

The Maryland General Assembly adjourned on Wednesday, March 18, nearly three weeks earlier than planned, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While this shortened session posed a serious challenge to getting legislation through the General Assembly, Senator Bailey secured State funding for important projects in District 29 in the Operating and Capital Budgets.

Included among the most notable items in the budget are the Third Building at USMSM, Historic St. Mary's City, the Calvert Marine Museum, the Regional Agricultural Center planned in Charlotte Hall, Chopticon High School's stadium press box, restorations for Historic Sotterley Plantation, and renovations to the St. Mary's County Detention Center. The Senator also worked to ensure funding was included in the budget to be dedicated to study the feasibility of a future behavioral health crisis center in Southern Maryland. Additionally, as the Chair of the Southern Maryland Senate Delegation, Senator Bailey also supported bills which increase funding for the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland and streamline the budget process for the College of Southern Maryland.

The successes of this year were due, in part, to the District 29 Reception that was sponsored by Senator Bailey and the three Delegates who represent the District held in Annapolis in January. This gave organizations and institutions from throughout St. Mary's and Calvert Counties the opportunity to meet with members of the General Assembly from all parts of Maryland and show their importance to our State as a whole.

The Senator continues to work with members of Governor Hogan's cabinet on transportation issues to support the Charlotte Hall Veterans' Home as well as plans for the Thomas Johnson Bridge replacement and grant applications that would support the bypass project for Great Mills Road. During this session, the Senator also met with representatives from the Kennedy Krieger Institute to discuss our local needs and inquired on the best approach to begin the process of having a school built in Southern Maryland that would support children with special needs without them having to travel several hours each day to Baltimore.

Sponsored Legislation - Senator Bailey is proud to have passed six bills before the early adjournment. The below legislation will soon be presented to the Governor for his signature:

Senate Bill 242 - Natural Resources - Wild Waterfowl Policy – Repeal removes obsolete provisions of Maryland law regarding the issuance of a license to feed wild waterfowl. The current law has only served to confuse the public and those police officers who attempt to enforce it; Senate Bill 242 will end this confusion.

Senate Bill 261 - St. Mary's County - Public Facilities Bond authorizes the St. Mary's County Commissioners to borrow money to finance the construction, improvement, or development of public facilities in St. Mary's County.

Senate Bill 343 – Calvert County - Public Facilities Bond authorizes the Calvert County Commissioners to borrow money to finance the construction, improvement, or development of public facilities in Calvert County.

Senate Bill 510 - Natural Resources - Commercial Fishing - Use of Haul Seines authorizes a person, if a haul seine is fished on a Friday, to empty that haul seine during the period from 12:01 a.m. on the following Saturday until sunrise on the following Monday. This law will protect non-targeted species of fish, including threatened or endangered species or fish caught out of season, by releasing them on Saturday morning. Under current law, a waterman cannot release any fish that are caught in the net, including non-targeted species, until Monday.

Senate Bill 882 - Recreational Striped Bass Fishery - Study on Harvest Data requires the Department of Natural Resources to conduct a study on methods of obtaining more accurate harvest data for the recreational striped bass fishery. As many recreational anglers are aware, this legislation is important to accurately record the number of striped bass caught in the Chesapeake Bay. Decisions about fishing limits for striped bass were made based off of outdated and limited recreational data that includes a significant amount of error. This bill is an effort to improve the accuracy of this data so that, moving forward, everyone is working for a sustainable fishery. This was a priority of the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus.

Senate Bill 1025 - Task Force on Fishing License Penalties establishes a task force to study and make recommendations on fishing license penalty reciprocity between Maryland and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC). Senator Bailey is confident that this task force will help the PRFC close a longstanding loophole and come up with and implement sound policies so we can protect our natural resources that are so vulnerable to poaching by individuals who have had their fishing licenses suspended or revoked elsewhere.

Accomplishments - In addition to his bills that were passed, other bills proposed by Senator Bailey have been implemented, either through other legislation or administrative action.

Senate Bill 257 - Fishing Gear - Lost and Abandoned Crab Pots – Study would have required the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission to study the impacts to fish species and aquatic habitat caused by lost and abandoned crab pots and identify ways to mitigate the problems associated with these pots. While this bill did not pass, the Department of Natural Resources advises that they have “directed the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission to provide advice and recommendations on lost and abandoned crab pots specifically in line with the criteria included in Senate Bill 257.” Upon completion of the study, Senator Bailey plans to review their findings to see if legislation is necessary next year.

