

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY DELEGATION ANNOUNCES 2022 SESSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**ANNAPOLIS, April 12, 2022** – The 32-member Montgomery County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly this week concluded a successful 2022 legislative session, achieving historic gains for Montgomery County. Among the significant successes was record investment in Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), with a new continuous funding source of \$27 million per year for BRT and a one-time investment in the capital budget of more than \$63 million. The General Assembly also passed the **Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act (HB 778/SB 514)**, sponsored by **Delegate Jared Solomon** (District 18), which invests in Maryland’s regional rail system, including additional investment on the commuter rail Brunswick Line in Montgomery County. The legislature overrode the Governor’s veto of this bill. The General Assembly also secured funding in the budget and legislation (**HB 1446**) for the implementation of the Universities at Shady Grove’s strategic plan.

“The Montgomery County Delegation got off to a quick start this legislative session and was hitting on all eight cylinders right through the finish. Working closely with our County officials, the Delegation demonstrated exceptional leadership in policy and fiscal matters. The Montgomery County Delegation led initiatives to protect the environment, the health of our residents and to improve the lives of working families,” said Senate Delegation **Chair Ben Kramer** (District 19). “Of equal importance, the Delegation worked hard to ensure that Montgomery County will receive a record amount of funding for critical transportation needs, parks and recreation facilities, school construction and funding for our public school classrooms. The residents of Montgomery County can be very pleased with, and proud of, the outstanding accomplishments of their Delegation to Annapolis.”

“During this final year of the term, Montgomery County legislators were able to leverage our experience, knowledge, and passion to achieve our priorities. We led both behind the scenes and on the floor to defend important policies and deliver on crucial issues for our constituents and the people of Maryland,” said **House Delegation Chair Marc Korman** (District 16).

One of the top priorities of the 2022 Legislative Session, Montgomery County legislators on the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and House Appropriations Committee spent much of their time determining how best to allocate Maryland’s budget surplus to maximize the benefits to all Marylanders and prepare for the state’s future. With the leadership of Senate Education, Business, and Administration Subcommittee **Chair Nancy King** (District 39) and House Education and Economic Development Subcommittee **Vice Chair Jared Solomon** (District 18), included in this \$61 billion budget is full funding of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future in fiscal year 2023 and approximately \$1 billion for school construction. Also included in the budget is funding for businesses impacted by the development of the Purple Line, long advocated for by **Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins** (District 20). Senate Capital Budget Subcommittee **Chair Craig Zucker** (District 14) led the way in ensuring the capital, or construction, budget invests in

meaningful projects throughout the state and here in Montgomery County, including \$8.8 million for zero emission buses, \$10 million for White Flint infrastructure improvements, and more than \$10 million for County parks. The budget also allocates funding for important legislative priorities, some of which are outlined below. Other Montgomery County members of the Appropriations Committee include **Delegate Gabe Acevero** (District 39), **Delegate Marc Korman** (District 16), and **Delegate Kirill Reznik** (District 39).

In addition to budgetary success, the work of Montgomery County Delegation members led to many statewide legislative accomplishments, including:

- **Abortion Care Access Act (HB 937):** Sponsored by **Delegate Ariana Kelly** (District 16) and led to success with the advocacy of Senate Finance Committee **Vice Chair Brian Feldman** (District 15), **Senator Ben Kramer** (District 19), and House Health and Government Operations Committee members **Delegate Al Carr** (District 18), **Delegate Bonnie Cullison** (District 19), and **Delegate Anne Kaiser** (District 14), this legislation improves abortion access throughout the state by expanding the types of clinicians authorized to provide abortion care and funding training opportunities for medical professionals. The bill became law over Governor Hogan’s veto.
- **Cannabis Legalization:** Long championed by Senate Finance Committee **Vice Chair Brian Feldman** (District 15), Cannabis Reform (**HB 837**) will, contingent on a statewide referendum during the upcoming election (**HB 1**), legalize small amounts of cannabis for recreational use. This legislation was enacted without the Governor’s signature.
- **Climate Change and Environmental Protection:** With the leadership of House Environment and Transportation Committee **Chair Kumar Barve** (District 17) alongside the hard work of members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, House Environment and Transportation Committee, and House Economic Matters Committee, including Senate Committee **Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan** (District 17), **Delegate Lorig Charkoudian** (Delegate 20), **Delegate Linda Foley** (District 15), **Delegate Lily Qi** (District 15), **Delegate Pam Queen** (District 15) and **Delegate Vaughn Stewart** (District 19), the **Climate Solutions Now Act (SB 528)** was passed and became law without the Governor’s signature. This legislation will transition the state’s vehicle fleet to zero emissions, expand on building energy performance requirements, and establishes an interim greenhouse gas reduction goal of 60% of 2006 levels by 2031. The **Clean Cars Act of 2022 (HB 1391)**, sponsored by **Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo** (District 15), will help Marylanders reduce their carbon emissions with the creation of a tax credit for electric vehicle purchases. This bill awaits action by the Governor. Other important environmental protection legislation includes a bill sponsored by **Delegate Sara Love** (District 16) to put an end to facilities working off of “zombie”, or expired, discharge permits without inspection (**HB 649**), as well as the **Great Maryland Outdoors Act (SB 541)** – sponsored in the House by **Majority Leader Eric Luedtke** (District 14) and supported by the leadership of House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Open Space Subcommittee **Chair Jim Gilchrist** (District 17) – that will increase investment in our state parks. Both pieces of legislation became law without Governor Hogan’s signature.
- **Firearm Safety:** Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Judiciary Committee, including Senate Committee **Chair Will Smith** (District 20), **Vice**

