

WDC 2022 Legislative Accomplishments

During the 2022 legislative session, members of the WDC Advocacy Committee worked tirelessly to advocate for a total of 44 bills. Of those bills, 14 passed. Although we were pleased with our accomplishments, there is still much work to be done on important bills that did not survive. The fact that there is a new legislature starting in January 2023, makes our work even harder since many of the bills will have to be introduced anew.

On May 27th Governor Hogan vetoed another 18 bills (He vetoed 11 bills on April 8th). This action is particularly devastating since being an election year, the new legislature starting January 2023 cannot override vetoes of legislation passed by previous lawmakers. Two bills WDC directly advocated for were vetoed by the Governor. "The Time to Care Act" veto was immediately overridden by the legislature before sine die on April 9th. The "Act" establishes the Maryland Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. The "Stay of Eviction Proceeding for Rental Assistance Determination" bill was vetoed on May 27th. Although the traditional date for enacted bills to go into effect is October 1st, the earliest date for 2022 enacted bills to take effect can be as early as June 1st. In fact, the "Time to Care Act" was a bill that went into effect on June 1st. Our families thank you!

WDC supported the following bills that ultimately passed:

HB0001 – Constitutional amendment – Cannabis – Adult Use and Possession (enacted subject to Constitutional Referendum)

HB0031/SB0256 – Maryland energy Administration – Resiliency Hub Grant Program and fund

HB0129/SB0012 – Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services and Public Safety Answering Points – Modifications

HB0148/SB0328 – Criminal Law – Stalking – Definition

HB0252/SB0369 – Income Tax – Maryland Earned Income Tax Credit Assistance Program for Low-Income Families

HB0284/SB0020 – Criminal procedure – Out of Court Statements – Child Victims and Witnesses

HB0425/SB0387 – Public Safety – Untraceable Firearms

HB0459/SB0691 – Juvenile Justice Reform

HB0515/SB0951 - Education – Student Athletes – Uniform Modifications for Modesty (Inclusive Athletic Attire Act)

HB0927/SB0744 - Housing and Community Development - Affordable Housing - Excess Real Property

HB1051/SB0527 – Elderly Individuals – Howard County and Montgomery County Adult Day Health Care Services Pilot Program and Task Force.

SB0053 – Juvenile Law – Child Interrogation Protection Act

SB0275 – Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act Of 2022) – Overrode Governor's Veto

SB0384 – Landlord and Tenant – Stay of Eviction Proceeding for Rental Assistance Determination – Governor Vetoed