

Delegate Lierman First Term Legislation

Bills Brooke was Lead Sponsor On that Passed

EDUCATION

Prohibition on Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion: This bill prohibits the out-of-school suspension or expulsion of students in public preK - second grade programs except under certain, limited circumstances or as required by federal law. During the 2015-2016 school year, nearly 2,400 preK-second grade students were suspended out of school or expelled. These students are disproportionately students of color and/or students with disabilities. Studies have demonstrated the harm that this type of punishment has on young children - and its ineffectiveness in correcting behavior challenges. In addition to prohibiting this disciplinary measure, this law also requires MSDE to promulgate regulations that support schools to implement positive behavioral tools to deal with difficult students. *Passed in 2017, [HB0425](#) / [SB 0651](#) / [CH0844](#)*

In-State Tuition for AmeriCorps Graduates: This bill waives the residency requirement for students who complete an AmeriCorps program in Maryland. Those students can pay in-state tuition costs without having lived in the state for 12 consecutive months. This bill will help attract out-of-state individuals to come work at non-profits that use AmeriCorps members in Maryland, and then encourage them to stay to attend school here. *Passed in 2017, [HB0224](#)/no Senate cross-file/[CH0826](#)*

Income Tax Subtraction Modification for College Savings Plans: This new law eliminates the need to have multiple accounts for one student for a 529 Account. Prior to passage, only 529 *account holders* were eligible for state income tax deductions. Therefore, if another individual wanted to contribute to the account they had to open and contribute to a separate account. Brooke initiated and passed this bill with Senator Serafini as the Senate cross-file to allow the same tax deduction for all of those willing to contribute to a Maryland College Savings Plan. This small change means that anyone who contributes to an individual's 529 plan can take a tax deduction - parents, friends, grandparents, mentors, or neighbors! *Passed in 2016, [HB 0335](#)/[SB0374](#)/([CH0197](#))*

TRANSPORTATION

Maryland Transit Administration - Farebox Recovery Rate – Repeal, This bill repeals the requirement that the MTA must recover at least 35% of its total operating costs from fares and other operating revenues. Currently, MTA is not reliable or efficient and the service is inadequate. The farebox recovery mandate is one impediment to MTA's

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success. Improving public transit has always been and will remain high on my priority list, and I am delighted that we were able to take this step forward for public transit. This repeal is an important way to truly improve service, inform investment, and benefit our communities. *Passed in 2017, [HB0271](#) / SB0484 / CH0024*

Maryland Transit Administration Oversight and Planning Board, This bill would create a board of directors, the Oversight & Planning Board, to oversee the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). Currently, the MTA has no reporting or planning requirements related to service quality. This bill would allow for an increase in effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability to the people and local governments that MTA serves. The board would provide yearly oversight of MTA's spending, performance, policies, and progress towards strategic goals and would require MTA to periodically create long-term strategic plans for each mode and the entire system. *While the Bill passed through the General Assembly in 2016, Governor Hogan vetoed the Bill, [HB1010](#) / no Senate cross-file*

PENSION & EMPLOYMENTS

State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program - Participation by Satellite Organizations, alters the definition of "qualifying not-for-profit organization" for the purpose of provision of law that authorizes certain qualifying not-for-profit organization to participate in the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits program to include a corporation, a limited liability company or any other entity that is wholly owned by the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc; and to allow its employees to participate in the program. *Passed in 2017, HB0991 / [SB0382](#) / CH0280*

Optional Retirement Program Eligibility: This bill altered the eligibility provision of the optional retirement program for University of Maryland employees, allowing the University system to stay competitive with its peer institutions and to help attract great professors and staff. *Passed into law in 2016 - HB0926/ [SB0979](#) / (CH0458)*

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM & PUBLIC SAFETY

Transitional Supports for Ex-Offenders - Repeal of Restrictions (Maryland Equal Access to Food Act of 2017), Maryland law imposes arbitrary eligibility restriction for federal benefits (a vestige of the ineffective War on Drugs)- individuals with a felony drug conviction receive a one-year ban on SNAP/TCA benefits. These individuals may face obstacles in finding a job and getting back on their feet and these are exactly the people SNAP and TCA benefits are designed to help. HB860 removes this restriction. *Passed in 2017, [HB0860](#) / SB0853 / CH0793*

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Civil Remedies for Shoplifting and Employee Theft, This bill repeals in its entirety the Maryland statute authorizing civil recovery for alleged shoplifting or theft of merchandise. Previously, this statute allowed merchants the right to sue anyone suspect of theft- without any criminal finding of guilt- for payment of money unrelated to a merchant's actual damages. This law ended the exploitative collections practices used by large corporations to intimidate individuals into spending large amounts of money, even if they have done nothing wrong. *Passed in 2016, HB0190 / [SB0508](#) / CH0679*

Public Safety - Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Fund-Establishment (Alicia's Law), creates the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Fund and establishes the provisions of the fund. It also requires that a specified portion of unclaimed lottery prizes be paid to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force fund. *Passed in 2016, HB1490/[SB0864](#) /CH0516*

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

Labor and Employment - Flexible Leave - Use of Leave for Family Illness, When a close family member needs care, Marylanders should be able to take time to care for them without fearing employer retaliation. Maryland's FMLA already prohibits most kinds of retaliation, but unfortunately, some employers found a loophole retaliating against employees who have requested leave, but not yet used it. This bill closes this loophole. *Passed in 2015, [HB0345](#) / no Senate cross-file/ CH0493*

