

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY April 14, 1998**

**ABORTION - Partial-Birth Abortion Ban ( SB 145(JPR) )** -Passed committee 8-3; Full Senate voted to send back to committee 26-21. Senators Derr, Middleton, Fry and Baker tried to present a watered down bill - it failed. Could hurt their re-election efforts.

**The Budget (SB 125)** Included a provision that would allow 11-18 year olds to get state funded abortions. House amended it out, but Senate put it back. 27 brave delegates voted against the budget, mostly because of this issue.

**EUTHANASIA -Assisted Suicide Prohibited SB 220(JPR)** To prohibit physician-assisted suicide, instead of allowing it! Passed committee 10-1! Passed full Senate 27-20! **(HB 1209)(JUD)** Voted down in committee, refused to vote on Senate version.. Delegates D. Murphy, Conroy, Perry T. Murphy and Bissett abstained or were absent on first vote.

**EDUCATION - Phonics HB 639-(W&M)** Phonics was proposed to be the primary method of teaching reading in elementary schools. Hearing held 2/24. Defeated in Committee 5 for -15 against

**Replacement of Criterion Reference Tests(HB 162) (W&M)** - This and several other bills dealing with the MSPAP were assigned to the education sub-committee instead of the full committee this year. Defeated in committee. 5 - 16.

**MSPAP-Parents to see test and results(HB 353) (W&M)** - HB 353 would allow parents to view or obtain a copy of the test and to see their child's results. Bill Defeated in Committee. 7 - 15

**School Choice-HB 559-(W&M)** By reducing costs of building and maintaining new schools, financial aid could be given to parents to send their children to the public or non-public school that fits the need of their child. Also sets up a commission to regulate and issue the grants. Hearing date 2/25. Defeated in committee. 5 - 15

**Community Service Requirement for Graduation(HB 231): (W&M)** A local AA County to allow AA Co. to decide if students shall perform community service as a condition of graduation. Other counties could present this same bill if parents call their local Delegates. Hearing 3/10 1 PM. Defeated in committee. 6 - 12

*Majority of this committee is uninterested in hearing from parents and activist groups. They don't take these issues very seriously. Another reason to pay close attention to candidates during this election year. Ask hard questions on where they stand on education.*

**School Uniforms(HB 1238) (W&M)** To have each school conduct a survey. If 51% of parents agree, then school will have required uniforms. School would choose type of clothing and footwear. No vote this year.

**SEXUAL ORIENTATION - Same-sex marriage-Invalidity-(SB 565)/** SB 565 would prohibit same-sex marriages from being valid in Maryland, if made legal elsewhere. Passed 10-1 in committee and 28-18 in full Senate. Failed in House Judiciary committee **(HB 1259)(JUD)** would make marriage legal between "any two consenting adults.".. Defeated in committee , 3-14.

**DISCRIMINATION - Anti-Discrimination Act (HB 68) - (Judiciary)** - This bill would give homosexuals special rights in housing, employment and public places, because of their choice of sexual activity only. Defeated last year, but only by 1 vote!.. Hearing: Mar 20, 1 PM. Excellent testimony- lasted over 3 hrs! Prayers were answered!! Defeated in Committee 11-10. Again, only by one vote!

**GAMBLING (HB 678)(W&M)** A nasty bill that would change the state constitution and would thereby mandate at least 11,250 slots all over the state! That would give us more slots than Illinois which has 10 riverboats! Saying this is a referendum is wrong because AA and PG counties and Balto. City voters could vote against the amendment and still be forced to accept slots if 51% of state voters approved - some democracy! Hearing on Feb. 26 lasted 4 hours! Most witnesses were against "slots for tots". Sad to see Dr. Nancy Grasmick, Superintendent of MSDE and Pres. of U of M in favor of getting the money!! This is a poor message to send to our children. No vote.

**Video Lottery Terminals at Racetracks (HB 1324)(W&M)** - Filed late! Evidently a back-up in case HB 678 fails.. No vote.

