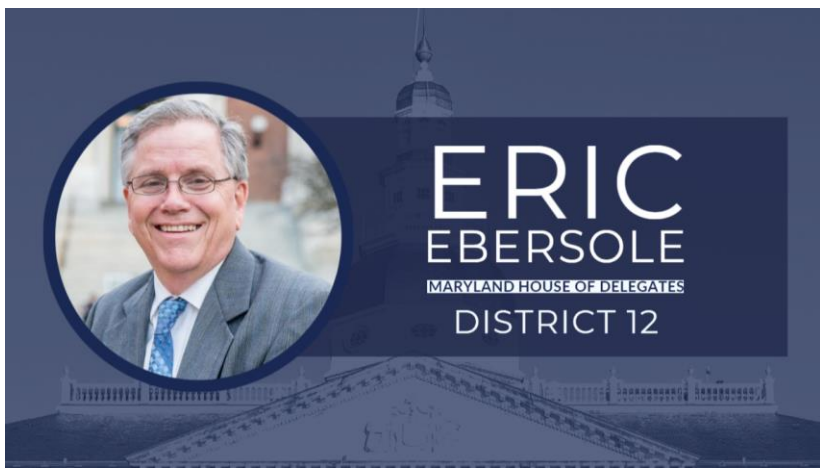




MARYLAND
HOUSE OF DELEGATES



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DISTRICT 12

THE CONNECTION

Annapolis ↔ Howard and Baltimore Counties

A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER
TO KEEP YOU UP TO DATE

SESSION IN FULL SWING
2021

Session Is
Underway - 2021

Personal
Legislation

Next Newsletter –
Big Help for
Taxpayers and
Businesses and
other broad
initiatives

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DELEGATE

ERIC EBERSOLE

6 Bladen Street –Rm. 305
Annapolis MD 21401

eric.ebersole@house.state.md.us

410 841 3328

www.ericbersole.org



Session is underway and we are in full stride.

For this newsletter, I will highlight some of the bills that I have personally asked the legislature to consider.

Human Trafficking Prevention

In 2019, I sponsored and passed legislation that required truckers to be trained to recognize and respond to signs of human trafficking. This session I'm putting forth legislation that would require the same type of training of hospitality workers. Because hotels and motels are often the setting for this crime, I'm hoping educating all employees there will deal yet another blow to this heinous crime.



Adult Diaper Changing Stations

After a number of constituents came to me to talk about the importance of adult diaper changing stations in public facilities, I decided to spearhead legislation on it. As significantly developmentally disabled individuals grow to be adults, they continue to need the same hygiene help they did as children, including changing adult diapers. This legislation would require installation in new and significantly renovated public buildings. The cost is minimal as these can be universal in design and replace baby changing stations while still be used by those with infants. The legislation also requires a clearinghouse website of locations for those in need to be able to plan ahead. For families traveling around Maryland, knowing that an adequate number of adult changing stations exist, and where they are will allow them to travel here without concern about making a change on a parking lot or bathroom floor. Kudos to places like BWI that will be on this website for sure as they already have adult changing stations installed. My bill has already passed out of the House of Delegates. Now the Senate will take it up.



Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion - LEAD

Too often, those arrested for low impact crimes, like low level drug possession, end up in the prison pipeline. They find themselves ensnared and unable to extract themselves before other parts of their life - such as holding their job - deteriorate. This only adds to the propensity to return to their destructive behavior. To break this cycle, law enforcement would like the authority to divert these individuals to the proper social services supports instead of the one size fits all of arresting them. This would keep them out of our jails and get them the help they need to get on the right track. My legislation would enable local jurisdictions to designate crime types and then give this authority to their police force. I hope for better outcomes for individuals and a justice system that can be more focused on serious crime prevention. This is common sense legislation in this time of a need for sensible and sensitive law enforcement. I have very positive feedback from the leaders of the Judiciary Committee.



Early Childhood Mental Health



A few years ago, legislation was passed that prevented suspension and expulsion of students in grades pre-k to 2 in publicly funded schools. The legislation was based on solid research that keeping very young students out of school is damaging in the present and begins a cycle that sets them back for years to come. Now that we are expanding early childhood education in the state, we have a host of new institutions - public, private, and non-profit - that are serving children under three.

This legislation would require the Maryland State Department of Education to evaluate the need for infant and early childhood mental health care support services, which could extend our ability to keep very young children with mental health challenges in school. The study will evaluate the capacity of the existing Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project (IECMHCP) to meet that need with an eye toward expansion.

Preventive measures and early treatment delivered through IECMHCP have proven to be highly successful – and cost effective. The project offers in person support for individual students and programmatically.

Those who need special attention are often able to be kept at their daycare, rather than being suspended or expelled from the program, to their benefit as well as the benefit of the caretakers.

HB 776 offers an opportunity for the State to examine the feasibility of expanding IECMHCP and providing these vital services to more early education programs and more young children. I am proud to sponsor this legislation. It has already received a favorable vote from the Ways and Means committee.

Student Demonstration Policy.

In my time as a teacher, I have been consistently impressed with the maturity and awareness of the students that I taught. They are not only in tune with the policies and issues of the day, many of them are eager to participate actively in establishing and influencing policy. One way for them to do this is through peaceful and productive demonstration. It is important in the school setting that they understand the parameters both for themselves and for the school setting while experiencing the opportunity.

This legislation will help to clarify to students, in a consistent and predictable manner, the way for them to be able to demonstrate and express themselves, helping to clear the way for them to do just that. It will establish basic guidelines to protect the educational setting for instruction as well.

Each local school system will be required to establish a demonstration policy for students that would allow them to experience a predictable set of rules in arranging and carrying out a demonstration, an educational experience itself, on school property or at a school event. This would allow them to express themselves and protect the educational process as well.



Feeding Hungry People - Helping Farmers -
Reducing Waste

This one is a win/win/win. Two years ago I sponsored legislation that would encourage farmers to donate healthy produce that is not "perfect" enough to be sent to market. Tomatoes that are not "round" and other slightly out of shape foods are often discarded, as grocery stores will not buy them. This program offers farmers a tax credit of half the value if they donate it to food banks. The Maryland Food Bank, right here in Halethorpe in my own district 12, reports that this has been a big help in increasing produce available to food insecure people. Food banks have been trying to focus on fresh produce to compliment the easier and more popular donation of canned and boxed goods, as they are generally healthier. The legislation extends the sunset on this tax credit. The program has been growing each year as more farmers discover it. We also added assistance with transportation into the legislation to further encourage them. So we help farmers distribute more food, we reduce waste, and we feed hungry people. I am working hard to get his one passed.



We have a host of other initiatives that are building up steam. Among them are Law Enforcement Reform, Pandemic Job and Tax Relief for Individuals and Businesses, Unemployment Program Improvement, Rent and Mortgage Protection, Climate Change Mitigation, Student Mental Health, Child Care Support, and School Re-Opening. Some of these are already well underway and others are coming. I will cover some of these broad issues and their progress in my next newsletter – stay tuned!

LET ME HEAR FROM YOU:

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

eric.ebersole@house.state.md.us
or 410-841-3328.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric D. Ebersole".

Eric Ebersole

State Delegate, District 12
House Office Building, Room 350
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401



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 Member - Visit Howard County**
- **Community Leadership Board - Catonsville Y**