SENIOR BENEFITS

Food Stamp Program- Minimum Benefit- State Supplement, This bill requires the State to ensure that all households receiving federally funded benefits under the food stamp program receive a minimum benefit of \$30 per month by providing a supplemental benefit if necessary. *Passed in 2016, HB0445/ [SB0758](#) / (CH0696)*

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Bills Brooke Played an Active Role in Passing

Maryland Second Chance Act of 2015 - This bill will enable Marylanders who have erred in their past and were convicted of certain misdemeanors to have a clean start by granting one chance to “shield” those records so that they can move on and find a good job and secure housing. *Passed in 2015, [HB0244](#) / [SB0526](#) / [CH0313](#)*

Labor and Employment - Equal Pay for Equal Work, prohibits an Employer from discriminating against employees by providing less favorable employment opportunities on sex or gender identity. *Passed in 2016, [HB1003](#) / [SB0481](#) / [CH0557](#)*

Baltimore City- Pub Crawl Promoter’s Permits (Co-Sponsor)- This bill creates a new pub crawl promoter’s permit in Baltimore City, that any company proposing or sponsoring a pub crawl must apply for and be granted prior to advertising its pub crawl. This bill authorizes the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners to issue these new permits to an applicant who has submitted an application to the Board of License Commissioners by a specified time before the event. This bill also requires the license holders to sign and date a specified application fee of \$50 and a permit fee of \$250. *Passed in 2016, [HB 1068](#) / [SB0788](#) / [CH0644](#)*

Labor and Employment - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act, Currently, 750,000 Maryland workers have no access to earned paid sick days. Women make up half the workforce & 2/3 of caregivers, yet 54% lack access to earned sick days. This bill requires businesses with more than 15 employees to provide earned paid sick leave to employees who work 12 hours per week (up to 5 days per year, 106 calendar days). It will keep sick kids at home with parents and out of school, and allow sick workers to recover before going back to work. *Passed in 2017, but vetoed by the Governor. [HB0001](#) / [SB0788](#)*

Baltimore City Public Schools - Capital Project Scoring System, This bill requires Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to develop and implement a scoring system for certain projects pertaining to Baltimore City Public School facilities and publish those scores. *Passed in 2017, [HB0076](#) / no Senate cross-file / [CH0319](#)*

Program Open Space - Authorized Transfer to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund - increases the maximum amount that can be transferred in the state budget to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund for funds that are distributed to Program Open Spaces. *Passed in 2017, [HB0267](#) / [CH0660](#) / [SB0257](#) / [CH0661](#)*

Housing Navigator and Aftercare Program, establishes the Housing Navigator and Aftercare Program to assist families who are in imminent danger of a housing crisis to obtain permanent housing. *Passed in 2017, [HB0269](#) / [CH0637](#) / [SB0531](#) / [CH0638](#)*

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Child Care Subsidy Program - Reimbursement Rate Adjustments, This bill requiring State Department of Education to conduct analysis regarding Child Care Subsidy Program. *Passed in 2017, [HB0418](#) / [CH0209](#) / [SB0294](#) / [CH0210](#)*

Children With Disabilities and Child Care Providers - Dispute Resolution Process, This bill requires the State Department of Education to develop a dispute resolution process to be used by families and children with disabilities and child care providers for resolving complaints of discrimination based on a child's disability. *Passed in 2017, [HB0456](#) / [CH0713](#) / [SB0943](#) / [CH0714](#)*

Individuals With Disabilities - Minimum Wage and Community Integration (Ken Capone Equal Employment Act), This bill phases out the use of sub-minimum wages for employees with a disability. *Passed in 2016, [HB0420](#) / [SB0417](#) / [CH0522](#)*

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Bills Brooke Has Introduced that Have Not Yet Passed

(2015 and 2016) [HB 31](#) -Community Cleanup and Greening Act of 2016, enacts a statewide ban on disposable bags and require most retailers to use only paper bags. This bill also would charge 10 cents for each paper bag requested by a customer which would then be used to compensate retailers for the elevated cost of the paper bags and contribute additional proceeds to fund fresh food initiatives, bag giveaways, and environmental cleanup efforts.

(2017) [HB0229](#) - Environment - Polystyrene Food Service Products and Polystyrene Loose Fill Packaging - Prohibition on Sale, This bill prohibits a business from giving away or selling styrofoam food packaging. Styrofoam is one of the most common forms of litter across the state because the product is so lightweight and easily blown into waterways. Styrofoam also has increased health risks because styrene is reasonably believed to be a carcinogen and neurotoxic.

(2015 and 2016) [HB 471: Angel Investor Tax Credit Program](#), This bill provides tax incentives to “Angel Investors” who invest their own funds in early stage ventures in Maryland. Finding early stage investors can be one of the greatest hurdles in starting a business. This bill creates the Angel Investor Tax Credit reserve Fund to provide much-needed early state capital for startup companies that are headquartered in Maryland.

(2016) [HB 335](#) -Maryland Pay Stub Transparency Act of 2016: Many low-wage hourly workers in our state are given paystubs that have almost no information and do not provide enough information for them to ensure that they are being paid for all hours worked, or at the correct rate. This bill provides a minimum standard for paystubs by requiring employers to provide basic payment and withholding information on each paystub. Current Maryland allow requires only a statement of the employee's' gross earnings and deductions from their pay. This legislation requires that a statement will include the pay rate (hourly, overtime, attendance, bonus, and/or piece rate), allowances, deductions, hours worked, and basic identifying information for the employer.