

2010 L.E.G. Alerts



HELP FOR UNEMPLOYED MARYLANDERS (HB 91 / SB 107)

Issue: This legislation makes Maryland's unemployment insurance system more just by taking a worker's most recent earnings into account when determining unemployment insurance eligibility and makes the State eligible to receive federal incentive funds.

Outcome: PASSED with Amendments.



SAVE THE SERVICE-LINKED HOUSING PROGRAM (State Budget)

Issue: The Service-Linked Housing Program helps low-income Marylanders at risk of homelessness remain in permanent housing by connecting them to critical community services. The proposed FY 2011 budget eliminated all funding for this program.

Outcome: 50% of funding was restored.



MODERNIZE MARYLAND'S CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINES (HB 500 / SB 252)

Issue: Maryland had not raised its child support guidelines that establish child support awards since 1988, leaving many custodial parents who depend on child support payments to struggle financially. This legislation, which applies prospectively to parents with a combined income up to \$15,000/month, modernizes the guidelines and requires most obligors, except those with very low incomes, to pay more support.

Outcome: PASSED with Amendments.



HELP MARYLANDERS STRUGGLING TO PAY UTILITY BILLS (HB 1255 / SB 971)

Issue: This bill would have required gas and electric companies to offer all residential customers, upon a showing of hardship, a reasonable payment plan prior to service termination for nonpayment.

Outcome: FAILED. However, legislators encouraged the utilities to adopt such payment plan policies and convened a workgroup, including advocates and the gas and electric companies, to find a solution to assist residential consumers struggling to pay their utility bills without legislation.



SUPPORT PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF CHILD ABUSE DEATHS (HB 1141 / SB 948)

Issue: This legislation requires the Department of Human Resources and the local departments of social services to disclose information relating to child abuse or neglect when a child dies or suffers a near fatality. This will provide valuable information to help prevent future deaths or near deaths.

Outcome: PASSED.



SAVE FEDERAL SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAMS (Federal Budget)

Issue: President Obama's FY 2011 budget includes significant cuts to two HUD supportive housing programs serving individuals with developmental disabilities and low-income seniors.

Outcome: PENDING.