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# Governor Martin O'Malley Convenes Forum on Skills and Education

January 3rd, 2011

## Second of five "Maryland Forward" forums designed to shape O'Malley-Brown second term, transition into new economy

**BOWIE, MD (January 3, 2011)**—Governor Martin O'Malley convened the second of five forums today, designed to elicit feedback and ideas from stakeholders in preparation for a second term as Maryland's Governor. Today's forum focused skills and education as Maryland transitions into the new economy, keeping the state competitive, expanding opportunity for our children, and making Maryland a winner as we come through the global recession into an innovation economy. Today's forum gathered the input of various stakeholders, including recommendations for legislation and actions related to building a world-class K-12 education system, promoting college completion, and expanding skills training in our state.

"We are all here today because we understand that we are in a fight for our children's future. It's a fight to turn into the new economy with more opportunity for all," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "In this fight, there will be some states that lose, and some states that win. For Maryland to win, we must move forward by creating jobs through innovation, by saving jobs, and by protecting public safety, public education, and our quality of life."

Approximately 300 industry stakeholders took part in plenary sessions and industry-specific workgroups at today's forum, which was hosted by Bowie State University in Prince George's County. Attendees included USM Chancellor Dr. William "Brit" Kirwan, State Superintendent Dr. Nancy Grasmick, and Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, among others.

"I want to commend the Governor for initiating these forums. Like the Governor, I am a strong proponent of dialogue and garnering input especially when it comes to the education of our children in Prince George's County. Improving our children's education not only improves their future prospects, but also the county's overall economy and quality of life," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III.

Work group facilitators included Dr. Alvin Thornton, Senior Advisor to the President for Academic Affairs at Howard University and former chair of Maryland's Thornton Commission on education; Dr. Elixabeth Morgan, Superintendent of Washington County Public Schools; Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, III, President of UMBC; Dr. David Wilson, President of Morgan State University; H. Walt Townshend, III, President and CEO of the Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber; and Dr. Charlene Dukes, President of Prince George's Community College.

Following today's work sessions, Governor O'Malley convened a discussion of outcomes and recommendations with all forum participants. Recommendations include establishing a longitudinal data system that track trends among Maryland students from kindergarten through higher education, expanding career technical education (CTE) and science, technical, education and math (STEM) curricula in schools, expanding apprenticeships and occupational

training to expand skills in Maryland's workforce, and expanding community college enrollment.

The "Maryland Forward" forum series serve to develop strategies for the O'Malley-Brown Administration's second term, and generate concrete actions and recommendations that support the [Administration's 15 strategic goals](#).

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# Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Senator Barbara Mikulski

January 3rd, 2011

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 3, 2011)** –Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today on Senator Barbara Mikulski's swearing-in, which will take place on Wednesday, making her the longest serving woman in the history of the U.S. Senate:

*"All Marylanders join together today proud of Senator Mikulski's accomplishment as the longest serving woman in the history of the United States Senate, and grateful for her advocacy and steadfast commitment to Maryland's families.*

*"Senator Mikulski has demonstrated a vision to make Maryland a winner in this new economy. Her experience in the Senate offers the people of Maryland unique perspective and skill for implementing that vision. Her exceptional career is not only a testament to her dedication to public service, but also to her ability and willingness to find in others those same leadership qualities.*

*"I want to congratulate Senator Mikulski on this milestone, and I look forward to the years ahead as we work together for the benefit of the people of Maryland."*

Watch [Governor O'Malley's congratulatory video](#) for Senator Mikulski.

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# Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Kiplinger's Ranking of Five Maryland Colleges Among the Nation's "Best Values"

January 4th, 2011

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 4, 2011)** –Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today following Kiplinger's ranking of five Maryland institutions among the nation's "Best Values" in Public Colleges 2011:

*"I want to congratulate the students, faculty and administrative staff of the University of Maryland, College Park, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Salisbury University, Towson University, and the University of Maryland Baltimore County for being among Kiplinger's 'Best Values' in Public Colleges for 2011."*

*"Together, even in the toughest of times, we have remained committed to ensuring that higher education is both affordable and accessible for anyone who is willing to work hard for a better future, which is why we chose to freeze in-state college tuition for four years in a row. Because of the remarkable dedication and diligence of students, faculty and staff, Maryland colleges and universities are national models for quality, affordable education."*

*"As we weather this economic downturn, we must never abandon the dream of a college education. As families around Maryland and throughout the nation continue to struggle, it is now more important than ever to keep college affordable and accessible. At a time when many states have significantly increased tuition at public colleges and universities, we have made the choice to protect our greatest investment in the talents, skills, innovation, and education of our people."*

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# Governor Martin O'Malley Addresses the Need for Pension Reform, Commits to Reforming System before Sharing Costs

January 6th, 2011

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 6, 2011)**—Governor Martin O'Malley delivered remarks before the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Annual Winter Conference tonight, where he directly addressed one of the most pressing challenges in the upcoming budget debate – pension reform. During his remarks to Maryland's county leaders, Governor O'Malley committed to reforming Maryland's public employee pension system. The Governor will propose ways to make the system more sustainable, and committed to doing so this year before exploring the option of sharing the costs of the system.

"We owe it to our police officers, teachers and other hardworking state employees, and we also owe it to our children, and to our taxpayers to find a sustainable way forward that protects our commitments and maintains fiscal responsibility," said Governor O'Malley. "It is my belief that we cannot have an honest conversation about sharing costs, or even the need to share costs, until we reach an agreement on how we can fix the pension system. While other elected leaders may well offer other approaches, the balanced budget proposal I submit to the General Assembly later this month will not pass pension costs onto the counties."

Governor O'Malley considered many options before ultimately concluding that the sustainability of the pension system is the most responsible way forward before discussing the sharing of the system's cost. Options included shifting 40% of teacher pension costs to local counties, as well as shifting costs based on wealth adjusted formulas.

In his remarks, the Governor outlined the basic principles of pension reform the O'Malley-Brown Administration will pursue with this legislative session. They include maintaining a public system, improving the funding level within the system, asking for greater contributions from members of the system, and establishing certain milestones to determine the need for further reform.

Governor O'Malley stressed the difficulty of the choices ahead.