**Chair Jeff Waldstreicher** (District 18), House Committee **Vice Chair David Moon** (District 20), **Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield** (District 19), and **Delegate Emily Shetty** (District 18), worked throughout the 2022 legislative session to pass enhancements to Maryland's firearm safety laws, including security requirements for licensed firearm dealers (**HB 1021**). This legislation became law over the Governor's veto. **Senator Susan Lee** (District 16) and **Delegate Lesley Lopez** (District 39) successfully led the floor debate on legislation to ban untraceable firearms (**HB 425/SB 387**), colloquially known as "ghost guns". This bill became law without the Governor's signature.

- **Juvenile Justice Reform (HB 459):** With the strong advocacy of **Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield** (District 19) and other Montgomery County legislators on the Senate Judicial Proceedings and House Judiciary committees, this legislation limits the circumstances for which children under 13 can face criminal charges and aims to focus resources on addressing delinquency through intervention services instead of incarceration. This bill was enacted without the Governor's signature.
- **Tax Relief:** Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and House Ways and Means Committee members, including House Revenues Subcommittee **Chair Eric Luedtke** (District 14) and Subcommittee member **Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr** (District 17), worked to use this year's historic budget surplus to provide tax relief to Marylanders. This package of bills include a tax benefit for those over 65 years of age (**SB 405**) and exemptions to the sales tax for oral hygiene products (**HB 492/SB 571**), medical devices (**HB 364/SB 488**), diabetic card products (**HB 1151**), and childcare products such as diapers (**HB 282/SB 316**) and infant car seats (**HB 288**). The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (**HB 2/SB 598**), sponsored by **Delegate Eric Luedtke** (District 14), will create a state match for the federal program that encourages employers to hire those who have historically had trouble finding work. All of these bills have been signed into law by the Governor.
- **Time to Care Act (SB 275):** This legislation, led to successful passage by Senate Finance Committee **Vice Chair Brian Feldman** (District 15) and Committee member **Senator Ben Kramer** (District 19) as well as House Economic Matters Committee members **Delegate Lorig Charkoudian** (District 20), **Delegate Lily Qi** (District 15), and **Delegate Pam Queen** (District 14) and long championed by **Delegate Ariana Kelly** (District 16), establishes a state paid medical leave program. This program would provide Marylanders with partially paid leave for 12 weeks per year to care for a sick relative and up to 24 weeks for new parents. This legislation became law over the Governor's veto.

The efforts described above depict only a small fraction of the legislation and advocacy that Montgomery County Delegation members have been involved in to fight for their constituents and communities during this legislative session.

The Delegation welcomed a new member this session, with the appointment of **Delegate Linda Foley** (District 15) in December. Three of her bills await action by the Governor, including **HB 335** which responds to widespread concerns about E-ZPass billing mistakes by allowing drivers to dispute charges on their account for up to one year after the charge is posted.

The Montgomery County Delegation also considered 30 pieces of legislation impacting only Montgomery County, or in some instances Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Seventeen of these bills passed the General Assembly and are now awaiting action by the Governor. Among the local and bi-county bills passed this year is **HB 1340**, sponsored by District 20 legislators **Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, Delegate David Moon, Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, and Senator Will Smith**. This legislation, guided through the delegation by local Economic Development Committee **Chair Lily Qi** (District 15), seeks to improve the benefits to residents of current and future Business Improvement Districts in the County by including commercial tenants as members of the district and expanding opportunities for involvement in its establishment and governance. Also on the Governor's desk are **HB 813**, sponsored by **Delegate David Moon** (District 20), that would establish annual reporting requirements related to school bus cameras and require the study of school bus stop locations with high numbers of citations, and **HB 396**, sponsored by House Delegation **Vice Chair Al Carr** (District 18), that requires the Montgomery County Planning Board to livestream their meetings.

A complete list of local legislation is available at:

<https://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/legislation.html>.

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