

# Takoma Park 2019 Legislative Highlights

## Bills of Significance that Passed

<p><a href="#">SB 581 (HB 1260)</a> Sen. Bill Ferguson et al.</p>	<p>Economic, Housing, and Community Development - Opportunity Zone Incentives</p> <p>Extending certain benefits under the More Jobs for Marylanders Program to businesses that locate or expand in opportunity zones in the State; establishing the Opportunity Zone Enhancement Program in the Department and providing for the administration of the tax credit enhancements offered by the Program; authorizing an additional tax credit under the historic revitalization tax credit program for certain commercial rehabilitations that qualify as opportunity zone projects; etc.</p>	<p>Committees: Budget and Taxation</p> <p>Status: Passed Enrolled (4/8)</p>	<p>Position: Support *via other bills*</p> <p>Comment: This bill represents a combination of multiple opportunity zone, housing and economic development bills, some of which the City weighed in on at a detailed level.</p> <p>A complete analysis can be found here <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2019RS/fnotes/bil_0001/sb0581.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2019RS/fnotes/bil_0001/sb0581.pdf</a></p> <p>**The City's request for an amendment to include retail was not accepted, although they did add grocery stores. The explanation given was that the bill is meant to incentivize large parcel development, i.e. housing complexes, shopping centers, etc... and is not meant to go to an individual retail store since as a stand alone store, the retail establishment wouldn't achieve the desired economic growth intended. However, the list of eligible businesses within an opportunity zone is significantly expanded since under the prior law, only manufacturing was eligible. Now it is any business other than adult entertainment, retail or alcohol sales.</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1266 (SB 754)</a> Del. Alonzo Washington et al.</p>	<p>National Capital Strategic Economic Development Program - Established</p> <p>Establishing the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Program to provide strategic investment in local housing and businesses to encourage sustainable communities and to focus on areas where modest investment will have an appreciable neighborhood</p>	<p>Committees: Appropriations; Environment and Transportation</p> <p>Status: Passed Enrolled (4/6)</p>	<p>Position: Support</p> <p>Comment: This legislation expands the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Program supported by the City in prior sessions and establishes clear eligibility criteria for the program. Changes the program from a grant program to a financial assistance program. And establishes a budget appropriation from the</p>

	<p>revitalization effect; establishing the type of project eligible to receive funds; authorizing certain government agencies, including housing authorities, and certain community development organizations to apply to receive Program funds; etc.</p>		<p>operating budget of \$200,000/yr from FY2021-2025 with another \$7million in funding from either the operating or capital budget for FY2012-2025.</p> <p>*Takoma Park's request for an amendment to include government entities was adopted.</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 109 (SB 285)</a> Del. Brooke Lierman et al.</p> <p>Prior Yr Info: 2018: HB 538 - Support 2017: HB 229 - Support with Amendment</p>	<p>Environment - Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Products - Prohibitions</p> <p>Prohibiting a person from selling in the State an expanded polystyrene food service product on or after July 1, 2020; prohibiting food service businesses or schools from selling or providing food or beverages in expanded polystyrene food service products on or after July 1, 2020; confirming the authority of local government entities to establish standards that are at least as stringent as those in the Act; requiring the Department of the Environment to conduct a public education and outreach antilittering campaign; etc.</p>	<p>Committees: Economic Matters; Environment and Transportation</p> <p>Status: Passed Enrolled (4/3)</p>	<p>Position: Support</p> <p>Comment: Statewide polystyrene ban that contains the amendments Takoma Park worked on in prior sessions to ensure the City's ban can remain unchanged. This is the first statewide ban in the country.</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 272 (SB 234)</a> Del. Stephen Lafferty et al.</p>	<p>Natural Resources - State and Local Forest Conservation Funds</p> <p>Requiring a person that is subject to the Forest Conservation Act to demonstrate that appropriate credits generated by a forest mitigation bank in the same county or watershed are not available before the person may pay money to a State or local forest conservation fund to meet certain requirements; prohibiting a local authority from collecting money for deposit into its forest conservation fund unless it has submitted to the Department the mitigation plan and accounting procedures; applying the Act prospectively; etc.</p>	<p>Committees: Environment and Transportation</p> <p>Status: Returned Passed (4/3)</p>	<p>Position: Support</p> <p>Comment: Allowed MML to take the lead, did not submit anything in writing, but closely monitored.</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 277 (SB 249)</a> Del. Marc Korman et al.</p>	<p>Regional Initiative to Limit or Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Transportation Sector - Authorization (Regional Transportation and</p>	<p>Committees: Economic Matters; Environment and</p>	<p>Position: Support</p>