"Over the past four years, rather than playing the shell game of passing tough choices down to counties, cities, and towns, I've fought to shield you – to the greatest extent possible. But the reality is that while our national economy is improving, times are tough in every state. And although we in Maryland are in better shape than our counterparts, a \$1.3 billion hole requires shared sacrifice," Governor O'Malley told local leaders tonight. "To protect this progress in the upcoming session and beyond, I will need your help in the fight to protect our largest-ever investment in K-12 education. And I will need your help in working with your school boards to get more out of every dollar."

Over the past four years, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has cut \$5.6 billion from the state budget, including 4,200 state positions. The state faces an approximate \$1.3 billion budget gap for FY12, which the Governor has committed to closing with a budget proposal depending

on cuts rather than new revenue measures.

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# Governor Martin O'Malley Convenes Forum on Sustainability

January 7th, 2011

## Third of five Maryland Forward forums designed to shape O'Malley-Brown second term, preparing for Smarter, Greener future

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 7, 2011)**—Governor Martin O'Malley convened the third of five forums today, designed to elicit feedback and ideas from stakeholders in preparation for a second term as Maryland's governor. Today's forum focused on laying the groundwork for a sustainable future and gathered the input of various stakeholders, including recommendations for legislation and actions related to clean energy, natural resource management, agriculture and smart growth.

"As a State, we must move forward on a smart, sustainable path," said Governor O'Malley. "Building upon our recent successes, we need to create a foundation for both our future and our children's future. We have to make tough decisions, governing through green initiatives and living our own lives as examples."

More than 750 stakeholders, including conservationists, farmers and business owners, took part in plenary sessions and discipline-specific workgroups at today's forum, which was hosted by Chesapeake College in Wye Mills. Discussion topics for the breakout groups included Smart Growth, Bay Restoration, Clean Energy/Climate Change, and Resource Based Industries.

Lt. Governor Anthony Brown opened the forum on behalf of Governor O'Malley.

"Creating a sustainable future — a Maryland where our healthy resources and a strong economy support a healthy society — is one of the biggest and perhaps most urgent challenges facing us today," said Lt. Governor Brown. "But Governor O'Malley and I know that, by working together, we can meet this challenge."

Renowned scientist, Dr. Don Boesch, President of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, gave the keynote address at the morning plenary session.

"No longer can we separate the interests of Marylanders in their economy, their society, their environment and their natural resources, because they are all interdependent," said Dr. Boesch. "By reaching across these traditional boundaries, we must find comprehensive solutions, informed by our best scientific understanding, that ensure a sustainable future."

Following today's work sessions, Governor O'Malley convened a discussion of outcomes and recommendations with all forum participants. Recommendations include:

- **Bay Restoration:** Continue to ramp up Bay Restoration efforts, including building upon Maryland's Phase 1 Watershed Implementation Plan, to ensure reaching our Bay

Restoration goals by 2020 —five years earlier than any other State in the watershed.

- **Clean Energy/Climate Change:** Aggressively pursue the development of offshore wind generation as a clean energy solution as well an avenue to create thousands of green jobs.
- **Smart Growth:** Increase support for development projects in transit oriented, sustainable communities through funding, financing, tax credits, and other incentives. Continue to promote public transit ridership, which has increased 17 percent since 2006.
- **Resource Based Industries:** Develop new policies and programs that provide economic incentives for rural landowners, including farmers, to conserve their land instead of developing it; develop new programs to support environmentally friendly resource-based industries, including sustainable agriculture and forestry, aquaculture, and nature-based tourism.

“The world is changing as a result of these issues, and Maryland can choose to be either a leader or a follower in the resulting New Economy that is upon us,” said Governor O’Malley. “Under the O’Malley-Brown Administration we have already begun to move —and lead —in the right direction. Today, we come together to identify new approaches to creating the sustainable future that will ensure Maryland remains both a livable and economically viable state.”

The day’s nine breakout sessions were facilitated by a diverse group of business leaders and conservationists: Dr. Don Boesch, President University of Maryland Center of Environmental Services; Russ Brinsfield, Center Director, University of Maryland Wye Research Center Agricultural Experiment Station; Stuart Clarke, Executive Director, Town Creek Foundation; Doug Lashley, President and CEO, Greenvest; Sean Davis, Principal, Morris & Ritchie Associates; Jon Laria, Chair, Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission; Tom Lewis, Chair, Maryland Task Force on Fisheries Management; Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair, House Environmental Matters Committee; Cindy Parker, Assistant Professor, Environmental Health Sciences, Bloomberg School of Public Health; Jill Sorensen, Executive Director, Baltimore Electric Vehicle Initiative.

The “Maryland Forward” forum series is serving to develop strategies for the O’Malley-Brown Administration’s second term, and generate concrete actions and recommendations that support the [Administration’s 15 strategic goals](#).

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# Governor Martin O'Malley Convenes Forum on Children and Health

January 10th, 2011

## Fourth of five "Maryland Forward" forums designed to shape O'Malley-Brown second term, transition Maryland into new economy

**BALTIMORE, MD (January 10, 2011)**– Governor Martin O'Malley convened the fourth of five forums today, designed to elicit feedback and ideas from stakeholders in preparation for a second term as Maryland's Governor. Today's forum focused on children and health, keeping Maryland competitive, expanding opportunity for our children, and serving as a national model for the implementation of federal health care reform. Today's forum gathered the input from approximately 400 stakeholders, including recommendations for legislation and actions related to childhood hunger, health information technology, substance abuse, infant mortality, lead poisoning, and HIV/AIDS.

Approximately 400 industry stakeholders took part in plenary sessions and topic-specific workgroups at today's forum, which was hosted by Coppin State University in Baltimore. Facilitators included Anne Sheridan, Maryland Director of Share Our Strength; Dr. Mark Kelemen, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Informatics Officer at University of Maryland Medical System; Dr. *Yngvild Olsen*, Medical Director, Outpatient *Substance Abuse* Treatment Services at Johns Hopkins Hospital; Dr. Raymond Cox, Director of Ob/Gyn Services at Prince George's Hospital Center; Dr. Robert Redfield, co-founder and associate director of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine; and Ruth Anne Norton, executive director of the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning.

