Dana's News from Annapolis

Dear Friends,

We're now over halfway through the legislative session, and last Monday marked *Crossover Day*—a critical deadline when bills must pass out of the House or Senate to be considered by the other chamber. I'm proud to share that 11 of my bills have successfully crossed over to the Senate. The House has also advanced several key legislative priorities, including legislation to protect Maryland's immigrant communities (<u>HB 1222</u>, <u>HB 579</u>), and housing protections for all Marylanders (<u>HB 767</u>, <u>HB 1239</u>, <u>HB 80</u>).

We also deeply appreciate the passion and insight that constituent groups bring when visiting Annapolis. Over the past month, we've met with many District 11 individuals advocating on a wide range of issues. Elementary and middle school students have shared future legislative ideas and championed mental health initiatives. High school students have spoken out on the Bottle Bill, while representatives from the American Youth Association and Baltimore County Student Council have advocated for student mental health supports, gun violence prevention, phone-free school pilot programs, and education funding. College students have raised concerns about higher education funding, particularly Sellinger funding, while teacher representatives have pushed for continued support for educators. Additionally, Maryland realtors have highlighted urgent housing challenges and advocated for solutions to mitigate the ongoing crisis. These discussions have been invaluable, and I am grateful for the engagement of all who have taken the time to make their voices heard.

Lastly, a huge thank you to everyone who participated in our recent Virtual Town Hall—your thoughtful questions and engagement are what drive our work forward. Let's keep the momentum going!

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DANA'S LEGISLATION



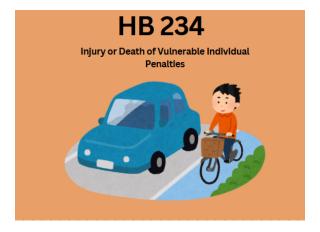
HB 131 - Environment - Bay Restoration Fund-Septic System Upgrade Program

The Bay Restoration Fund, managed by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), provides funding to homeowners to replace conventional septic tanks with nitrogen-reducing units or for sewer connections of existing dwellings where public sewer is available.

This bill would require MDE to include as its second priority funding for failing septic systems located within the watershed of a nitrogen-impaired body of water. Failing septic systems in such areas further increase the nitrogen levels of the river or stream making stream life unsustainable, in addition to increasing the nitrogen flowing into the Chesapeake Bay. This bill passed the House by 129-5.

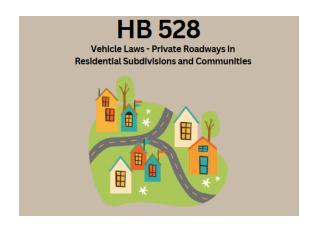
HB 234 – Vehicle Laws – Injury or Death of Vulnerable Individual – Penalties

In 2021, I sponsored, and the General Assembly passed, a bill that defined a "vulnerable road user" (VRU) and provided penalties for a driver who seriously injures or kills a VRU. A vulnerable road user is anyone not in a car who is lawfully on, or alongside a road, in a crosswalk, bike path, etc, and



includes pedestrians, bicyclists, highway and utility workers, and emergency personnel working along a highway.

My bill this year will expand penalties to include possible incarceration up to 2 months to anyone who operates a car negligently and seriously injures or kills a vulnerable road user. This provides consistency in the law and equitable justice for all VRUs on the roads of Maryland. In 2024, more than 550 people were killed on Maryland roads and more than 40% were VRUs.



HB 528 - Baltimore County - Vehicle Laws - Private Roadways in Residential Subdivisions and Communities.

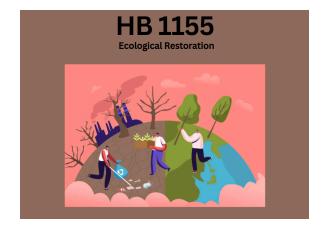
Under state law, the police cannot enforce vehicle laws on private roads in HOAs and condo associations. This legislation will create a pilot program in Baltimore County to authorize the police to enforce vehicle laws in the pilot area, helping to improve safety for residents. This bill passed the House 135 to 0.

HB 1152 - Pet Policy Transparency Act

The Pet Policy Transparency Act would require landlords with five or more dwelling units to provide a link to the property's pet policy on its website (if applicable) and in any advertisements, It also requires the policy to be included with rental application forms. By standardizing pet policy disclosures, the bill will promote a fairer and more consistent rental process so that



renters know in advance whether a landlord accepts pets. This bill passed the House 120-18.