	<p>Climate Protection Act of 2019)</p> <p>Authorizing the Governor to include the State as a full participant in a regional governmental initiative, agreement, or compact that limits or reduces greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector; requiring the Department of the Environment and the Department of Transportation to submit a report on the status of any regional initiative, agreement or compact that limits or reduces greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before November 1, 2019; etc.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Status: Returned Passed (4/8)</p>	<p>Comment: Testimony Submitted</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 729 (HB 735)</a> Sen. Guy Guzzone et al.</p>	<p>Technical Study on Changes in Forest Cover and Tree Canopy in Maryland</p> <p>Requiring the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, in consultation with the Departments of Natural Resources, the Environment, Planning, and Agriculture and the Chesapeake Bay Program to conduct a technical study to review changes in forest cover and tree canopy in the State; providing for the scope of the study; and requiring the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology to submit a report of the findings of the technical study to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2019.</p>	<p>Committees: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs</p> <p>Status: Passed Enrolled (4/2)</p>	<p>Position: Monitor</p> <p>Comment:</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 516 (HB 1158)</a> Sen. Brian Feldman et al.</p> <p>Prior Yr Info: 2018: SB 732 -</p>	<p>Clean Energy Jobs</p> <p>Requiring the Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Businesses Account to receive certain money from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund; establishing certain criteria for qualified offshore wind projects applied for on or after July 1, 2017, termed Round 2 offshore wind projects; establishing the Clean Energy Workforce Account to provide grants for apprenticeships and training to establish career paths in sectors of the clean energy industry; requiring the Power Plant</p>	<p>Committees: Finance</p> <p>Status: Passed Enrolled (4/8)</p>	<p>Position: Support</p> <p>Comment: Testimony Submitted Increases the State's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) from 25% to 50% by 2030</p>

	Research Program to conduct additional studies; etc.		
<a href="#">SB 937 (HB 654)</a> Sen. Katherine Klausmeier	Wireless Facilities - Installation and Regulation  Establishing procedures and requirements for the deployment, installation, and regulation of certain wireless telecommunications facilities in the State; prohibiting an authority from entering into an exclusive agreement for the use of certain rights-of-way for certain purposes; authorizing an authority to impose certain rates and fees for use of certain rights-of-way in a certain manner and subject to certain limitations; authorizing a wireless provider to collocate certain facilities and use certain rights-of-way; etc.	Committees: Finance  Status: Referred to interim study by Finance (3/18)	Position: Oppose  Comment: Both the MML/MACO bill the City supported AND the industry bill that the City opposed were referred to a summer study. This is a win for local governments.
<a href="#">HB 730 (SB 660)</a> Del. Lorig Charkoudian et al.	Electric Industry - Community Choice Aggregation  Repealing a provision that prohibits a county or municipal corporation from acting as an aggregator under certain circumstances; establishing a process by which a county or municipal corporation or group of counties and municipal corporations may become a community choice aggregator; authorizing a community choice aggregator to own a certain electric generating facility for a certain purpose; etc.	Committees: Economic Matters  Status: Referred to interim study by Economic Matters (4/3)	Position: Support  Comment: Written submitted
<a href="#">HB 285 (SB 466)</a> Palakovich Carr et al.	Hotel Rental Tax - Limitation of Municipal Authority to Tax Small Hotels - Repeal  Repealing a limitation on the authority of certain municipalities to impose a hotel rental tax on hotels with 10 or fewer sleeping rooms.	Committees: Ways and Means  Status: Returned Passed (3/26)	Position: Support  Comment: Written testimony submitted
<a href="#">SB 728 (HB 1301)</a> Sen. Guy Guzzone	Taxation of Online Sales - Marketplace Facilitators and Sellers of Other Tobacco Products  Altering the distribution of certain sales and use tax revenue; altering the definition of "vendor", under the sales and use tax, to include certain marketplace facilitators and marketplace sellers;	Committees: Budget and Taxation  Status: Passed Enrolled (4/5)	Position: Monitor  Comment: This allows the state to collect more sales tax revenue from certain online vendors such as Wayfair that are exempt from the current online sales tax law. Expected revenue generated should

