
- Address: 2 West Miller Senate Building, Annapolis, MD 21401
- Phone Number(s): 410-841-3661, 301-856-3661
- Fax: 301-856-3722 ext. 3661
- Contact: Online
- Staff: Dept. of Legislative Services, Sara C. Rider and Ryane M. Necessary, Assistant to Chair: Lauren Dugas Glover
- Subcommittee(s): Alcoholic Beverages Subcommittee
Finding Your Legislators

Search for your legislators:
Input your address and zip code for a list of your elected officials:
Additional Advocacy

• Talk with your legislators:
  o Visit them in Annapolis
  o Call them or send a letter

• Give Testimony (make sure you follow the rules)
  o Testify at a committee hearing
    • Deadline
    • Duration
  o Submit written testimony
    • Number of copies
    • Deadline
HB 294: Law Enforcement Officers Entrance-Level and Annual Training Requirements (Christopher’s Law)

- The current law establishes standards and requirements for entrance-level and annual in-service officer training.
- HB 294 would amend “Christopher’s Law” to include provisions that require police officer training in:
  - Lifesaving techniques including CPR
  - The proper level and use of force
  - Sensitivity to cultural and gender diversity
  - Individuals with physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities
  - Proper use of electronic control devices (if issued)

Hearing: Judiciary, Feb. 4, 2014
HB 179: Adult Public Guardianship Review Board

- Changes the membership of an adult guardianship review board.
- Current law: Of the 11 member review committee:
  - In counties other than St. Mary’s, “2 shall be physicians, including 1 psychiatrist from a local health department that employs psychiatrists”
  - In St. Mary’s County, “one shall be a physician other than a psychiatrist; and “1 shall be a psychiatrist or psychologist”
- Proposed change:
  - 1 shall be a physician’s assistant, nurse practitioner, or physician who is not a psychiatrist, and
  - 1 shall be a psychiatrist (or a psychologist if in St. Mary’s County)

Hearing: Judiciary, Jan. 30, 2014
Relevant Legislation

**HB 152/SB 303: Creation of a State Debt—Montgomery County—Intergenerational Center Expansion**
- Authorizes the Board of Public Works to take out a loan on behalf of the State to fund the expansion of the Center.
- Easter Seals’ Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Inter-Generational Center is a “shared site” for children and seniors with disabilities and their families.

**Hearing**: House Appropriations, Senate Budget and Taxation

**SB 103: Public Health Programs for Children—Renaming and Modernization**
- Replaces “hearing-impaired infants” and similar language with “infants with hearing loss” and similar language within what is currently the Program for Hearing–Impaired Infants.
- Renames the program: “Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program”.

**Hearing**: favorably reported by Finance
Relevant Legislation

**Senate Bill 177: Crimes—Elder Abuse or Neglect—Increased Penalties**

- Applies to “vulnerable adults.” Under current Maryland law, a “vulnerable adult” is “an adult who lacks the physical or mental capacity to provide for the adult’s daily needs.” (MD Criminal Law 3-604(a)(10); COMAR 07.02.16.02.B.(21)).
- Any person who has permanent or temporary care or responsibility for the supervision of a vulnerable adult, or a household or family member of a vulnerable adult may not cause abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult that:
  - Results in death,
  - Causes serious physical injury, or
  - Involves sexual abuse of the vulnerable adult
- Felony cases: imprisonment and **fine max. doubled** to 20 yr., $20,000, or both
- Misdemeanor cases: doubled to max. of 10 yr., $10,000, or both

Hearing: Judicial Proceedings, Feb. 12, 2014
Relevant Legislation

**SB 120: Education—Children with Disabilities—Parent Surrogates**

- Concerns children eligible to receive educational services under IDEA and applicable State laws and regulations
- Adds the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to the list of public agencies required to request the appointment of a parent surrogate when it is suspected that the child is disabled, and if, the child is:
  - a ward of the State,
  - unaccompanied homeless youth,
  - the parents are otherwise unavailable, and if
  - the child’s rights have not been transferred back to them.

**Hearing:** favorably reported by Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
A good compromise, a good piece of legislation, is like a good sentence; or a good piece of music. Everybody can recognize it. They say, 'Huh. It works. It makes sense.'

- Barack Obama

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

• Maryland General Assembly Website: http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/

• The Legislative Process PDF: http://dls.state.md.us/data/libandinfser/libandinfser_docandpub/Legislative-Process.pdf
Contact Information

Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD):

- Maureen van Stone, Esq., M.S.: Associate Director, MCDD: vanstone@kennedykrieger.org
- Viola Woolums: Spring 2014 Legislative Extern: vwoolums@umaryland.edu
Questions?