**Commercial Casino-Advertisements - (HB 159) (JUD)** Prohibits advertising casinos or slots in Maryland by out of state interests. Helps the racetracks by not allowing Delaware to entice people out of Maryland to play slots. Feb. 26 1 PM.. Defeated in committee.

**MISCELLANEOUS - Minors Capacity to Consent (HB 560) (ENV)**-Would allow parents to be notified before treatment or advice about pregnancy, contraception or abortion. Hearing date 3/16 1 PM. Defeated in committee. 4 - 15

**Patient's Consent Act ( HB 427) (ENV)** To allow patients (you) to approve of your Doctor giving your medical records to the state databank. Another case of the majority being over-ruled and "big brother" getting more information from you-without your consent! No vote this year. We think we had enough votes, but the chairman would not allow a vote to be take.

**Identification of Voters (HB 850 (CGM))** - Requires voters to show ID or to verify address and date of birth. Would cut down on voter fraud. Defeated in committee

*As you can see we need a lot more "family friendly" legislators. The November election is the time to do just that! Please learn where your legislators stand on these issues, then strongly support your choice. We can make a difference if we have the prayer and financial support to effectively educate our representatives on the effect these bills will have on our families. Please decide to be part of the difference with your prayers, your vote, phone calls, letters and monthly support.*

**If you have any questions or would like to become more involved call us:**

# HOUSE COMMITTEES

Lowe House Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

## House Appropriations Committee (APP)

	<u>room</u>	<u>phone</u>	<u>dist</u>		<u>room</u>	<u>phone</u>	<u>dist</u>
Chairman:				Nancy Hubers (D)	303	3384	06
Howard P. Rawlings (D)	131	3407	40	Mary D. James (D)	326	3289	34
Vice Chairman				Adrienne A. Jones (D)	309	3350	10
Norman H. Conway (D)	416	3425	38	Verna Jones (D)	315	3263	44
Wheeler R. Baker (D)	422	3189	36	Cheryl Kagan (D)	224	3046	17
Rushern L. Baker III(D)	201	3074	22B	Martha S. Klima	308	3359	9
Talmadge Branch (D)	301	3257	45	Nancy K. Kopp (D)	221	3019	16
Joan Cadden (D)	213	3217	31	John R. Leopold	213	3217	31
Richard D'Amato (D)	212	3211	30	Richard A. Palumbo (D)	207	3058	22A
Thomas E. Dewberry	312	3391	47B	Joan B. Pitkin (D)	208	3098	23
George C. Edwards	320	3435	1A	James E. Proctor, Jr. (D)	206	3083	27A
Robert L. Flanagan	405	3200	14B	Samuel I. Rosenberg (D)	319	3297	42
Peter Franchot (D)	424	3460	20	John F. Slade III (D)	217	3314	29B
C. Sue Hecht (D)	324	3240	3	Nancy R. Stocksdales	322	3371	5
Henry B. Heller (D)	429	3528	19	Frank S. Turner (D)	209	3205	13A

## House Commerce & Government Matters (CGM)

	<u>room</u>	<u>phone</u>	<u>dist</u>		<u>room</u>	<u>phone</u>	<u>dist</u>
Chairman				Barry Glassman (R)	326	3289	35A
John F. Wood, Jr. (D)	141B	3502	29A	Robert H. Kittleman (R)	411	3401	14B
Vice Chairman				James E. Malone, Jr (D)	304	3378	12A
Maggie L. McIntosh (D)	141	3502	42	Adrienne A. Mandel (D)	220	3045	19
John S. Arnick (D)	426	3458	7	Jeffery A. Paige (D)	315	3263	44
Joanne C. Benson (D)	204	3065	24	Joanne S. Parrott (R)	326	3289	35A
Elizabeth Bobo (D)	209	3205	12B	Daniel B. Riley (D)	326	3289	34
David R. Brinkley (R)	323	3107	4A	Christopher Shank (R)	321	3447	2B
William A. Bronrott (D)	221	3019	16	Louise V. Snodgrass (D)	324	3240	3
Virginia P. Clagett (D)	212	3211	30	Theodore Sophocleus (D)	214	3233	32
Diane DeCarlo (D)	303	3384	6	Darren M. Swain (D)	204	3065	24
Michael V. Dobson (D)	314	3521	43				
Cornell N. Dypski (D)	316	3303	46				