	requiring a marketplace facilitator to collect the sales and use tax on certain sales to a buyer in the State; providing that a marketplace facilitator is not liable for a failure to collect certain sales and use taxes except under certain circumstances; requiring certain out-of-state sellers to pay the tobacco tax on certain items; etc.		be significant. The first \$100m collected each year will go to the general fund and the excess will go to the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education Fund (Kirwan Commission).
<a href="#">SB 533</a> Sen. Guy Guzzone et al.	Sales and Use Tax - Short-Term Rentals  Requiring certain short-term rental platforms to collect the sales and use tax on the sale of the right to occupy certain short-term rentals; etc.	Committees: Budget and Taxation  Status: Returned Passed (4/8)	Position: Monitor  Comment: AirBnB – this combined with the hotel tax bill would be good for the City
<a href="#">SB 460 (HB 517)</a> Sen. Jeff Waldstreicher et al.	Pedestrian Safety Fund Act of 2019  Increasing the maximum fine from \$500 to \$1,000 that may be imposed for a violation of provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law regarding crosswalks; establishing the Pedestrian Safety Fund for the purpose of enhancing the safety and quality of pedestrian and bicycle transportation, including through certain educational programming for bicyclists, motorists, and pedestrians, certain physical design changes, and certain increased enforcement of existing rules of the road; etc.	Committees: Judicial Proceedings  Status: Passed Enrolled (4/8)	Position: Monitor  Comment: Alice has testimony
<a href="#">HB 560</a> Del. Anne Healey et al.	Transportation - State Highway Administration - Traffic Calming Devices  Requiring the State Highway Administration, in consultation with appropriate county and municipal authorities, to compile certain best practices for siting, constructing, and maintaining traffic calming devices that address engineering and design and the costs and benefits of the devices; requiring the Administration to coordinate and act as a clearinghouse for best practices, to publish and update information about best practices, and to include estimated	Committees: Environment and Transportation  Status: Returned Passed (4/8)	Position: Monitor  Comment:

	costs of construction related to traffic calming devices; etc.		
<a href="#">HB 885</a> Palakovich Carr et al.	Transportation - Vision Zero - Establishment  Establishing Vision Zero; providing the purpose of the program is for planning and developing a State highway system that has zero vehicle-related deaths or serious injuries; requiring the Department of Transportation to designate a coordinator to oversee the implementation of Vision Zero; requiring the coordinator, in implementing Vision Zero, to collaborate with certain entities and include certain strategies; requiring that the funding for Vision Zero be as provided by the Governor in the State budget; etc.	Committees: Environment and Transportation  Status: Returned Passed (4/3)	Position: Monitor  Comment:
<a href="#">HB 923 (SB 642)</a> Del. Dana Stein et al.	Task Force to Study Transportation Access  Establishing the Task Force to Study Transportation Access for the purpose of reviewing certain information, findings, and recommendations to improve transportation access; requiring the Task Force to make a final report of its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2021; etc.	Committees: Environment and Transportation  Status: Passed Enrolled (4/8)	Position: Monitor  Comment:
<a href="#">HB 1281 (SB 787)</a> Del. Brooke Lierman	Transportation - Bikeways Network Program and Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan  Codifying the Bikeways Network Program to provide grant support for bicycle network development activities; requiring the Department of Transportation to establish certain eligibility criteria; requiring the Governor to provide at least \$3,800,000 each year from the Transportation Trust Fund for the Program; requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to present a draft transit plan 45 days before finalization to include provisions for reliable transit services to enable certain residents to access certain job opportunities; etc.	Committees: Appropriations; Environment and Transportation  Status: Passed Enrolled (4/8)	Position: Monitor  Comment:

