

Issues of Local Significance

Senate Bill 316 (2024) – Motor Vehicle Registration – Exceptions for Golf Carts –

Authorization allowed counties and municipalities to designate roadways under their jurisdiction that an individual can operate a golf cart. This authority had been a priority of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County for several years prior to this bill's passage.

Senate Bill 429 (2024) – Corporations and Associations – Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of

Washington codified provisions of State law governing the organization of the Diocese in Maryland at their request. This applies to the Episcopal Churches that are located in St. Mary's and Charles Counties.

House Bill 805 (2024) – Cannabis – Licensee Locations – Restrictions included provisions altering a portion of the State's 2023 cannabis legalization law that exempted certain cannabis facilities from needing to be approved by a county or municipal zoning board. These provisions are based on and accomplish the same goal as Senate Bill 158 (2024), which Senator Bailey introduced in response to the concerns of the residents of the 7th District regarding the potential major expansion of the cannabis facility being built in the Critical Area in Abell. This legislation includes other revisions to the zoning provisions in last year's cannabis reform bill, including ensuring that local governments have flexibility to establish distance limitations between cannabis dispensaries and residential areas.

Senate Bill 639 (2023) – Historic St. Mary's City Commission Reform Act of 2023 revised and updated the statute governing the Historic St. Mary's City Commission following the findings of an independent audit into the Commission's practices. This bill made alterations to the Commission's membership, clarified provisions regarding their meetings and election of officers, required the Commission to formalize and regularly review their agreements and operating procedures and enacted guardrails to govern the relationship that the Commission has with any affiliated nonprofits that it works with.

Senate Bill 269 (2022) – Open Meetings Act – Application and Enhanced Requirements (Maryland State Agency Transparency Act of 2022) applied an enhanced version of Maryland's Open Meetings Act to a number of State agencies. Senator Bailey added an amendment to this bill adding the Historic St. Mary's City Commission to the list of agencies included in this bill to ensure that our residents and all Marylanders can have more insight into the important work of the Commission.

Senate Bill 454 (2022) – Marine Contractor License – Authorization, Requirements, and Fees was requested by the Calvert County Commissioners and permits county and municipal employees to perform minor repairs and maintenance to public access facilities on or over public waterways that currently require these jurisdictions to hire a licensed marine contractor.

House Bill 602 (2022) – Board of Public Works – Historic Sotterley – Operating Grant provided needed operating funds to Historic Sotterley in St. Mary's County for three years. This bill was identical to Senate Bill 913, which Senator Bailey sponsored.

Senate Bill 946 (2021) – Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission established the Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission. This Commission will be directed to plan and conduct

observances commemorating the 400th anniversary of Maryland's founding in 2034. As Maryland's first settlement, Historic St. Mary's City will be at the center of these celebrations. This is not only a high honor and responsibility, but also an economic opportunity for the area where the various stakeholders will be granted the responsibility to also ensure preservation efforts and maintain the historical significance of St. Mary's City. It is important to note that this Commission will be focused not only on the statewide celebration and the observances held at St. Mary's City, but also on ensuring that we use this opportunity to the fullest to ensure the continued economic viability of Historic St. Mary's City and the surrounding area so that this rich history can be shared and enjoyed by many generations to come.

Senate Bill 650 (2023) – Public Safety – State Disaster Recovery Fund established the State Disaster Recovery Fund. This fund would be used to provide recovery assistance to Marylanders if a disaster occurs that is not eligible for Federal funds, helping our residents and local jurisdictions in times of crisis, such as the flooding in Leonardtown.

House Bill 526 (2023) – St. Mary's County – Transfer of Child Support Unit and Personnel to the Child Support Administration transferred the functions, powers, duties, and staff of the Child Support Unit of the Office of the State's Attorney for St. Mary's County to the Child Support Administration of the Department of Human Services on October 1, 2023. Funding for this transfer has been included in the State budget and this bill is expected to save St. Mary's County taxpayers over \$300,000 per year.