"We are all here today because we understand that we are in a fight for our children's future. It's a fight to turn into the new economy with more opportunity for all," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "At a time when other states were kicking people off their health care rolls, we've added nearly 243,000 people, including more than 115,000 children. Together, we're leading the nation in developing Health IT and we're fighting together to become the first state in the nation to end childhood hunger."

Earlier today, Lt. Governor Brown and the Maryland Health Care Reform Coordinating Council submitted to Governor O'Malley its final report and recommendations. The Council made 16 specific recommendations, including legislation establishing the initial structure and governance of the Maryland health insurance exchange in compliance with federal deadlines and the creation of an Office of Health Reform that would assume primary responsibility for health reform implementation. Last summer, the Council released a report that found federal health reform will save Maryland \$829 million over 10 years and cut the number of uninsured Marylanders by half.

"Federal health reform presents states with an opportunity to expand access to coverage, improve the quality of care and save hundreds of millions of dollars. I applaud my colleagues

on the Health Reform Coordinating Council for developing a national model to implement federal reform,” Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown said. “It’s our responsibility and duty to implement federal reform and we know that if we do it right, reform will save Maryland nearly \$830 million and cut the number of uninsured in half.”

The “Maryland Forward” forum series serve to develop strategies for the O’Malley-Brown Administration’s second term, and generate concrete actions and recommendations that support the [Administration’s strategic goals](#).

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# Governor O'Malley, Governor McDonnell and Mayor Gray Announce Plan for Implementing Governance Reform at WMATA

January 10th, 2011

## Improvements in WMATA Governance to be delivered immediately and in the medium to long term

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 10, 2011)**– Today, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell, and District of Columbia Mayor Vincent C. Gray announced an implementation plan and schedule for transforming governance of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). The plan responds to recommendations in the *Moving Metro Forward* report that was issued by the Joint WMATA Governance Task Force, sponsored by the Greater Washington Board of Trade and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and the *Report on Governance of WMATA* issued by WMATA's Riders' Advisory Council (RAC).

"Over the last 45 days, our transportation executives have discussed the recommendations with key stakeholders on the best path forward to help ensure the safety and performance of the system," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Some reforms can be undertaken now, but continued work with stakeholders is needed to define the broader structural changes necessary to address the significant shortcomings in WMATA's governance structure that have contributed to a decline in its performance."

The implementation plan will deliver improvements in WMATA governance both immediately and in the medium- to long-term. Specific actions are called for within six months, twelve months and twenty-four months.

"While much work remains to be done on getting all of the details right, the steps taken today will result in a better WMATA Board and ultimately better Metrobus and Metrorail service for the region's transit riders," said D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray. "That is first and foremost what this is all about."

A new WMATA Governance Work Group consisting of the Virginia and Maryland Secretaries of Transportation and the Director of the District Department of Transportation will be responsible for implementation of the plan. The Work Group will interact with key stakeholders including the WMATA Board of Directors, appointing authorities, the Tri-State Oversight Committee (TOC), RAC, General Services Administration (GSA), federal partners, and others who share our interest in improving WMATA governance. The Work Group will provide more detailed recommendations on items that require further action and will report to the public on its progress.

"We are pleased that the WMATA Board of Directors has already started to help us take action. In December, the Board defined the General Manager as WMATA's Chief Executive Officer and

formed a WMATA Governance Committee that will develop a body of bylaws, seek legal opinions on the role of alternate members and the jurisdictional veto, and implement an orientation program for Board members. We are calling on the WMATA Board to take further action at their January 27, 2011 meeting to establish a multi-year regionally-focused Chair and to more closely follow the role of alternate members as stated in the WMATA Compact," said Governor Bob McDonnell.

Stakeholders involved in the evaluation included the region's Congressional delegation, the WMATA Board Chair, the WMATA Interim General Manager, TOC, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Chair, Washington Suburban Transit Commission, DC Council Chair, representatives of the GSA and other stakeholders.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) is also conducting a report, commissioned by Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, on WMATA governance. The recommendations from this report will be taken into consideration by the Work Group when they become available in mid-2011. The implementation plan report to the Governors and Mayor [can be found here](#).

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# Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Maryland Public Schools' Number One National Ranking

January 11th, 2011

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 11, 2011)**– Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today following Education Week Magazine's official selection of Maryland public schools as number one in the nation for the third straight year.

*"Today, Education Week Magazine, for the third straight year, has ranked Maryland the number one public school system in America. Even during these difficult economic times, we've worked with students, teachers and parents to continually improve and reform our public education system. Since we received this same distinction last year, Maryland has begun integrating our data systems to better track student progress, and has won President Obama's Race to the Top competition to continually improve our school system, recruit and retain the nation's best teachers, and turn around low performing schools.*

*"In this changing new economy we are in a fight for our children's future. In this fight, there will be some states that lose, and some states that win. For Maryland to win we must move forward by creating and saving jobs through innovation, and that includes protecting our best-in-the-nation public school system. We must also be willing to continue making tough choices so that we can protect our shared priorities; priorities that will allow us to make this new economy ours."*

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# Governor Promotes Maryland National Guard Officer to Major General

January 12th, 2011

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 12, 2011)**– Governor Martin O’Malley today promoted James A. Adkins to the rank of major general in a private ceremony in the Governor’s office under the historic portrait of General John Stricker. Maj. Gen. Adkins has served as adjutant general of Maryland since 2008 and also served as the state’s Secretary of Veterans Affairs until 2009.

“This is an outstanding personal achievement for Maj. Gen. Adkins,” said Governor O’Malley. “His professional insight and strategic intuition have served Maryland well these last few years, and this promotion is well deserved.”

As the state’s 28th adjutant general since 1794, General Adkins is responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, programs and plans for seven thousand men and women who make up the state of Maryland Military Department. The Military Department includes the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard, Maryland Emergency Management Agency and the Maryland Defense Force. The Department employs more than 7,100 full-time and traditional Guard members and civilian state employees, contributing more than \$353 million annually to Maryland’s economy.

The Maryland National Guard is tasked at both the federal level by the President of the United States and at the state level by the Governor to defend our country and state. Since 9/11, almost 9,000 Maryland Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen have been called to serve on active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and a wide range of natural disaster recovery efforts.

In 1993 the Maryland National Guard joined with Estonia in the State Partnership Program. The SPP was launched in Europe as part of the initial outreach by the United States to new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The partnership program emphasizes civil and military cooperation with civil control of a professional military.