## House Economic Matters Committee (ECM)

	<u>room</u>	<u>phone</u>	<u>dist</u>		<u>room</u>	<u>phone</u>	<u>dist</u>
Chairman				James M. Kelly(R)	308	3359	9B
Michael E. Busch (D)	151	3519	30	Ruth M. Kirk (D)	315	3263	44
Vice Chairman				Carolyn J. Krysiak (D)	316	3303	46
Michael R. Gordon (D)	151	3519	17	Richard LaVay (R)	226	3090	15
Kumar P. Barve (D)	222	3001	17	Mary Ann E. Love (D)	214	3233	32
Anthony Brown (D)	203	3076	25	Charles A. McClenahan(D)	412	3433	38
John P. Donoghue (D)	321	3447	2C	Brian K. McHale (D)	310	3319	47A
Adelaide C. Eckardt (R)	404	3343	37B	Joseph J. Minnick(D)	305	3332	7
Tony E. Fulton (D)	314	3277	40	Van T. Mitchell (D)	216	3247	28
Marilyn R. Goldwater(D)	221	3019	16	Brian R. Moe (D)	210	3114	21
Hattie N. Harrison (D)	427	3486	45	Shane E. Pendergrass (D)	209	3205	13A
Kerry Hill (D)	205	3012	26	Mary Roe Walkup (R)	423	3449	36
A. Wade Kach (R)	308	3359	9A				

Legislators' offices can be called with no charge to the caller by using 410-841 as the first six digits from the Baltimore (410) area; 301-858 as the first six digits from the Washington (301) area, or from all other areas, (1-800) 492-7122.

for more information contact:

the FAMILY PROTECTION LOBBY / P.O. Box 106 / Annapolis, MD 21404

(410) 922-1008 or (1-800) 899-4FPL e-mail fplmd@maranatha.net web site-www.maranatha.net/fplmd

# TIPS ON HOW TO WRITE YOUR LEGISLATOR

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Yes, you can influence your legislators by writing to them. They read letters from constituents, and the few who write to them have proportionately greater influence than the many who don't. Here are some proven tips on how to go about it.

**BE LOGICAL.** An emotional appeal is not enough. Back your arguments with facts and substance. Show how proposed legislation will effect your business, your community, the state, or the nation.

**BE SPECIFIC.** If you are writing about a bill, refer to its content as well as giving its number. Don't assume that your legislator can recall full details of all legislation filed in a session.

**BE BRIEF.** If you write on more than one topic, write more than one letter.

**BE POSITIVE AND CORDIAL.** Your tone should be business-like, clear and concise, but not curt. Don't threaten to vote for someone else. A letter saying, "Well done" could make a legislator feel more positive about your next request. Don't wait until the bill is out of committee.

**IDENTIFY YOURSELF.** Sign letters and include your address and telephone number. When expressing an organization's views, use its letterhead.

**USE THE PROPER FORMAT.** Address mail to, "The Honorable (full name). In the greeting, address the official by his title and last name, as Dear Senator Smith. Never spell a name wrong. Type or write legibly.

To Your Senator:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
James Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

To Your Delegate:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**REQUEST A REPLY.** Ask your legislator to let you know how he or she feels about the issue, but don't be demanding.

**SEND COPIES TO F.P.L.** Send copies of your correspondence including replies to:

**Family Protection Lobby**  
**P.O. Box 106**  
**Annapolis, MD 21404**