

## Senator Simonaire's 2016 Legislative Update

### **SB 775: Disabled Vets/Active Military Fishing/Hunting License Donation Program**

Senator Simonaire successfully led the effort to create a program for persons or organizations to donate fishing or hunting licenses to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for a disabled military individual, a Gold Star recipient who lost a loved one in combat, or a permanently disabled person. Local non-profits will then request the donated licenses from DNR when they have sponsored fishing or hunting trips for such individuals.



### **SB 1106: Courthouse Dog and Child Witness Program – Anne Arundel and Harford Counties**

Senator Simonaire successfully led the effort to create a pilot program in two counties where children are provided highly trained therapy or facility dogs in the courtroom. Children who have been sexually abused, witnessed a vicious crime, or been the recipient of domestic abuse, etc. face tremendous stress and emotional challenges in the courtroom. It has been shown that having a friendly dog by their side allows them to relax and share the truth that they would not otherwise have been able to share. Kilo, a trained therapy dog, assisted in the presentation at the Senate and House committee hearings.



### **SB 119: Equal Treatment for Veterans**

While many businesses offer discounts to our veterans, sadly some businesses were not recognizing official veteran's documentation for the discount. This legislation does not require discounts or benefits honoring our veterans, but it says if you offer it to veterans, it must be equally given to all veterans across Maryland. The bill was passed unanimously and supported by the Maryland Veteran's Caucus.



### **SB 8: Anne Arundel County Senior's Property Tax Deferrals**

The Anne Arundel County tax deferral program that allows homeowners who are 62 years or older or permanently disabled to freeze their property taxes, needed extra protections. This bill altered the program to ensure that the interest-free tax deferrals were not due if an individual temporarily did not meet the income eligibility requirements for a year.



### **SB 63: Right to Try**

Senate Bill 63 provides hope where there is no hope. We heard compelling testimony that when terminally-ill patients could have benefitted from a drug in FDA testing, they were not legally permitted to use it unless they were selected for the clinical trials. The patient was left to die or go to another country. This bill would allow these patients the right to try FDA investigational drugs that have passed phase 1 testing, if recommended by their doctor and shown to possibly provide a cure. The General Assembly wanted to create a Workgroup to further analyze the legislation over the summer. Hopefully, it will result in the bill's passage next session.



### **SB 191: Capital Bond Bills**

Capital projects for our district included grants for the renovations of Pasadena's Downs Park Amphitheater and the Lake Shore girl's softball fields, and major renovations for Glen Burnie High School's field house and concession stand.



### **SB 120: Senatorial Scholarship Awards**

Senate Bill 120 expands the 4 year scholarship up to a 5th year. Numerous students require more than 4 years to finish their degree. Prior to this legislation, scholarships were prohibited from exceeding 4 years no matter the reason for a student taking an additional year. This created great hardship for many diligent working students.



### **SB 47: Anne Arundel County Benefit Corporations**

Benefit Corporations charters legally guarantee that their business will provide benefits to the community. This bill was crafted to attract good paying Benefit Corporations to our county by offering business incentives.