Maryland has a key role in this international initiative to foster democracy, encourage market economies and promote regional cooperation and stability. In 2003, Maryland was selected to partner with Bosnia and Herzegovina, in part because of the state’s previous success with Estonia.

The Maryland National Guard now has approximately 200 Soldiers and Airmen deployed overseas in a variety of theaters including Afghanistan, Iraq, Djibouti and others. Within the next six months, it will have up to 1,000

Service members deployed in peacekeeping, combat and support roles—the most it has had deployed since World War II.

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# Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Major Milestone for DNA Database at 'Maryland Forward' Forum on Safety

January 13th, 2011

## Final of five "Maryland Forward" forums designed to shape O'Malley-Brown second term, transition Maryland into new economy focuses on public safety and homeland security

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 13, 2011)**– Governor Martin O'Malley announced a major milestone for Maryland's DNA database today as he convened the fifth and final "Maryland Forward" forum today, designed to elicit feedback and ideas from stakeholders in preparation for a second term as Maryland's Governor. Today's forum focused on public safety and homeland security, keeping Maryland neighborhoods safe and making our state a leader in homeland security.

Maryland's DNA database, housed at the State Police Forensic Sciences Division laboratory, has now made more than 2,000 positive comparisons, or "hits," as they are commonly referred to. A positive comparison occurs when DNA obtained from a crime victim or scene is matched with either a known offender sample or DNA from another crime scene that is on file in Maryland's DNA database.

"Through the hard work of many dedicated people, we have been able to significantly increase the effectiveness of our DNA database and make it the crime-fighting tool it should be," Governor Martin O'Malley said. "Eliminating the inherited sample backlog and providing necessary personnel, equipment and financial resources to our State Police lab have been priorities for our Administration as we fight to protect Maryland neighborhoods and families. The most solemn obligation we have as public servants is to protect the public safety. This technology has greatly improved our ability to do that."

Scientists at the State Police lab have verified the positive comparison involved an offender sample that was part of the more than 24,000 sample backlog that was cleared and entered into the DNA database after funding and support was provided by Governor O'Malley during the first year of his administration. Today's announcement comes as Governor O'Malley convenes the final "Maryland Forward" forum, which took place in Annapolis with approximately 300 law enforcement and public safety stakeholders. Today's event will gather recommendations for legislation and actions related to public safety and homeland security.

In January 2008, Governor O'Malley announced the elimination of an inherited backlog of more than 24,000 untested and uncollected DNA samples from convicted felons. The backlog elimination was the result of additional funding for new positions and new equipment provided by the O'Malley-Brown Administration. Since 2007, law enforcement has made 290 arrests due to positive hits from the DNA database.

As of December 31, 2010, there were 92,493 offender samples in the statewide DNA



database. Current Maryland law requires all persons convicted of a felony, fourth degree burglary, or breaking/entering of a motor vehicle to submit a DNA sample that becomes part of the DNA database.

On January 1, 2009, legislation proposed and signed into law by Governor O'Malley took effect that requires those arrested and charged with qualifying violent crimes, or 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree burglaries and attempts to commit those crimes, to submit a DNA sample. As of the end of 2010, there were 10,243 DNA samples in this database. There have been 104 positive DNA comparisons as a result of the new law. This has a direct impact on crime because it gives police the ability to take criminals off the street sooner and before they can continue their criminal activities.

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# Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on the 25th Anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday

January 17th, 2011

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 17, 2011)**—Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today on the 25th Anniversary of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday:

*"Today, we honor and celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On the 25th Anniversary of our nation's federal holiday – in a world where there is still senseless violence and suffering – we salute a man whose principles and beliefs remain timeless."*

*"Dr. King believed in community service and giving of ourselves to help others. Especially in these trying times, we need the strength of our neighbors to help us find hope and uplift one another. This year, Katie, Lt. Governor Brown and I are participating in several service events throughout the state to honor Dr. King. We encourage all Marylanders to volunteer their time and talents to help those in need."*

*"Dr. King's remarkable legacy is a blueprint for us all to follow. If we choose to lead by example, then our children can choose to build a better future. Together, we will honor Dr. King, not just today, but every day by caring for each other, recognizing the dignity in every individual, and the human spirit that connects us all."*

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# Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on the Passing of Sargent Shriver

January 18th, 2011

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 18, 2011)**—Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today on the passing of Sargent Shriver, the founding director of the Peace Corps and a lifelong public servant:

*"As a Maryland native, Sargent Shriver embodied the ideals we share as One Maryland – our belief in the dignity of every individual and in our own responsibility to advance the greater good. Those programs that will serve as the legacy to man dedicated to public service – the Peace Corps, Head Start, Jobs Corps, Vista, and others – are more important to our nation now than ever. Sargent Shriver's overwhelming optimism and energy brightened our nation in its darkest times and served to defend the very ideals our country was built upon.*

*"I join all Marylanders in mourning the loss of one of our nation's greatest servants, and in celebration of a life dedicated to others."*

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# Governor Martin O'Malley Delivers Inaugural Address

January 19th, 2011

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 19, 2011)**– Governor Martin O'Malley delivered his inaugural address today after being sworn-in for a second term as Maryland's Governor. Joined with him in front of Maryland's State House were members of the Governor's family, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown and his family, members of Maryland's Congressional delegation, State leaders, Maryland's County Executives, members of the faith community, and former Maryland elected officials.

"Today, we reaffirm that we are One Maryland, united by our belief in the dignity of every individual, and by our belief in our own responsibility to advance the greater good," Governor O'Malley said. "In our State, there is no such thing as a spare American; we are all in this together. And as One Maryland, we ask God for His blessing, protection, and grace."

[A complete version of Governor O'Malley's as-prepared remarks is available here.](#)

Governor O'Malley, in his address, noted the challenging times our nation has experienced through this global recession, and our need for resolve to come through these times together.

"Four years ago, few could have foreseen the suffering so many Maryland families would endure as our national economy and global financial markets nearly collapsed," he said. "We could not have imagined how many moms and dads would lose their jobs and homes, or how many small businesses would have to close their doors. In times of adversity, the people of Maryland do not make excuses, we make progress."