HB 1155 - Definition of Ecological Restoration

This bill defines "ecological restoration" in the Environment Article as an activity aimed at recovering, re-establishing, or enhancing a degraded ecosystem. Having this definition in the Maryland Environmental Code is critical to elevating "ecological restoration" as a tool for Maryland's response to climate change and habitat loss. This bill passed the House 138-0.

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS IN ANNAPOLIS



Intern Chaltu with Stevenson
University Students and
Administration



Del Stein with American Youth
Association students



Baltimore County TABCO representatives









Julie with MedChi representatives

Del Stein with members of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689 & Local 1300

Del Stein, Chaltu, and Baltimore County Student Council Members

Representatives from Maryland realtors and Chaltu



Common Cause Maryland Advocates



Julie, Chaltu, and Roland Park Country School G5 Students



Chaltu, and Greenspring Montessori G7 Students



Rock Your Socks Day for World Down Syndrome Day, March 21, 2025





Beth Tfiloh and Bais Yaakov Students met with District 11 representatives for non-public school advocacy day.

ANNAPOLIS





Non-public school students visit Annapolis



LGBTQ+ Advocacy day



Clifford the Red Dog visited the legislature to promote reading and literacy during Read Across America Week

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

CHESTNUT RIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY AWARDS BANQUET

Grateful to have joined fellow district delegates and Baltimore County Council members at the Chestnut Ridge Fire Department Awards Ceremony. It was a wonderful evening celebrating the bravery and dedication of these incredible firefighters who serve our community every day!



Delegate Stein with Steve Kleeman, Karson Kamenetz, Renee Yarbrough-Williams, Matt Horn, Delegate Cheryl Pasteur, and Councilman Izzy Patoka

PIKESVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY BANQUET

I had the pleasure of joining state and county colleagues at the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company's 128th annual banquet! It was a fantastic evening celebrating their dedication, and I appreciated the opportunity to chat with the incredible firefighters who serve our community. Many thanks to PVFC for their unwavering commitment!







Del Stein and County Executive Kathy Klausmeier

MARYLAND BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE FOR EDUCATION

I was honored to attend and speak at the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education award ceremony! Meeting the incredible emerging scholars was an absolute highlight—they are inspiring and have such a bright future ahead!





RESOURCES

NEW COMPTROLLER OFFICE

Baltimore County is home to one of the Comptroller of Maryland's 11 branch offices. These offices provide a full range of walk in services that assist Marylanders in paying and preparing their taxes.

The current location at 300 E. Joppa Road, Plaza Level 1A in Towson will remain open until the new location is opened



NEW LOCATION DETAILS

New location will be in Towson 3104 Lord Baltimore Drive in Windsor Mills starting this summer



The 2025-26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is now available.

If you missed the U.S. Department of Education's webinar series on FAFSA resources and navigating StudentAid.gov, don't worry! You can watch recordings on YouTube <u>@FSAOutreach</u>.

Students, parents, and college/career professionals are encouraged to tune in for information on creating a StudentAid.gov account, paying for college and career school, and avoiding financial aid scams.

LEGISLATIVE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The applications for my H. Allan Lipsitz Memorial Legislative Scholarship are now available. Please visit my **website** for more details.

As a reminder, students who received a scholarship last year need to re-apply for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Students can get additional information about state financial aid—including how to navigate the FAFSA process—by going to the <u>Maryland Higher Education</u> <u>Commission</u> website. To be considered for state financial aid, you must file FAFSA June 30, 2025. To be notified of scholarship eligibility for Maryland Scholarships, you are encouraged to file by March 1, 2025.

NOW OPEN: The 2025-2026 Unique Major Application for out-of-state majors To apply, please use this <u>link</u>. The application process if open from 3/15/25 - 7/1/25. If you have any questions, please email <u>legislative.mhec@maryland.gov</u>

Don't forget to apply for the other District 11B scholarships!

- Senator Shelly Hettleman
- Delegate Jon Cardin

All completed scholarship applications must be submitted by March 31, 2025.



Sans Ster

I'm proud to represent District 11B in the Maryland General Assembly House of Delegates.

If I can ever be of assistance, please contact me at dana.stein@house.state.md.us or call my Annapolis Office at 410-841-3527

Sincerely,

Dana Stein

Delegate, Speaker Pro Tem, District 11B, Maryland General Assembly





<u>Unsubscribe</u> from future updates