

# **Delegate Dereck E. Davis - 25<sup>th</sup> District**

## **2015 Legislative Wrap-up**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for allowing me to represent the 25th Legislative District as a delegate in the Maryland General Assembly. It is an honor and a privilege to work for the citizens of Prince George's County on legislation, constituent concerns, and community issues. In that endeavor, I strive to preserve our quality of life, protect jobs, protect our communities, and build on our legacy as one of the premier counties in the nation.

Below I have provided a brief summary of legislation, local and statewide, that passed during the 2015 Legislative Session.

### **2015 Budget Appropriations to Prince George's County**

Education	\$1.063 billion	Libraries	\$7 million
School Construction	\$41 million	Public Safety	\$21.1 Million
Community College	\$26.1million	Prince George's Medical Center	\$15 million

### **Funding for Projects in the 25<sup>th</sup> District**

Through the bond bill process, my colleagues and I from the 25<sup>th</sup> District were able to fund the following projects.

- HB 1245 - Park Berkshire Neighborhood Park  
\$250,000 for construction, repair, renovation or restoration of concession stand and restrooms.
- HB 1245 - Mt. Calvary Soft Ball Field  
\$150,000 to renovate the soft ball field.

### **Local Legislation affecting Prince George's County**

- HB 1234 - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Customer Affordability Program  
This local bill requires the WSSC establish a Customer Assistance Program to provide financial assistance to eligible ratepayers with water and sewer bills by July 1, 2015.
- HB 931 - Alcoholic Beverages - Prince George's County - Seven Day Sales PG 318-15  
This local bill establishes a special Sunday off-sale permit in Prince George's County. The new permit authorizes the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption off the licensed premises only on Sunday from 8 a.m. to midnight.

### **Statewide**

As Chairman of the Economic Matters Committee in the General Assembly, I am pleased to highlight legislation passed by the committee.

- House Bill 345 Labor and Employment – Flexible Leave – Use of Leave for Family Illness  
This bill prohibits an employer from taking specified disciplinary or retaliatory action against an employee because the employee has requested leave with pay due to an illness of a member of the employee's immediate family.
- HB 489 – Electronic Cigarettes - Sale to Minors - Components, Supplies, and Enforcement  
This bill clarifies the prohibition against selling, distributing, or offering for sale to a minor E-cigarettes including the sale, distribution, or offer for sale of any component of the device or any product used to refill the device.

#### HB 939 through HB 943 - The Maryland Economic Development Commission

As a member of this commission, I traveled to many areas of the State listening to various businesses, labor, and interest groups on how to keep Maryland competitive in economic and private sector growth. From that commission evolved legislation aimed at improving Maryland's business climate and growing the State's economy.

- HB 939 - Proposed Regulations - Determination of Impact on Small Businesses

- HB 940 - Office of the Business Ombudsman - State Customer Service and Business Development Efforts Training Program
- HB 941 - Task Force to Study Exemptions from Higher Education Ethics Requirements and Procurement Rules to Facilitate Technology Transfer
- HB 942 - Apprenticeship Pilot Program - Apprenticeship Maryland
- HB 943 - Economic Competitiveness and Commerce – Restructuring
- HB 1087 - Electricity - Community Solar Energy Generating System Program  
*This bill allows multiple people to invest in or subscribe to one solar energy project and offset a portion of their electric bill through a credit from the energy generated.*
- HB 1231/SB868 - Public Utilities - Transportation Network Services and For-Hire Transportation (Uber)  
*This bill establishes a framework for a new type of common carrier service, ride-sharing, to operate in the State with appropriate regulatory oversight and consumer protection by the Public Service Commission*
- HB 1288 - Alcoholic Beverages - Powdered Alcoholic Beverages - Ban on Sales  
*This bill prohibits a person from selling or offering for sale alcoholic beverages that are sold in powder or crystalline form to be used directly or in combination with water or any other substance..*

*With a new Governor and new legislature, there was concern that the General Assembly would be torn between our differing political philosophies. Working with members of both parties, the budget that was passed cut government waste where it could, while continuing to provide investments and grow our State's economy.*

### **Protecting our Priorities**

- Education  
*Maryland schools are considered among the best in the country, having been ranked #1 in the nation for five years in a row. The following legislation continues our investments in our schools.*
  - HB 70 - Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2016)  
*This bill contains investments in over \$6.1 billion to K-12 education*
  - HB 452 - Commission to Review Maryland's Use of Assessments and Testing in Public Schools  
*This bill establishes a commission to study whether public school students are being tested too much and whether all standardized test are necessary.*
  - HB 965 - The Hunger-Free Schools Act of 2015  
*This bill creates a free meal plan for the entire student body of a qualifying low-income school.*
- Honoring Our Veterans
  - HB 1118 - Commemorative Days - Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day  
*Establishing March 30 as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in recognition of the service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans from the State of Maryland*
  - HB 482 - Income Tax - Military Retirement Income  
*This bill doubles the tax exemption from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for all Veterans over 65 years of age.*
- The Environment
  - HB 499 - Environment - Hydraulic Fracturing – Regulations  
*This bill establishes a two year ban on the natural gas extraction practice known as fracking*
  - SB 600 - Chesapeake Bay Trust and Chesapeake Conservation Corps – Funding  
*This bill expands an existing program with the goal of creating more green collar jobs.*
- Tax Amnesty
  - HB 1233 - Tax Amnesty Program  
*This bill authorizes the Comptroller to declare an amnesty period in the months of September and October 2015 removing all civil penalties and half of the interest attributable to nonpayment, nonreporting, or underreporting of specified taxes under specified circumstances.*