Governor O'Malley stressed the need to come through these challenging times not only through innovation, but by rejecting the idea that we are destined to slip backwards.

"There are some challenges so large, that we can only address them together: making this new economy ours; spurring innovation; harnessing its job creating and healing potential; improving public schools, public safety, public works, the protection of our public health and our natural resources," Governor O'Malley said. "We must move beyond the debilitating idea that our children will not enjoy a better quality of life than we have, that we are destined to decline, backslide and fail. No generation of Americans ever built monuments to their own comfort. I say our best days are ahead of us – but only if we choose to make it so."

Governor O'Malley's used today's address to highlight the points of progress that, despite tough economic times, we've achieved together as One Maryland, including:

- Maryland employers created the best year of net new job creation since 2000, adding more than 36,000 new jobs between January and November 2010. That is a growth rate twice that of the national average.
- Record investments in public K-12 education for the last four years.
- Alone among the fifty states, kept in-state college tuition at zero percent increase for four straight years.

- Continued investment in job-creating industries like biotechnology, life sciences, renewable energy, and research and development.
- Driven crime down to their lowest rates ever recorded in Maryland.
- Extended healthcare coverage to more than 240,000 Marylanders in the last four years, half of whom are children.
- Guided by science, instituted the necessary regulations to restore the blue crab population in the Chesapeake Bay.
- Cut state government spending \$5.6 billion and reduced the size of government.

Despite our challenges, Governor O'Malley outlined the positive position Maryland is in to transform our challenges into the jobs and opportunities of the new economy:

"We are at the threshold of brilliant science, innovative technology and remarkable discoveries that will transform, for the better, the opportunities and the world that we leave to our children," Governor O'Malley said. "From the schools, laboratories, and companies of Maryland are emerging the discoveries, technologies, and jobs that will remake our world."

Acknowledging the need to work together to achieve these goals, Governor O'Malley called on all Marylanders to recognize the unity we share as a community:

"In this search for answers and solutions, Maryland is not a random scattering of isolated individuals totally on our own. We need each other just as much as the next generation needs us. We cannot allow our individual sense of entitlement to tear apart our shared sense of community."

"To heal our painful economic and political wounds, we must connect more of Maryland to itself," Governor O'Malley concluded. "We must recognize the unity that already is, and find ways to work together that strengthen with that unity. This is our challenge, not of government alone or society as a whole, but of every individual who values the title of citizen."

[A complete version of Governor O'Malley's as-prepared remarks is available here.](#)

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# Governor Martin O'Malley Outlines FY12 Budget Focused on Job Creation

January 21st, 2011

***Proposed budget closes deficit more than \$1.3 billion, shrinks the size of government, reforms state pension system, putting it on a path of sustainability; Includes no tax increases for Marylanders***

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 21, 2011)** – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined today by Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and Secretary T. Eloise Foster of the Maryland Department of Budget and Management, outlined the FY 2012 budget for the State of Maryland, which closes a projected budget deficit of more than \$1.3 billion, invests millions in job creating initiatives, and proposes new reforms to the state pension system, putting it on a path of sustainability. The FY12 budget brings total reductions under the O'Malley-Brown Administration to \$6.6 billion and shrinks the size of government to lower levels than four years ago.

"We are in a period of profound economic change, and these remain still uncertain times," said Governor O'Malley. "As Maryland businesses continue to add jobs at higher rates than the rest of the nation, we still must find ways to do more with less while protecting those priorities we share as One Maryland. This budget is one that is painfully lean, but rightly focuses resources on jobs and innovation – the worthwhile costs of making the right choices and investments in our future."

For the fifth consecutive year, the FY 2012 budget complies with the General Assembly's Spending Affordability Guideline. This year's recommendation – to reduce the out-year deficit by one third – is exceeded with this budget proposal. Spending cuts made in the FY 2012 budget reduce the standing deficit by 37%, improving the outlook for FY 2013 by more than \$800 million while maintaining a healthy rainy day fund at 5% of revenues.

The proposed FY12 budget focuses more than \$3.5 billion on jobs and job creating initiatives, including nearly 15,000 construction jobs supported through the FY 2012 capital budget.

- Creates *InvestMaryland* to grow the state's knowledge-based industries and stimulate up to \$100 million in venture capital investments, creating thousands of jobs.
- Increases funding for the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Fund by 25%, helping to stimulate small business growth and job creation.
- Funding for stem cell research, bringing the five-year total under the O'Malley-Brown Administration to \$76.2 million.
- Funding for the biotechnology tax credit and the Maryland Biotechnology Center, investing in the new economy.
- \$10 million in Sustainable Communities Tax Credits to promote urban redevelopment and create jobs.

[See the Governor's outlined FY12 budget, including budget history and context, here.](#)

[For an electronic copy of the entire FY12 budget, click here.](#)

## **Education**

The FY12 budget proposes a second year of record \$5.7 billion in funding for K-12 public schools, bringing the five-year total to \$27.4 billion. This includes more than \$128 million for the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI), the third consecutive year of full funding and the only administration to have funded any level of GCEI.

In addition, for the fifth straight year, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has met or exceeded the Kopp Commission recommendations on school construction funding, bringing the total five-year funding level to more than \$1.5 billion, a Maryland record.

## **Public Safety**

Last year, together, we drove violent crime to its lowest rate in recorded history thanks to innovative programs that connected law enforcement to each other, traded information across borders, and focused resources on Maryland's most violent offenders. The FY12 budget proposal includes nearly \$2.18 billion in public safety funding including \$108 million for the Department of Parole and Probation, including the Violence Prevention Initiative, targeting more than 2,000 of the State's most dangerous offenders.

In addition, Governor O'Malley includes millions to advance law enforcement technology, including continued implementation of the Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System to assist law enforcement and emergency responders with real-time information, and the Offender Case Management System to track inmates from initial booking through community release.

And to keep police officers on the streets, Governor O'Malley's FY12 budget includes funding for a trooper class of 80 new recruits, and more than \$45 million in local police aid.

## **Environmental Protection**

Since taking office, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has developed innovative tools to scientifically guide environmental policy, and ensure taxpayer dollars spent on environmental protection are done so efficiently and effectively while maximizing long-term impact. Governor O'Malley's FY12 budget continues increased funding for the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund, and more than \$16 million for the cover crop program, which experiences record levels of participation in FY11.

