



ADVOCACY
advocacy@coastalrealtors.org



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DATE: 09/14/2023

WORCESTER COUNTY:

Ocean City: The city will restart the process for building a sports complex. A new local centric effort will be made. Past mistakes should be addressed this time around.

Ocean City: The legal battle continues for Margaritaville development. Right of way and easements are at the heart of the situation. This resolution could set a precedent for further development in Ocean City.

Snow Hill: The county commissioners have begun looking at school funding issues again after the recent spat with the Board of Education. Worcester County receives the least amount of state aid because it is considered a wealthy county. Worcester County also has the lowest property tax rate in the state. The state has repeatedly told Worcester County that if it expects extra money for education, it must raise its property tax.

Snow Hill: Commissioners Fiore(R-3) and Abbott(R-01) are working together to address public comment and public notification standards for new building development.

WICOMICO COUNTY:

Salisbury: A recent violation of the State of Maryland's open meetings act has resulted in a violation without civil or financial penalties. Legal action is rumored to be pending regarding this issue. The state issued a warning letter.



Salisbury: Muir Boda, former City of Salisbury council president has taken his position in the city government as Director of Housing and Community Development. Muir is a stated libertarian but has often voted with progressives on the city council. Boda was also implicated in the Open Meetings act violation while he was council president.

Salisbury: The legal fight between the Wicomico County council and County Executive Giordano over appointments. The issue stems from the Council not overtly vetoing an appointment for a cabinet level position. Litigation is ongoing.

SOMERSET COUNTY:

Crisfield: City officials are working to get grants to help mitigate flooding. Other grants sought for revitalization.

Princess Anne: New UMES led initiative will attract more state and federal funding for the Salisbury Airport. UMES sees spike in enrollment and student rentals have been dwindling.

MARYLAND:

Annapolis: SB 555, Fair Wage act of 2023. Increases minimum wage and has provisions that mirror Federal standards. Signed into law this past session. Will have a serious impact on small businesses on the shore as it will require the increase of pay to a minimum of \$15/HR. Takes full effect 01/01/2024.

FEDERAL: New federal regulations aim to increase the salary limitations for mandatory overtime. This will expand the number of employees, even in professional roles, that would be entitled to overtime. I have attached the rules and a good summary from Maryland Matters.