



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**DATE: 03/16/2024**

### **WORCESTER COUNTY:**

**Ocean City:** The town council is awaiting the city staff report on parking space sizes and should have some updates at the 3/18 meeting.

**Snow Hill:** The county commissioners are at odds with the Board of Education over funding priorities. This comes on the heels of concerns brought by the Kirawan commission that many educational priorities and mandates will have to be funded. These mandates will have to be funded by increased taxes in Worcester county.

**MARYLAND:** While the Maryland General Assembly is in the mid point of the session known as crossover. This is where bills from one house go across to the other, if the bill makes it out of both houses then it should be voted on by both houses and if signed by the governor, will become law.

Tensions between the Senate and the House have come to a head this week, House leadership has taken upon themselves to try and help close the pending \$5 billion structural deficit. Delegate Moon from Montgomery county had sponsored a bill, 1515, which would have attached the sales tax to services. This bill would have taxed everything from real estate commissions, hair services, mechanical repairs, and funeral services. While HB1515 has been defeated for this session by the Senate Leadership and President Ferguson, new taxes and fees are on the horizon. The House leadership has brought up \$1.2 billion in fees and taxes that the senate has indicated that they will not support. This comes on the heels of the statement from the Governor that transportation projects in every county will face drastic cuts.