

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network
2018 Legislative Wrap-Up

Each year the Maryland General Assembly meets for ninety days to debate legislative proposals and the state's budget. This year's session ended on Monday April 9th at midnight. Over 3,100 bills were introduced and 800 were passed and sent to the Governor for signing. Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) monitored, researched and wrote testimony and testified before committees regarding criminal justice issues, health care, environment, renewable energy jobs, homelessness, and gun control. This report is a brief summary of the bills that were addressed this session. For more information, please let me know.

Several of the bills addressed:

HB 736/SB 576 – Pharmacy Benefits Managers – Pharmacies and Pharmacists – Information about as well as sale of Prescription Drugs – Transparency of retail drug prices for consumers – Passed and signed by the Governor.

MEPPN's position: Support

HB 888/SB 707 – Criminal Law – Firearm Crimes – Rapid Fire Trigger Activator – Prohibition on rapid fire trigger activators in state - Passed and signed by the Governor.

MEPPN's position: Support

SB 350 – Morgan State University – Task Force on Reconciliation and Equity – Creation of task force to foster reconciliation, racial equity and justice – Passed and signed by the Governor.

MEPPN's position: Support

HB 1224/SB 1218 – Ending Homelessness for Youth – Grant program created to focus on preventing and ending youth homelessness in the Maryland – Passed and signed by the Governor. MEPPN's position: Support

SB 139 – Heroin and Opioid Addiction and Prevention Policies – Policy for all students attending UMUC, UMES and off-campus locations must receive information on heroin and opioid addition and prevention – Passed and signed by the Governor.

MEPPN's position: Support

HB 1302 – Extreme Risk Protective Orders – Process established for petitioner to seek a court order under certain circumstances – Passed and signed by the Governor.

MEPPN's position: Support

HB 758 – Public Safety – Handgun Permit – Guns in Churches – Designating a person to carry a handgun in church – No vote taken by the Judiciary Committee.

MEPPN's position: Oppose

HB 760 – Handguns – School Employees – Guns in Schools – Designating a person to carry a handgun in schools – No vote taken by the Judiciary Committee.

MEPPN's position: Oppose

We had an exciting Episcopal Advocacy Day this year that included speakers Bishop Sutton, Bishop Knutson, Senate President Mike Miller, House and Senate legislators, Al Collins (The Union Black of Episcopalians), Dr. Stanley Andrisse (From Prison Cells to PhD), Vinnie Demarco (Md Health Care and Drug Price Transparency), Brooke Harper (Clean Energy Jobs), David Hornbeck (Strong Schools Maryland), MAJR (Solitary Confinement), Rev. John Martin (Juvenile Justice Issues) Rev. Ken Phelps (Fight for \$15 & Marylander's Against Gun Violence) and more!!!!

Special Thanks to our legislative committee Jan Reid, Rev. Joanna White, Rev. Ken Phelps, Mary and Howard, Rev. John Martin, Rev. Michelle Doran, Rev. Mimi Mathews and Al Collins.

And a VERY Special Thanks to Sen. Ed Reilly for his wonderful support in securing the Miller Room for us, Ardath Cade, Cindy Nesbeth, Mark Kellogg and David Mallery (who is always in our thoughts and prayers)

See you next year!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Shahinian