

WAYNE NORMAN
Legislative District 35
Harford and Cecil Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics



All Mail To: Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 315
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3603 · 301-858-3603
800-492-7122 Ext. 3603
Fax 410-841-3115 · 301-858-3115
Wayne.Norman@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Harford District Office
P. O. Box 692
Churchville, Maryland 21028
410-734-6471 · Fax 410-734-6472

Cecil District Office
64 South Main Street
Port Deposit, Maryland 21908
410-378-2718

April 13, 2017

Dear Friends,

The 437th legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly officially adjourned at midnight on Monday, April 10th, 2017. As a public servant and your Senator representing Cecil and Harford Counties, I want to thank everyone who took the time to reach out to me whether by email, telephone or mail. Your opinions helped me shape my legislative agenda and influenced my votes on the over 2800 bills introduced during the 90-day session.

It would be difficult to explain my position on every bill and amendment that I voted on. So I am going to highlight those that I spent the majority of my time on and believe are the most important.

My Bills

This session, I introduced 26 bills that I thought would improve the lives of my constituents and the citizens of Maryland overall. Among the bills I have sponsored this session, many of them are aimed at either simplifying processes in our court system or increasing access to justice for regular citizens and small businesses. The following are a few highlights on bills that I was lead sponsor this session.

SB 707 (Waste and Recycling Collection Vehicles - Use of Yellow and Amber Lights): This legislation recognizes one of my predecessors, the late J. Robert Hooper, who represented Harford County in the Maryland Senate for 8 years. Senator Hooper owned and operated Harford Sanitation Services for over 50 years until his death in 2008. Senator Hooper cared deeply for his workers and their safety, and the bill I sponsored would make a safer work environment for sanitation collection workers. Because of this, I decided to name the bill "The Senator Bob Hooper Sanitation Safety Act" in his honor.

SB 511 (Second Amendment Rights): I continue to be a forefront proponent in the fight for your Second Amendment rights. As promised, I reintroduced a bill to make personal protection and self-defense good and substantial reasons to obtain a firearm carry permit. Sadly, that bill was, yet again, withheld from receiving a formal vote in committee. I will continue to be a fierce advocate for your Second Amendment rights. We live in dangerous times, and citizens in District 35 and throughout Maryland deserve the right to protect themselves.

SB 668 (Operation of Motorcycles - Handlebar Height): I was also pleased to put in legislation that passed for my friends at ABATE, the motorcyclists'

grassroots organization, to support the rights of Marylanders who ride. The bill will increase comfort and safety for riders across the State.

The following is a quick rundown of other legislation I introduced this session:

SB0250 Civil Proceedings - Continuances Agreed to by All Parties
SB0376 Real Property - Certification Requirement for Recordation-PASSED
SB0377 Real Property - Wrongful Detainer Actions - Counterclaims
and Cross-Claims
SB0378 Clerk of Court - Prohibition Against Ruling
SB0499 Family Law - Divorce on Grounds of Mutual Consent - Court
Appearance
SB0500 Small Claim Action Appeals From District Court- Non-attorney-
Representation-PASSED
SB0501 Real Property - Wrongful Detainer Actions - Trial by Jury
SB0510 Criminal Procedure - Expungement - Time for Filing
SB0512 Civil Actions and Procedures - Garnishments - Spousal Property
SB0706 Landlord and Tenant - Expedited Eviction Proceedings - Notice
and Appeals
SB0836 Civil Actions - Punitive Damage Awards
SB0211 Cecil County-Orphans' Court Judges - Travel Expense Allowance-PASSED

Project Funding

In addition to authorizing legislation, I spent a great deal of time working on important infrastructure projects in Cecil and Harford Counties, in which the State's bonding authority and strong bond rating is able to help provide important finance. Three highlights include:

Fair Hill Races in Elkton: Cecil County's Fair Hill Races was awarded \$100,000 in funding from the State. This bond bill allows Fair Hill to update its infrastructure and will fund some much needed maintenance. The renovation of the facilities will make Fair Hill an attractive venue for world class equestrian competitions. This will bring people from around the world to District 35 which will result in a huge economic stimulus to the region.

McComas School Museum in Joppa: District 35 also received a Harford County bond bill for \$25,000 for the renovation of the McComas School Museum. This funding will allow for the preservation of this historic building that celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places and was one of the first Freedmen's Bureau schoolhouses for African American children in Maryland following the Civil War.

Elkton MARC Station: Another local issue I have been working on this session is the acquisition of state funding for an Elkton MARC station. The establishment of this station will help facilitate commuter travel to Baltimore and the surrounding areas.

