

The General Assembly passed nearly 700 bills during this shortened Session. Here is a summary of some of the most notable:

Budget - Senate Bill 190 fulfilled the General Assembly's Constitutional requirement to pass a balanced budget. This budget constrained growth in general fund spending to 0.4% while providing increased funding for our State's schools and \$10 million in funds to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic, among other legislative priorities. Senator Bailey voted for this fiscally responsible budget.

Education - House Bill 1300 "The Blueprint for Maryland's Future" implements the final recommendations of the Kirwan Commission, which has been studying changes to Maryland's educational system for several years. Throughout the process, Senator Bailey focused on needed improvements in classroom discipline, which is and remains one of the missing pieces of improving our education system. While the final bill makes some strides in improving the behavioral health of students, it does not address the problems caused right now to all students by a few who are disruptive to the classroom learning environment.

The Senator was honored to have worked with colleagues from both parties in an effort to improve the bill. However, these efforts were curtailed by the expedited process that was late in beginning, as the text was not introduced until about a month into the Legislative Session.

Senator Bailey does not believe that this is the appropriate time or that we are in a suitable economic situation to pass such a significant spending increase that will force Marylanders to pay higher taxes in this time of true uncertainty. The Senator also could not in good conscience vote for this increased spending plan because he will not support the tax increases required to pay for it, which would negatively impact many of his constituents. Senator Bailey will continue to work to ensure accountability in education and improve the classroom environment for all Maryland students and teachers.

Taxes - The General Assembly passed two bills which will raise taxes in order to pay for part of the new spending required by The Blueprint for Maryland's Future. **House Bill 732** increases the taxes imposed on cigarettes, electronic smoking devices, and other tobacco products. This bill also imposes a new tax on the gross revenue of digital advertising on platforms such as Google and Facebook – taxes which will almost certainly be passed on to the Marylanders buying these ads. **House Bill 932** expands Maryland's sales tax to digital products such as e-books and streaming services. Senator Bailey does not believe that our State government should be increasing taxes on our residents, particularly during this time of economic uncertainty, therefore he voted against both pieces of legislation.

Rather than raising taxes, Senator Bailey believes that Maryland's government should be reducing taxes through bills such as Governor Hogan's Retirement Tax Reduction Act of 2020, which would have substantially lowered the tax burden on Maryland's retirees. This was one of

several bills introduced by Governor Hogan that Senator Bailey co-sponsored; unfortunately, this legislation did not advance in the General Assembly this session.

Senator Bailey is proud to have voted for an important bill to provide tax relief to the aviation industry, which is vital to District 29. **Senate Bill 121** will provide an exemption from the sales and use tax for materials, parts, and equipment used to repair, maintain, or upgrade aircraft.

Crime - Like many Marylanders, the Senator is extremely concerned about crime in our State, particularly in Baltimore City. This is why he supported several bills relating to combating crime and co-sponsored Governor Hogan's package of crime bills that included imposing stricter sentences on repeat violent offenders. While Senator Bailey voted for **Senate Bill 35**, which included some parts of the Governor's Violent Firearms Offender Act of 2020, this bill did not pass the House of Delegates before adjournment.

In the final days of the Session, Senator Bailey joined with other Senators to defeat **Senate Bill 649**, which would have limited the ability for Maryland's government to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. As a retired law enforcement officer, the Senator knows how important it is for public safety agencies at all levels of government to cooperate to keep dangerous individuals out of our communities. Senator Bailey opposes this bill and opposes any effort to make Maryland a sanctuary state for illegal immigrants.

House Bill 4/Senate Bill 208 requires a background check for secondary sales, rentals, and transfers of rifles and shotguns. The Senator has checked thousands of hunters and sportsmen who utilized long guns in his 30 year law enforcement career, and he opposed this legislation because it will not have any meaningful impact on crime in Maryland. Senator Bailey was successful in adding an amendment to the bill to protect the Second Amendment rights of his Amish and Traditional Mennonite Constituents who are unable to undergo background checks because their religious belief against taking pictures prevents them from having photo identification.

Health - The General Assembly passed two bills to assist the Governor in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. **Senate Bill 1079** authorizes the Governor, if needed, to spend up to \$50 million from the State's Rainy Day Fund for costs associated with the outbreak. **Senate Bill 1080** establishes protections for individuals during the state of emergency by empowering the Governor to prohibit cost-sharing by insurance companies for testing and a potential vaccine for the virus and protect employees who must be isolated or quarantined from losing their jobs, and allow the Secretary of Labor to allow workers whose employers have closed or who are quarantined or are caring for a family member who is quarantined to collect unemployment benefits. This bill also prohibits price gouging on essential supplies by retailers. Senator Bailey voted for both of these bills in order to provide Governor Hogan the tools that he needs to combat this public health crisis and protect our citizens.

Senator Bailey also voted to support **Senate Bill 402**, which will expand the ability of doctors to provide telehealth services to Marylanders. This is important legislation that broadens access to health care, particularly for residents living in rural areas of the State.

Military and Veterans - **House Bill 596** expands eligibility for multiple college scholarships available to veterans, public safety officers, and their families. The bill expands eligibility to the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarships, which is for public safety personnel and their dependents. The bill also extends the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarships program, which is for these veterans, their spouses, and their children, until 2030; the program was set to expire this year. This was one of several initiatives Senator Bailey supported this year to help our military, our first responders, and their families.

Senate Bill 280 makes it easier for military families and veterans who hold an occupational license to work in Maryland by recognizing licenses held in other states. Senator Bailey co-sponsored this legislation to ease this regulatory burden on our military families.

If you are interested in taking a look at all of the legislation that passed the General Assembly, a list is available [here](#).