Senate Bill 321 - Policing Authority - Comptroller's Office and Alcohol and Tobacco Commission would have given officers of the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission full policing powers under Maryland law. A similar bill that Senator Bailey co-sponsored, Senate Bill 911, has the same effect; this bill passed the General Assembly.

Senate Bill 1061 - St. Mary's County - Transfer Tax - Sunset Extension was introduced to keep the St. Mary's County Transfer Tax in effect until 2024. Failure to extend this tax, which was scheduled to expire in July, would have resulted in a loss of over \$6 million in revenue that goes

towards capital projects in the County. House Bill 414 included identical provisions and passed with the Senator's support.

Senator Bailey also worked on several issues that, while not resulting in legislation being passed at this time, significantly progressed over the course of the Session:

Senate Bill 243 - Natural Resources - Sunday Hunting - Migratory Game Birds was withdrawn after Senator Bailey reached an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources to convene members of the hunting community as well as opponents of this legislation with the intent of reaching a compromise that could be put into law next year.

Senate Bill 880 - Firearms - Dealer's License and Handgun Permit - Notice of Expiration would have ensured that all holders of these licenses and permits would be notified before the expiration of the license or permit. While this bill did not become law, Senator Bailey had conversations with representatives of the Maryland State Police who have assured him that they in the process of implementing a new system that will address this issue. Senator Bailey will continue these discussions with the State Police to follow the implementation of this system.

Straight-Walled Rifle Cartridges – Senator Bailey has heard from many of Maryland's hunters in support of allowing the use of straight-walled rifle cartridges in Maryland. The Senator has worked on this issue with the Department of Natural Resources, which is currently drafting regulations which will hopefully be in place by this fall to allow use of these cartridges.

Local Legislation - In addition to his bills, Senator Bailey worked in the final days of the Session to secure passage of ten bills that are specific to St. Mary's or Calvert Counties that were requested by our local governments or our local communities:

St. Mary's County

House Bill 89 - St. Mary's County - Emergency Snow Routes – Authority

House Bill 90 - St. Mary's County - Agricultural Land Preservation Program - Installment Purchase Agreements – Repeal

House Bill 121 - St. Mary's County – Metropolitan Commission – Collection of Fees, Assessments, and Nonsubstantive and Clarifying Revisions

House Bill 155 - St. Mary's County - Emergency Services Tax Revenue - Authorized Use

House Bill 176 - St. Mary's County Open Meetings Act - Closed Sessions

House Bill 414 - St. Mary's County Open Meetings Act - Closed Sessions

House Bill 440 - St. Mary's County Open Meetings Act - Public Agencies and Use of New Technology

Calvert County

House Bill 1060 - Calvert County - Speed Limits – Establishment

House Bill 1479 - Calvert County - Subdivision Plats - Stormwater Management Easements

House Bill 1556 - Calvert County - Procurement - Contract Renewal

Future Legislative Agenda - Like many other legislators, Senator Bailey also had a number of bills that were not successful, some due in part to the shortened timeframe of the Session, including:

Senate Bill 241 - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Applicability

Senate Bill 258 - Public and Nonpublic Schools – Electric Retractable Room Partitions – Operation Requirements

Senate Bill 259 - Criminal Law - Crime of Violence – Definition

Senate Bill 303 - Property Tax Credit – Public Safety Officer – Definition and Limitation on Credit Amount

Senate Bill 319 - Vehicle Laws - Move Over Safety Monitoring System – Authorization

Senate Bill 320 - Criminal Procedure - Sexual Offenders - Lifetime Supervision

Senate Bill 508 - St. Mary's County - Possession of Tobacco Product or Electronic Smoking Device by an Individual Under the Age of 21 Years – Prohibition

Senate Bill 710 - Health - General - Prescription Drug Monitoring Program - County Health Officer

Senate Bill 711 - Aquaculture – Water Column Leases – Conflict Resolution

Senate Bill 881 - Firearms - Handgun Qualification License - Firearms Safety Training

Senate Bill 930 - Natural Resources - Resident Canada Geese - Restrictions on Shooting in Charles County

The Senator will continue to work on these bills in the interim and hopes to reintroduce several of them next year as he continues to work for District 29 in Annapolis.