As your Senator, a top priority was to ensure full funding in the state budget for elementary and secondary education formulas and programs. This happened when the FY 2018 education budget passed by the Senate included full funding for state mandated operating funding formulas; and provides robust funding for the statewide capital budget for school facility construction and renovation projects as well as targeted funding grants for systems experiencing a decline in student

growth which provided additional funding in the amount of \$356,000 for Harford County Public Schools.

Delegation Bills

This session, I served as Chair of the Harford County Senate delegation, which includes myself, Senator JB Jennings, District 7, and Senator Bob Cassilly, District 34. In this position, I also worked closely with the entire Harford and Cecil legislative delegations. I am especially proud of the hard work and accomplishments on your behalf by the entire District 35 Team, which also includes Delegate Andrew Cassilly, Delegate Kevin Hornberger and Delegate Teresa Reilly.

The Harford County delegation supported legislation that gave collective bargaining rights to Deputy Sheriffs. I voted for the collective bargaining bill and it passed through the Senate 36-0 on the last day of session. Unfortunately, session ended at midnight before the legislative process was complete and the bill died in the House of Delegates. It did not reach final passage as the House did not take up the Senator amendment.

There was also a bill that will raise the Sheriff's salary beginning in 2019 (after the next election). After some research, it became evidently clear that in comparison to other counties, our Sheriff - the head of the County's police force - is underpaid. This raise will help entice the best candidates for the position.

I promise to continue supporting legislation that will aid our law enforcement agencies.

Key State Legislation:

The 2017 session was marked by a series of power plays by the Democrat-controlled General Assembly, which I largely opposed. The general theme of the majority party's actions has been focused on chipping away at the Governor's authority and transferring more power to the Democrat-controlled General Assembly and the Democratic Attorney General (AG).

During the debate to transfer power to the AG, my Democrat Senate colleagues brought Washington style, hyper-partisan politics to Maryland. Senate Joint Resolution 5, the Maryland Defense Act of 2017 (which does not need Governor Hogan's approval), gives new power to the AG to sue the federal government without the Governor's approval. It was fast-tracked to a vote on the Senate floor without giving Senate members an opportunity to even read the bill before the vote. I, along with several other Republican colleagues, repeatedly made pleas to delay the vote for one day to be able to read the bill. Each one of our pleas were disregarded by the Democrat majority.

Unfortunately, this act by my Democratic colleagues led me to do something I have never done before. Along with eight of my fellow Republican Senators, I walked off the Senate floor in protest of being denied this common courtesy of delaying a vote for one day. Bringing the hyper-partisan politics of Washington to Maryland is not good for Marylanders.

Concerning federal level issues, the majority party in the General Assembly took a proactive approach to both proposed and hypothetical Trump administration actions that may threaten Democrat-supported policies and interest groups in Maryland. For example, my Republican colleagues and I were victorious in stopping Maryland from becoming a sanctuary state. The bill died in the Judicial

Proceedings Committee (JPR) where I am a member and had a direct impact in killing the bill. Three times we prevailed in blocking a vote to move it out of committee and to the Senate floor where surely it would have passed. While the majority party focused on retaining political control, I was focused on the interests of the people of Harford and Cecil Counties.

Finally, Governor Larry Hogan is in the third year of his first term. I believe the Governor is doing a great job, despite the political shenanigans played by those on the Left. I believe the Governor is the "adult in the room" and a strong leader who is advocating policies in the best interest of all Marylanders. I will continue to work hard to support his agenda, which is focused on job growth and fiscal conservatism.

Committee Oversight

As your Senator, it is my honor to represent you in Annapolis in various roles. I am the ranking Republican member serving on the Senate JPR Committee which tackles some of the most difficult issues in the Maryland legislature. Some issues include criminal, civil and family law, real property, vehicle laws, and trusts and estates. As one of the few practicing attorneys in the General Assembly, I bring a practical understanding of the law along with the common sense of a small business owner to the committee and floor debates.

Because of my experience on the JPR Committee and my work as an attorney in Bel Air, I was appointed as the Senate liaison with the Court of Appeals to serve on the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Rules Committee assists the Court in the exercise of its rulemaking power. It is an honor to serve on the Rules Committee with some of the sharpest legal minds in Maryland.


Other Items

Our office was supported this session by two session interns, Brendan Mahoney from Bel Air, a sophomore at Hood College and Thomas M. Miller, who is a second year law student at my alma mater, the University of Baltimore Law School.

As a citizen legislator and a small business owner, I will be returning to my law practice in Bel Air. I am especially looking forward to spending more time with my family as my wife and I are anticipating the arrival of our first grandchild, a girl in July!

Please contact my office in Annapolis that is staffed year round at Wayne.Norman@Senate.state.md.us or 410-841-3603 if we may be of assistance to you. Thank you again for the privilege to serve you in the Senate of Maryland.

Sincerely,


Senator Wayne Norman
District 35 - Harford & Cecil Counties

HWN, Jr./hjt