



The Connection

Legislative Newsletter



**ERIC
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DISTRICT 12

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Crossover and Session Priorities



As March quickly draws to a close, the legislature is diligently working to pass measures that will ease the burden on the wallets of all Marylanders. Recently, we passed a measure that would temporarily suspend the state gas tax for 30 days. In uncertain times, I remain dedicated to doing the most that I can to improve quality of life for my constituents; whether it be supporting family budget boosters and child care initiatives, improving protections for the state's cybersecurity, or sustaining our most treasured resources through environmental protection: to include our state parks. I invite you to read through this brief snapshot of just a few of the measures that have come before the legislature this month.

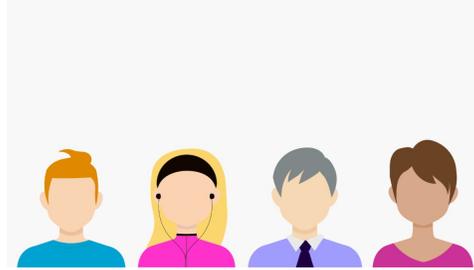
Best,
Eric Ebersole

Improving Child Care Bill Package



Financial Help for Families

To better financially support families both utilizing child care services and working in child care, we are working on [HB995](#) and [HB1100](#). These bills allow families to immediately receive funds for child care from the state when they meet the proper criteria and create bonuses for newly hired employees in the child care businesses. Together, they will help support low-income families and enable them to receive the care that their children need.



Small Business Assistance

Child care centers are often run as small businesses, and [HB089](#) and [HB993](#) recognize this unique aspect of the industry by providing more funds to aid them. [HB089](#) creates a stabilization grant program and allows the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to offer money to those child care centers in danger of closing in areas where they are most needed. [HB993](#) creates a revolving loan fund for child care centers to use on capital projects. After the initial loans are paid back over the course of 5 years, the funds will be redistributed to a different child care center for a new capital project with no additional cost to the government.



Improving Child Care Access

[HB725](#) allows child care centers to specifically target the needs of children with developmental delays and disabilities by providing grants to them for individualized care. The MSDE would provide these grants after reviewing the specific needs of the child to create a system that allows for money from the government to follow and support who are most in need.

Strengthening Cybersecurity Bill Package



Modernizing Maryland's Technological Infrastructure

In this package of bills, both [HB1205](#) and [HB1346](#) work together to improve and modernize our technological infrastructure. These bills create a proper governance structure for cybersecurity by creating the Office of Security Management (OSM) and design an oversight commission consisting of experts in cybersecurity, legislators, and industry leaders.

Response to Cyber-Attacks

Another bill in the Cybersecurity package, [HB1202](#), better prepares state and local governments for potential cyber attacks. By



CYBERSECURITY
IMPROVEMENTS TO PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Modern IT Infrastructure
- State & Local Coordination
- Long-term Security Investments

creating a "fusion center" to better share data across governmental entities, it ensures proper support to effectively respond to emergency incidents.

Family Budget Booster Tax Relief Package



Work Opportunity Tax Credit

The "Family Budget Boosters" tax relief package will help those who struggle to find work become more employable. It includes the [Work Opportunity Tax Credit](#), which provides a tax credit to businesses that hire and retain workers from underrepresented communities who are chronically unemployed. This will help put unemployed Marylanders back to work.



Medical Product Sales Tax Exemptions

Included in this package are [HB364](#), [HB492](#), and [HB1151](#) which all cut the sales tax rate on health products that many Marylanders require. Ranging on items from toothbrushes, blood pressure monitors, and diabetic care products, these bills will make basic medical necessities more affordable. This will help ensure everyone has access to these products and will help to boost our public health.



FAMILY BUDGET BOOSTERS

- Helping Families Afford Basic Necessities
- Making Health & Medical Products More Affordable
- Putting Chronically Unemployed Marylanders Back to Work

Baby Product Sales Tax Exemptions

The sales tax exemptions also stretch to many products related to families. [HB282](#) and [HB288](#) feature tax cuts on diapers and additional baby products including car seats, baby bottles and bottle nipples to help save families money. These measures will provide some financial relief to families with young children and help them continue to be able to afford the products that they need.

Preserving Our State Parks and Environment



Patapsco Valley State Park Improvements

As a member of the Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park Board of Directors, I am always working to help improve the park that is key to our community. This session, I am working to increase access and space for parking at the park, so all can continue to enjoy its beauty. In my free time, I continue to volunteer to help the park personally as well.

Great Maryland Outdoors Act

[HB727 \(The Great Maryland Outdoors Act\)](#) provides a much needed focus on updating the infrastructure to Maryland Park Service and all of our state parks. This bill will increase the number of full-time staff in the Maryland Park Service and address critical maintenance needs by updating park infrastructure. I believe it will greatly improve the experience we can have in our state parks.

District Scholarship

Scholarship Applications

Our office is currently accepting scholarship applications for high school students. If you are planning on attending a Maryland college or university, I encourage you to apply for this opportunity. The deadline for application submissions is **April 1st**. Additional requirements and the application itself can be found [here](#). Please contact my office with any questions or concerns about the scholarship.



Let Me Hear From You!

An Honor to Serve

Thank you in advance for following our efforts this session and continuing to place your trust in me to serve the constituents in District 12 and the whole State of Maryland. My team is intensely focused on providing constituent support as we work through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. If there is anything we can do to help you, please do not hesitate to contact my office via email or phone. You will get a prompt response.

Contact me at:
eric.ebersole@house.state.md.us
or 410-841-3328.

[About Me](#)



Eric D. Ebersole

Committee Assignments and Leadership Roles

- **Ways and Means**
- **Deputy Majority Whip**
- **Chair- Early Childhood Subcommittee- Ways and Means**
- **Education Subcommittee - Ways and Means**
- **Chair - Education Subcommittee - Balt, Co. Delegation**
- **Joint Committee on Children, Youth & Families**
- **House of Delegates Representative to Education Commission of the States, Professional Standards for Teacher Education Board, and State Interagency Coordinating Council**
- **Advisory Board - MD Center for School Safety**
- **Advisory Board - Visit Howard County**
- **Community Leadership Board - Catonsville Y**

