



February 10, 2012

Dear Friend,

The 2013 legislative session is off to a busy start! There has been a flurry of activity in the first few weeks of the session. Legislators will be facing tough decisions on a variety of public safety issues – gun control and the death penalty – and environmental issues, such as offshore wind and natural gas “fracking.” I want to encourage you to log onto Facebook and “[Like](#)” my page. Doing so will provide you with timely updates on news here in Annapolis and in the 11th District.

Fortunately, the budget challenges that have dominated Annapolis for several years are subsiding. Thanks to an economy that is growing (albeit too slowly) and prudent fiscal decisions, the Governor’s proposed FYH 2014 budget puts Maryland on the verge of eliminating the State’s structural deficit. The budget also maintains our Triple A bond rating, increases the Rainy Day fund, and supports priorities such as K-12 education, higher education, health care, and the environment.

This year, my legislation will focus on a variety of topics, including child safety/health, financial education, and the environment. Below is a summary of four of the bills I’ve introduced to date; please let me know if you have any feedback on my legislation or any of the issues that the legislature will be addressing this session.

Financial Aid Shopping Sheet

The costs of a college education have been escalating for years, and some students graduate with large amounts of debt that can be difficult to pay off.

To bring transparency to the cost of college education and the financial impact of

student loans, the U.S. Department of Education has promulgated a [Financial Aid Shopping Sheet](#) that would be sent to incoming freshmen when they receive their award of federal financial aid. My House Bill 557 would require all colleges and universities in Maryland that receive state aid to provide the shopping sheet to incoming freshmen students.

Community Renewable Energy Projects

House Bill 1128 would allow groups of residents or businesses to jointly own renewable energy projects, called “community renewable projects.” Right now, only a single household or business can own a renewable energy project, such as solar panels.

Under the bill, each owner of a community renewable project would get a credit on his or her utility bill for part of the energy generated by the project. Several states, including Delaware and Colorado, have already adopted community renewable legislation.

Access to EpiPens in Non-Public Schools

Students who have been diagnosed with a severe allergy that may trigger a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction carry “epipens” with them. However, not all students with severe allergies may have been diagnosed.

To address this situation in public schools, the legislature passed a bill last year allowing public schools to stock epipens for those situations when a student with an undiagnosed allergy goes into anaphylactic shock. House Bill 1014 will extend this authority to non-public schools, which if enacted could potentially save the lives of students who do not know that they have a severe allergy.

Gun Safety

My House Bill 861 would require that owners of regulated firearms not store or leave a loaded or unloaded firearm in a location where the owner knew or should have known that an unsupervised child could gain access to the firearm, unless the gun is locked using an external safety lock or in a safe storage depository. This measure would reduce the risk that children under the age of 16 could get access to a handgun.

Scholarships

I would also like to encourage 11th District residents to apply for the H. Allan Lipsitz Memorial Scholarship for higher education, which I award every year. The scholarship can be used for either college or graduate education expenses. Criteria include academic achievement (especially in English and writing), community service, and financial need.

The scholarship is dedicated to my former teacher H. Allan Lipsitz, who taught English at Milford Mill High School for 13 years before teaching students at Towson University and later becoming director of adult education at Beth El Congregation. Scholarship information and applications for the 2013-2014 school year can be found at <http://danastein.com/scholarship/>. Applications must be mailed by March 29, 2013.

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I am proud to be representing you in Annapolis and to be a part of the District 11 legislative team, which includes Senator Bobby Zirkin and Delegates Jon Cardin and Dan Morhaim. Please contact me at 410-841-3527 or dana.stein@house.state.md.us if I can ever be of assistance.



Sincerely,



Dana Stein
Delegate

Paid for by Friends of Dana Stein, Charles Spira, Treasurer

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