<p><a href="#">SB 128 (HB 437)</a> Sen. Paul Pinsky et al.</p>	<p>Community Control of School Calendars Act</p> <p>Requiring county boards of education to annually set the start and end dates of the school year for schools in the county; removing a provision relating to extending the school year beyond June 15; requiring that a certain statement be mailed to voters if the Act is submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2020 for their approval or rejection; etc.</p>	<p>Committees: Ways and Means</p> <p>Status: Gubernatorial Veto Override - Chapter 13 (3/29)</p>	<p>Position: Support</p> <p>Comment: Not submitting testimony, but support the bill</p> <p>This would put authority back with the county for start dates of the school year, which would have an effect on the City's recreation budget for summer programs.</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 166 (SB 280)</a> Del. Diana Fennell et al.</p>	<p>Labor and Employment - Payment of Wages - Minimum Wage (Fight for Fifteen)</p> <p>Specifying the State minimum wage rate that is in effect for certain time periods and for certain employers except under certain circumstances; authorizing the Board of Public Works to temporarily suspend an increase to the minimum wage rate if the seasonally adjusted total employment is negative, subject to certain limitations; requiring the Governor's proposed budget for certain fiscal years to include certain rate increases for certain community service providers over the funding provided in certain legislative appropriations; etc.</p>	<p>Committees: Finance</p> <p>Status: Gubernatorial Veto Override - Chapter 10 (3/28)</p>	<p>Position: Monitor</p> <p>Comment:</p>

## Legislative Outcomes of Bills Testified On:

Bill Number	Title	Type of Support	Outcome
MC 15-19	Rt. 410 Prevention of Funds for Widening	Support – written and in person testimony	Withdrawn by Sponsor to focus local efforts on beltway widening
HB628	Just Cause Evictions	Support – written and in person testimony	UNF in House ENT
MC 29-19	Ranked Choice Voting	Support – written and in person testimony	Passed House Delegation No Vote Standing Committee - Failed
HB 285	Limiting Taxation on Small Hotels	Support - written	Passed
HB 313	Purple Line Business Tax Credit	Support - written	No Vote in Committee - Failed
HB 600	Nuclear as Renewable Energy	Opposed - written	Failed in Senate (Win for the City position)
SB 285/HB 109	Statewide Polystyrene Ban	Support - written	Passed
HB 730/SB 660	Electric Community Choice Aggregation	Support - written	Referred to Interim Study
SB 713/HB 1020	Local Government Small Cell Permitting	Support - written	Referred to Interim Study
HB 1016	Racial Impact Analysis	Support - written	No Vote in Committee - Failed
HB 654/SB	Industry Small Cell Tower Regulations	Opposed - written	Referred to Interim Study
SB 442	County Approval Toll Roads	Support - written	No Vote in Committee - Failed
HB 150	More Opportunities for Marylanders (Opportunity Zones)	Support with amendments–written	Bill Did not Pass but the provisions were added to another bill that did pass (win for the City position)
SB 754/HB 1266	National Capital Strategic Economic Development Program	Support with amendments–written	Passed
SB 249/ HB 277	Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Transportation	Support - written	Passed
SB 460/HB 517	Pedestrian Safety Fund Act	Support - written	Passed
HB 1091	Public Private Partnership Reforms	Support - written	Bill Did not Pass – Budget Language Adopted (win for the City position)
HB 1412	Maryland Metro/Transit Funding Act	Support - written	Failed in Senate