

February 2023



The Connection

Legislative Newsletter

 <p>ERIC EBERSOLE LEGISLATOR DISTRICT 12</p>	<p>DELEGATE ERIC EBERSOLE</p> <p>6 Bladen Street – Rm. 305 Annapolis, MD 21401</p> <p>eric.ebersole@house.state.md.us 410-841-3328</p> <p>www.ericbersole.org</p>
--	--

Session is Underway!

Maryland's 446th Legislative Session is off to a great start! Prior to the beginning of the Session, I was honored to be elected to serve as Chair of the Baltimore County Delegation. Additionally, I am excited to continue my work in improving the educational opportunities of Maryland's students as Chair of the Education Subcommittee.



This session, we are working hard to improve the lives of people throughout Maryland, and specifically our great communities of southwest Baltimore County – State District 44A. Below, I have outlined some of the key legislation my office is working on, as well as details pertaining to our district scholarship program.

At the end of the newsletter, I have provided contact information for myself and my office. Please, do not hesitate to reach out. I am always happy and willing to support you by answering questions or addressing comments and concerns.

Best,
Eric Ebersole

Teacher Development and Retention Program ([HB0075](#))

Teachers are the lifeblood of our communities, and I pride myself on the work done in this office to benefit Maryland’s teachers and students. Last year, I helped pass Governor Moore’s Teacher Development and Retention Program – a system designed to incentivize a new generation of student teachers. Through in-classroom, experiential learning, the program seeks to provide interested college students with the skills and resources necessary to teach in Maryland’s public schools. Currently, however, the program does not extend to all community-college students interested in a teaching career.



This session, I am proposing House Bill 0148 to address exactly this. By allowing community-college students to engage in this program, Maryland will be able to expand the umbrella of teacher recruitment. Doing so ensures the promise of this program; Maryland will leave no stone unturned in the quest to improve educational opportunities for our students. I will always support efforts to hire and retain talented educators, and this bill will continue providing the critical resources to those interested in a teaching profession.

See Someone, Save Someone Act ([HB0148](#))



One of my most important priorities this session is to pass HB0148, the See Someone, Save Someone Act. This act would require the Maryland Department of Transportation to both develop and implement a training program for transportation employees to identify and report human trafficking during their job. This training would be required for all transportation employees and would assist in establishing a procedural process to report human trafficking.

Human trafficking continues to remain a major yet hidden issue, and transportation is included in the larger conversation with uprooting this horrible crime. Many

Marylanders are subject to human trafficking each year. Traffickers use public transportation, such as trains, planes, and buses to hide in plain sight, leading transportation employees to be in a unique position to see, listen, and act. This bill would equip the transportation sector with the eyes and ears to provide aid and save lives.

Transportation employees are at the forefront of helping people, and as we try to combat this injustice in our state, it has become clear that HB0148 would be an effective step in the right direction. HB0148 would require employers to provide training within 90 days of hire, establish procedures for reporting suspected trafficking, and implement a human trafficking prevention policy. It will, with no doubt, make our communities safer, keep our transportation sector accountable, and rescue survivors of human trafficking, instilling hope in our community.

Mental Health Training Within Our Schools ([HB0204](#))

Promoting mental health in our school system is an ever-important issue and I am always supporting initiatives within our curriculum. With that, I am working on HB0204, which provides mental health training to coaches in public schools and higher education institutions that offer a mainstream athletic program. Promoting mental health in our school system begins with our school staff. HB0204 would require education and health departments to develop guidelines to train coaches in recognizing mental health signs and symptoms in students.



HB0204 would allow the Maryland Department of Education along with the Department of Health, Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA), and the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to develop guidelines for recognizing mental and behavioral distress symptoms in students and provide the necessary services for students to prosper.

I am proud to co-sponsor HB0204 so that we are able to support students and provide necessary mental health education to our school staff.

Scholarship Application



My office is excited to announce our District Scholarship Program. If you are looking to attend or are currently attending a Maryland college or university, I encourage you to apply for this great opportunity. The deadline to apply is **April 1st, 2024**; additional information related to requirements and the application process can be found [here](#).

Please contact my office with any questions related to the scholarship program.

My Committee Assignments and Leadership Roles

- Member, Ways and Means Committee
- Chair, Education Subcommittee
- Member, Early Childhood Subcommittee
- Chair, Baltimore County House Delegation
- Member, Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families
- Member, Apprenticeship 2030 Commission
- Board Member - Coalition of Coordinated Community Behavioral Health Supports
- Advisory Board - MD Center for School Safety
- Commissioner - Education Commission of the States
- Community Leadership Board - Catonsville Y



An Honor to Serve

Thank you for continuing to place your trust in me to serve our community in the Maryland General Assembly. I remain focused on our legislative priorities alongside timely and effective constituent support. If there is anything we can do to help you, please do not hesitate to contact my office. You will receive a prompt response.

Contact Me:

Email - eric.ebersole@house.state.md.us

Office Phone - (410) 841-3328

Eric D. Ebersole