In addition, the FY12 budget focuses investments on the continued expansion of Maryland's "green job" sector, putting \$7 million in Strategic Energy Investment Funds toward clean, renewable energy grants and \$1 million to support climate change programs. In addition, the budget provides more than \$6 million for weatherization grants, enough to improve the energy performance of nearly 4,300 low income homes, and \$4.7 million for other energy efficiency programs primarily to assist low and moderate income Maryland families.

## **Health and Wellness**

Through a combination of expansion initiatives, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has expanded health care access to more than 247,000 Marylanders who were without health care four years ago, including 117,500 children. Governor O'Malley's FY12 budget proposes \$7 billion to provide comprehensive health care coverage to more than 900,000 low-income, disabled, and chronically ill children and adults.

In addition, the FY12 budget provides millions for programs for Marylanders with disabilities, including \$17 million to expand placements for people with developmental disabilities, and \$8 million to raise payment rates for providers of services to people with developmental

disabilities.

## State Employees

Over the last three years, employees have absorbed more than \$580 million of reductions to salaries and benefits. This year, by Executive Order, Governor O'Malley created a Voluntary Separation Program for state employees, attracting almost 1,400 applicants. Governor O'Malley's FY12 budget assumes \$40 million in ongoing savings from approximately 1,000 accepted applications to the program.

The FY12 budget includes provisions of a new, three-year contract with the State's largest employee unions that ends the use of furloughs and provides for future cost of living adjustments and step increases. In addition, the FY12 budget begins to put the public employee [pension and retirement system on a path of sustainability](#).

### *[Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Plans to Put Pension System on Path to Sustainability](#)*

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# Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Plans to Put Pension System on Path to Sustainability

January 21st, 2011

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 21, 2011)** –Governor Martin O'Malley outlined plans today to address Maryland's unfunded pension and retirement liabilities and begin to put the public system on a path of sustainability. In introducing the FY 2012 budget proposal today, Governor O'Malley committed approximately \$1.5 billion to the pension system next year, nearly \$1 billion more than in FY 2003.

"Some of the toughest choices we face in this legislative session are the choices we make to fix our pension system," said Governor O'Malley. "We owe it to our police officers, teachers and other hardworking state employees and we also owe it to our children and our taxpayers, to find a sustainable way forward that protects our commitments and maintains fiscal responsibility. This is a bill that we have to pay and all of us have a vested interest in finding the most fair and equitable way to keep our pension commitments."

Governor O'Malley has outlined the basic principles on which pension reform is based:

1. Continue to maintain a public system as a critical component of recruiting and retaining the best teachers.
2. Improve the funding level in the State and Teacher retirement system.
3. Reduce the pension and retirement liability, and therefore, we must ask current and future members of the system to contribute more to strengthen the system and preserve benefits.
4. Identify certain milestones so as our economic circumstances change, we can revisit some of these reforms.

[Find the Governor's full pension reform presentation here.](#)

In each of his first four years, Governor O'Malley has submitted budgets that fully funded the State's required pension contribution. But despite rapid increases in this contribution, the funded status of the pension system has dropped from 95% ten years ago to a project 59% next year.

The Governor's proposed reforms will allow the state to reinvest more than \$1 billion into the retirement system over the next six years. These reforms will achieve 80% funding of the pension system by FY 2023 and require bi-annuals reports assessing the financial health of the pension system, including recommendation for adjustments to state funding and/or future benefits.

## Current employees and retirees

The Governor's proposed pension reform has no impact on current retirees and no impact on benefits already earned by active or former employees and teachers.

For benefits earned for service in FY 2012 and future years, active employees and teachers are offered a one-time choice between:

1. Continue to pay 5% of salary towards retirement with adjusted benefit (1.5% benefit multiplier for each future year of service rather than current 1.8% benefit multiplier).
2. Increase contribution to retirement from 5% to 7% of pay and continue to earn benefits at the current level (1.8% benefit multiplier for each future year of service).

## Future employees and teachers

New employees will automatically be required to contribute 7% of salary and receive a 1.5% benefit multiplier. In addition, year of benefit vesting will move from the current five years of service to ten years. Early retirement age will increase from the current 55 to 60, and the benefit will be calculated on the highest five years of salary rather than the highest three years. Finally, cost of living adjustments will be based on investment benchmarks.

In addition, the Governor announced plans to direct the appropriate Compensation Commissions to review pensions for elected officials for sustainability and fairness.

## Health benefits

Almost half of the unfunded liability associated with retiree health benefits relates to Maryland's prescription drug benefit. For current retirees, the proposed reform plan establishes a state-run Medicare Part D-like plan that mirrors the federal program but fills the current coverage gap. In 2020, the plan transitions these retirees to Medicare Part D coverage in 2020 when the coverage gap is phased out.

For active employees, the proposed plan aligns co-pays with national trends and raises out-of-pocket caps from \$700 to \$1,000 for individuals and \$1,500 for couples.

The current unfunded liability of retiree health insurance stands at \$16 billion. After the proposed reforms, that figure drops by almost 50%.

### [Governor Martin O'Malley Outlines FY12 Budget Focused on Job Creation](#)

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# Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Legislative Agenda Focused on Job Creation and the New Economy

January 24th, 2011

## Agenda includes legislation creating a \$100 million economic investment initiative to create jobs; Governor recommits to renewable energy generation with new legislation; Maryland to continue on path of leadership in federal health reform

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 24, 2011)**– Governor Martin O'Malley outlined his legislative agenda today focusing on job creation and the new economy, just days after submitting an FY12 budget proposal focused on those same priorities. Governor O'Malley's 2011 legislative agenda includes the creation of *InvestMaryland*, a \$100 million initiative to grow the state's knowledge-based industries and stimulate up to \$100 million in venture capital investments, creating thousands of jobs.

"We are in a fight for our economic future. It is a fight in which every state has an important duty to fulfill in creating jobs through innovation in a hotly competitive global economy," said Governor O'Malley. "While cutting and balancing are important, they are not enough by themselves to create jobs in the new economy. Effective decision making must also make and protect strategic investments for a stronger future. Our legislative agenda focuses valuable resources on job creating initiatives, and harnesses Maryland's competitive strengths to make this new economy ours."

