

June 2024

Legislative Report
Tom Slater

The Maryland General Assembly ended its annual session on April 8, 2024. I serve as FCRSPA's representative to the MRSPA Legislative Committee. I also serve as chair of the committee. This year's session was reasonably uneventful insofar as our legislative priorities. The legislative committee opposed bills this year that provided for the forfeiture of benefits to some members of the pension system, placed undue restrictions on voting in Maryland, and attempted to provide increased support for nonpublic education. We also oppose all legislative attempts to interfere in the state or local school system decisions in regard to curriculum even if we believed that the intent was meritorious. None of the bills that we opposed were passed by the Maryland General Assembly. The legislative committee supported this year bills that would have increased tax credits for caregivers, made improvements in the Prescription Drug Affordability Board, and created a study of long term care insurance. We also advocated for a tax credit for the payment of premiums for long term care insurance and tax credits for seniors. We supported efforts to have Maryland re-affirm its support for the Federal Equal Rights Amendment. Our committee also supported the inclusion of hearing aid coverage in state insurance plans, efforts to reduce wait time in Maryland emergency rooms, efforts to encourage the reemployment of retired Maryland teachers, compensation adjustments for recipients of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System, the Fair Share Act in regard to adjustments in Maryland's income tax, and Governor Moore's proposed changes in the juvenile justice system. The most significant bill that we supported that was passed and signed into law was Governor Moore's proposed changes to the state's juvenile justice system. Our committee will meet in August and review our legislative priorities. Later in the year and into 2025 we will repeat the intensive process of reviewing bills and deciding whether to take a position on them. Please do not hesitate to email me at tgslawslate@comcast.net if you have any questions about the legislative committee, the process that we go through, positions that we have taken or specific legislation that you would like information on or want to advocate that we take a position on.