

# **MARYLAND TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

*Week of Mar 2*

## **WASHINGTON**

What a week! Americans for Limited Government President said “Why even have a Congress?” Read on for some reasons.

Congress had funded **Homeland Security** only through Feb 27. The short term funding was to delay the defunding of the President’s widely unpopular illegal amnesty decree past the holidays. Senate Republican Leader McConnell is caving to Democrats, fearful of getting blamed for a shutdown of DHS, is asking the House of Representatives to agree to fully fund DHS. He proposes a separate bill to defund the amnesty decree. Two bills means that the President will get his way and to heck with the people. As of Friday night, the House voted to fund Homeland Security for one more week. Who will give way?

Next, the **FCC is nationalizing the internet**. Fidel Castro did this in Cuba. Successful coup d’etats always involve a takeover of the media. The internet is media and loaded with free speech.

With the President increasingly dictating the rules without the consent of Congress, we hope the Judicial branch will support freedom over dictats.

## **ANNAPOLIS**

### **Governor’s Bills**

**The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2015**, HB72 and SB40 are on the agenda for hearings (Appropriations, Tues, Mar 3 at 3 pm and Budget & Tax, Thu, Feb 5 at 8:30). There are a number of **Rain Tax Repeal** bills, but the Administration bill scheduled to be heard this week is in Environment & Transportation Wed, Feb 4. On Wed, Feb 4 (Education, Health & Environmental Affairs) **Charter School Reform** will be on the agenda in the Senate. Kids need all the help they can get and public schools need competition. The **Gas Tax Repeal of the Automatic COLA Increases** has spawned a number of bills other than the Governor’s bill. Two of them will be heard in Ways & Means on Thu, Feb 6.

### **Not More Taxes!**

**Combined Reporting**, another tax increase on corporations has been sneaked into a pair of crossfiled bills (SB694, Feb 4, Budget & Tax, and HB663, Feb 6, Ways &

Means. The bills allow companies with 10 or fewer employees to avoid annual document fees, which is helpful to startups, while sticking it to interstate corporations. By requiring companies to report total earnings nationwide, the sponsors plan to squeeze out even more state revenue. It seems right that corporations should pay taxes on only their MD earnings. MTA got a call from a New Jersey company claiming that their MD plant would close if combined reporting passed leaving 1000 employees out of work.

Ways & Means will host HB726 on Feb 3. This bill would create a **stealth sales tax** on online purchases from companies with no physical presence in MD.

### **Maybe Some Tax Relief!**

Everybody hates **Speed Cameras** in **Work Zones** and **Safe Zones** on the Interstates. HB1038 would repeal them (Wed, Mar 5-Environment & Transportation). Often, signs do not mark the end of the zones. At least the cameras should not be operative when highway workers are not in the areas.

Many people are faced with multiple **Tolls** on their daily commute. In seeming recognition that the tolls are too high, HB1085 (Feb 4, Ways & Means) would offer an income tax subtraction. HB814 (Feb 4, Environment & Transportation) **would increase the speed limit to 65 mph on the ICC**. The ICC, a wonderful highway, has become a **speed trap with high tolls**, so hardly anyone drives it.

### **Other**

If **Fracking** is permitted, several bills propose regulating it out of business before it begins. One such bill is SB29 (Feb 3, Education, Health & Environmental Affairs). On another side of the coin, another bill (SB531, Feb 4, Judicial Proceedings) would legalize **Marijuana**. Then, there is an **Equal Pay for Equal Work** bill (SB424, Feb 5, Finance) checking in for the so-called **War on Women** fight.

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