

The Advocate for Maryland Libraries is a publication of Citizens for Maryland Libraries. You are receiving *The Advocate* as a supporter of Maryland libraries and a member of CML.

Citizens for Maryland Libraries

May 2016

THE ADVOCATE *for Maryland Libraries*

Library Legislation

Pat Hofmann

The recent legislative session held some surprises for the library community. There were three bills: SB 337 about funding, SB 338 about a task force, and SB 191, about capital budget.

Things were not looking good for the funding bill. This bill did not request additional funding, but shortened the time to receive additional funds from eight years to four years, starting in FY 2018. And then the library community received very good news at the last minute! SB 337, the library funding bill was the second to last bill to be passed on the last day of session. It was passed on the last minute on the last day, in fact. Here are a few of the emails that were sent recounting the series of events:

Mary Baykan, chair of the Legislative Panel, wrote:

I have always said that library advocacy is a team effort and what a team. The Inter-government relations committee of MAPLA really put so much effort into making this bill move, as well as our task force bill. Denise Davis, Sharan Marshall, Lynn Wheeler, John Walden, Carla Hayden and all who trekked down to Annapolis to testify and fill the seats. Thanks to Parker Hamilton and Skip Auld for their perseverance in continuously calling some of their key delegates. Their work adds to the legend of the "Library Mafia."

We have some great champions in the House and Senate both the elected and their staff. Senator King who sponsored our bill and Patty her chief aide who met with us over the summer to help draft the two bills. As always Sheila Hixson in the House and her education aid Ann. Delegate Anne Kaiser Vice Chair of Ways and Means and her staff shook the bill loose and got it out of Ways and Means and she made the motion from the floor of the House which needed 2/3 vote to allow the bill to have 3rd reader the same day as 2nd reader.

We owe a very special thank you to Hannah and Camille at Alexander and Cleaver. They would not give up and worked it all the way up to the time it passed. When did SB 337 pass? 11:59. Sine Die – was 12:00.

We will wait to see if the Governor signs the bill or vetoes the bill. He has said, while he won't veto any more bills, he may not sign them. Under Maryland Law if a Governor chooses not to sign a bill it still becomes law. We just won't have a bill signing ceremony.

Joe Thompson wrote:

Some amazing fantastic news came out of Annapolis for libraries – beyond the 11th hour - on Monday night. SB 337 passed! The testimony, the letters, the phone calls... it all mattered this session. Many MANY thanks to everyone on the CML Board who participated in these activities to make this happen!

Denise Davis wrote:

Amazing achievement. Congrats to a huge MAPLA-wide effort, with incredibly determined relentless hard work to push this over the finish line by Mary Baykan and Hannah. Wow!

The Task Force Bill, SB 338, did not pass. This bill would have created a task force to study the placement of library services within the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Apparently, task forces are not in favor any more. Instead, there will be a summer study within the parameters of the task force bill. So even though

the bill did not pass, there will be a summer study on this issue. Education analysts of the Department of Legislative Services will meet with library folks over the summer.

Additional good news is that SB 191, library capital budget, passed.

Legislative seasons are not always so exciting for libraries! As Mary Baykan said, this is one for the record books!

Pat Hofmann is CML Representative to the Legislative Panel.



Citizens for Maryland
LIBRARIES

Citizens for Maryland Libraries Address: P.O. Box 10838, Silver Spring, MD 20914
www.citizensformarylandlibraries.org cmloffice01@gmail.com