Governor O'Malley's legislative agenda includes specific legislation to maintain Maryland's leadership position on the implementation of federal health care reform. Legislation that Lt. Governor Brown will help shepherd through the General Assembly creates a governance structure of a health insurance exchange, a recommendation of the Health Reform Coordinating Council, of which Lt. Governor Brown served as co-chair.

"While some states are fighting federal health reform, we see the federal legislation as a unique opportunity to expand access, improve the quality of care and make health care more affordable for more Marylanders. We have enthusiastically accepted this challenge and are developing a national model to implement health reform. Our efforts to create a health benefit exchange and promote wellness and preventative care will make Maryland a healthier state," said Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown. "Federal health reform will only be as successful as a state's ability to implement it. Because of reforms already in place which has expanded coverage to more than 250,000 of our neighbors, federal health care reform will save Maryland \$830 million over the next 10 years and cut the number of uninsured Marylanders in half."

To promote and expand Maryland's "green jobs" sector, Governor O'Malley introduced today legislation that promotes the purchase and use of electric vehicles in Maryland. In addition, legislation will be introduced soon that will include solar hot water heaters under eligibility

requirements for solar renewable energy credits. The Governor also announced that he will soon introduce legislation that requires utility companies to award long-term contracts to procure between 400 to 600 megawatts of offshore wind energy, fueling Maryland's "green jobs" sector and ushering in a new era of renewable energy innovation.

Governor O'Malley's 2011 legislative agenda also includes public safety initiatives designed to continue Maryland's progress of creating safer neighborhoods, including provisions that will reduce good time and dimunition credits for certain gun offenders. Other legislation will add long guns to the definition of firearms, and create a separate criminal offense of child neglect.

Bill summaries are attached and [available here](#).

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# Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Federal Grant for Homelessness

January 28th, 2011

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 28, 2011)**– Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today following an announcement by U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan awarding more than \$44 million to 208 local homeless assistance programs in Maryland through HUD's Continuum of Care program:

*"These are significant new resources for 208 local programs on the front lines of our fight to make homelessness a brief and rare occurrence in our state. These funds are especially welcome in the current economic climate. Every day, another household becomes at-risk because of health-related problems, loss of income or problems finding and keeping housing they can afford, and I am proud that one of the wealthiest states in the country also is among the most aggressive when it comes to providing emergency shelter and prevention services to its families."*

These grants provide permanent and transitional housing to homeless persons as well as services such as job training, health care, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment and child care. They are competitive grants to local programs to meet the needs of their homeless clients.

"There is a tremendous need on our streets and in our shelters among those experiencing both long-term homelessness as well as families confronting a sudden economic crisis," Secretary Donovan said today in making his announcement. "These grants are the lifeblood for thousands of local housing and service programs that are doing the heavy lifting to meet President Obama's goal of ending homelessness."

To see the list of local programs funded, go to [HUD's Website](#).

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# Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Rosecroft

January 28th, 2011

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 28, 2011)**—Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today on new ownership at Rosecroft Raceway:

*"We look forward to working with the new owner of Rosecroft on preserving over 200 jobs at the facility, returning live racing back to the track, and supporting an industry that helps preserve open space and contributes to Maryland's rich tradition of horse related agriculture. It is our hope that new ownership will bring relief to members of the community who share concerns about the vacant facility and its impact on surrounding neighborhoods.*

*"I look forward to working together with the new owner to bring much needed harmony to the racing industry so we can move Maryland racing forward."*

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# Governor O'Malley Appoints Small Business Commission

January 28th, 2011

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 28, 2011)**– Governor Martin O'Malley today appointed 17 members to the Governor's Commission on Small Business and addressed the Commission at its first meeting. The Governor's Commission on Small Business was created by [Executive Order 01.01.2010.13](#), signed by Governor O'Malley on June 3, and formed upon the recommendation of the Governor's Task Force on Small Business.

"Our progress as a state depends on the prosperity of our small businesses," said Governor O'Malley. "The Commission on Small Business will build on the progress we've made by evaluating and implementing the recommendations of the Small Business Task Force. I'd like thank to the men and women of the Commission for their talents and leadership, and for choosing to step up and serve the people of our state in the toughest of times. Together, we can expand opportunities for Maryland's entrepreneurs."

The Commission will provide a forum for small business to articulate and address barriers to business growth, recommend economic policy development measures to the Governor and General Assembly and oversee implementation of the Small Business Task Force recommendations. The Commission will meet at least quarterly and will provide regular review of *Maryland Made Easy*, a new initiative also unveiled by the Governor and including tangible improvements to specific State processes where business and government intersect.

Ackneil Muldrow II, CEO of Parker Muldrow & Associates, LLC, will chair the Commission. Mr. Muldrow previously served as President and CEO of the Development Credit Fund for more than 17 years. He is chairman, past president and CEO of the Baltimore Marketing Association and president of the Baltimore Efficiency and Economy Foundation. A graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, Mr. Muldrow is a resident of Baltimore City.

The Commission consists of the following members appointed by the Governor:

- Karen Barbour is president of The Barbour Group LLC, an independent insurance agency. Ms. Barbour earned a B.A. from Loyola College and an M.B.A. from the University of Baltimore. She is a resident of Carroll County.
- Barbara I. Berschler, Esq., is an attorney with Press, Potter & Dozier LLC. She earned a J.D. from Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law and a Master of Laws from Washington College of Law, American University. She is a resident of Montgomery County.
- Marilyn Blandford is president and CEO of Miltec Corporation, a distributor and manufacturer of UV equipment and components. A resident of Queen Anne's County, Ms. Blandford earned a B.A. from Florida State University.
- Roland O. Campbell is president and CEO of ROC Incorporated. He has been a licensed real estate professional since 1982. He is a graduate of the Realtor's Institute (GRI) and earned a certificate from Allan Berman Real Estate Institute of Johns Hopkins University.

Mr. Campbell is a resident of Baltimore County.

