



Dear Friends,

I am happy to share that several of my bills have been moving swiftly through the legislative process. [SB 250](#), which will allow Somerset to issue a class 7 micro-brewery license, received a favorable report from the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs committee and now moves back to the full Senate for final passage. [SB 641](#), the Kathleen A. Mathias Oral Chemotherapy Improvement Act, which will give patients battling cancer piece of mind that their chemotherapy treatments will be covered, passed unanimously in the Senate, and now goes to the House of Delegates. Last week there were no hearings on any legislation that I have sponsored this session.

This past Friday the Eastern Shore delegation had a productive meeting, with representatives from [Coastal Hospice](#) present. Coastal Hospice provides compassionate care to people at the end of their lives, both in-home and in nursing facilities. A large portion of the meeting was dedicated to a discussion about offshore wind turbines in Crisfield. The delegation is working with Patuxent Naval Air Station in Southern Maryland, along with elected officials from Southern Maryland to address concerns about building these wind turbines. The construction of these turbines is projected to create 500 construction jobs on the lower shore, as well as create \$44 million in increased tax revenue.

This Saturday, there are several bill hearings for bond bills I introduced this session. All the bill hearings will be in the Budget and Taxation committee. Bond bills require matching funds from the organization receiving state funds and will help these great organizations continue to provide services in our communities, as well as create local jobs.

[Senate Bill 549, Saturday, March 8, 1:00pm.](#): SB 549 would fund a \$300,000 grant to the Board of Directors of the Chesapeake, Inc. for specified development or improvement purposes related to the YMCA of the Chesapeake, located in Salisbury.

[Senate Bill 937, Saturday, March 8, 1:00pm.](#): SB 937 would fund a \$55,000 grant to The International Association of Lions Clubs for specified development or improvement purposes related to the Willards Lions Club.

[Senate Bill 938, Saturday, March 8, 1:00pm.](#): SB 938 would fund a \$100,000 grant to the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland for specified development or improvement purposes related to the Tri-County Multi-Purpose Center.

[Senate Bill 1087, Saturday, March 8, 1:00pm.](#): SB 1087 would fund a \$250,000 grant to the Delmar Public Library for specified development or improvement purposes related to the Delmar Public Library

Knowing how crucial [small businesses](#), [agriculture](#), [tourism](#), and [watermen](#) are to our way of life on the Shore, these links will take you to the General Assembly website and let you see all the bills filed on those topics. You can also click [here to search for legislation on other topics](#).

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I am responsible for reviewing legislation related to energy, health insurance, labor law, transportation and a variety of other important issues. Last week, the Finance Committee had a busy week of bill hearings and voting sessions; follow everything that the Finance Committee does by [clicking here](#).

The deadline to apply for legislative scholarships is April 1, 2014. For more information about how to apply for a scholarship, please contact our district office at 410-352-3096.

For more information about what is going on in Annapolis, please reach out to our office at 410-841-3645 or toll-free at 1-800-492-7122, ex. 3645. You can also email me at james.mathias@senate.state.md.us. As always, if I can be of assistance to you, or if you have an idea you want to share with me, please contact me anytime.

Always working for you...and together getting the job done,

Jim