- Edward L. Dopkin is owner and president of The Classic Catering People and Miss Shirley's Cafes and the owner of The Roland Park Bagel Co. and S'ghetti Eddie's. Mr. Dopkin attended George Washington University, where he studied Marketing and Accounting.
- Major James A. Dula USAF (Ret.) is executive director of Image Consulting Group. A 30-year veteran of the United States Air Force, Maj. Dula earned a masters degree from the University of Oklahoma. He is a resident of Prince George's County.
- Annie Geiermann is senior vice president and manager of Columbia Bank's Community Business Banking Division. A resident of Howard County, she earned a B.A. from Goucher College.
- Riche Holmes Grant, Esq., is president and chief academic officer of Innovative Study Techniques. A graduate of Brown University, she earned a J.D. from Columbia University. She is a resident of Prince George's County.
- Manuel Hidalgo is executive director of Latino Economic Development Corporation. He earned an M.A. from Florida International University and a Nonprofit Management Executive Certificate from Georgetown University. Mr. Hidalgo is a resident of Montgomery County.
- Wonro Lee is president and CEO of JG Merchant Sales & Services and JG Telecommunications Inc. He earned a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Maryland. Mr. Lee is a resident of Montgomery County.
- Randy McClement is co-owner and operator of The Market Bagel and Deli and Frederick's Mayor. The Frederick resident is past president of the Frederick Co. Tourism Council, Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Frederick Partnership.
- Jorge A. Restrepo is principal researcher and CEO of EurekaFacts LLC. He earned a Bachelor's degree from Universidad EAFIT and an M.G.A Marketing degree from the University of Maryland University College Graduate School of Management and Technology. He is a resident of Montgomery County.
- Deborah Stallings is president and CEO of HR Anew. She chairs the Maryland Chamber of Commerce's small business committee and represents Maryland on the President's Commission on Small Business. The Howard County resident is pursuing a B.A. at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland.
- Jay A. Steinmetz is CEO and founder of Barcoding Inc., a 37-employee Baltimore-based technology company. He earned a B.S. from the University of Arizona and is a resident of Baltimore City.
- Wayne Strausburg is president of Hall Consulting and Management and the English Company, a restaurant and real estate investment company. A graduate of Loyola College, he earned an M.B.A. from Morgan State University. Mr. Strausburg is a resident of Wicomico County.
- William L. Yerman, Esq., is a founding member of Real Estate Title and Escrow. He earned a B.B.A. from Emory University and a J.D. from The University of Maryland School of Law. He is a resident of Baltimore City.

Other members include Senator Barry Glassman, appointed by the President of the Senate Thomas V. Mike Miller and Delegate Adrienne A. Jones, appointed by the Speaker of the House Michael E. Busch.

*Ex-officio* members include the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, the Secretary of General Services and the Secretary of the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs.

[Small Business Task Force Recommendations](#)



For information on small business resources and assistance or the Governor's Commission on Small Business, contact the Department of Business and Economic Development at 410-767-6300 or visit [www.ChooseMaryland.org](http://www.ChooseMaryland.org).

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# Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Maryland Made Easy

January 28th, 2011

## Working across state agencies to improve information and access for businesses

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 28, 2011)**– Governor Martin O'Malley today met with 80 business owners, entrepreneurs and developers at Baltimore-based DAP Products, Inc., to launch "Business in Maryland Made Easy," an economic development initiative and part of the Administration's ongoing efforts to improve the conditions that allow businesses to grow and create jobs. "Maryland Made Easy" includes specific strategies for state agencies to help improve Maryland's business environment by streamlining processes, simplifying regulations and improving communication. In making the announcement, the Governor outlined recently adopted improvements to the State Highway Administration's access permit review. He introduced members of the newly formed Maryland Small Business Commission and charged them with identifying other permitting, licensing and regulatory areas for review.

"As we transition our state into the new economy, we have to listen to the men and women on the front line of job creation on how to improve infrastructure, support our innovation economy, enhance the skills and talents of our people and improve our business environment," said Governor O'Malley. "In the past two years, we worked to unlock credit through the Maryland Small Business Credit Recovery Program and increase access to financial resources through Credit Connections. And just five weeks ago, at our first Maryland Forward forum on jobs and the economy, people told me that we needed to do a better job marketing those resources and I'm pleased to announce that we've heeded the call, and today, we're releasing a new financing guide."

Joining the Governor were John McLaughlin, CEO of DAP and a member of the Maryland Economic Development Commission, Ackneil Muldrow, Small Business Commission Chair, Jay Steinmetz, CEO of Barcoding and Manuel Hidalgo, executive director of Latino Economic Development Corporation.

"One of the most effective roles my colleagues – such as secretaries Swaim-Staley and Sanchez who are here today – and I can perform is to be advocates for transparency, predictability and accountability in government," said Christian Johansson, Secretary of the Department of Business and Economic Development. With stakeholder process reviews, we're working across state agencies to identify and remove barriers to business success."

In addition to stakeholder process reviews, *Maryland Made Easy* includes a planned Central Business Licensing (CBL) system, an initiative of the DBED and the Department of Information Technology to create a centralized, online system for all business licenses and permits. The CBL will eventually provide businesses with a one-stop shop to complete and submit various applications and permits regardless of agency or type of business. The Governor will soon sign an Executive Order on Expedited Project Review to increase cooperation and communication

in resolving cross-agency issues to facilitate major development projects and reduce delays.

Governor O'Malley also released the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Highway Access Permits, created to improve the process for applying and obtaining access permits for development projects. Chaired by DBED Secretary Johansson, in cooperation with MDOT Secretary Beverley K. Swaim-Staley, the Task Force included local planners, developers, engineers and economic development officials.

"We heard from the business community that we needed to make this process more timely and consistent," said Secretary Swaim-Staley. "Working with stakeholders, we found ways to do that, without compromising on our mission to provide a safe and efficient highway system."

Their recommendations are already underway and will make the permitting process more timely, transparent, consistent and predictable. For more information on the Governor's Task Force on Highway Access Permits, [click here](#).

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# Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Florida Federal Judge Ruling on the Affordable Care Act

January 31st, 2011

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 31, 2011)**– Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today on the ruling by a federal judge in Florida that President Obama's health care law is unconstitutional:

*"Today's ruling is one step in a process that will resolve legal challenges to the Affordable Care Act. While the courts do their work, Maryland will continue to move forward with the Act's successful implementation."*

*"This law is strengthening insurance for all Marylanders with coverage, will extend coverage to more than 350,000 Marylanders, and will save the state more than \$800 million by 2020."*

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