

THE WEEK THAT WAS IN ANNAPOLIS

- **Maintenance of Effort Update**

Legislative workgroups in the House and Senate have agreed to meet together in advance of introducing legislation that will address the broken maintenance of effort (MOE) law. This joint meeting is an encouraging sign that MOE legislation can successfully navigate through a busy and complicated legislative session. MSEA has shared our [MOE blueprint](#) with workgroup members and hope that many of our provisions are included in the legislation that should be submitted before the end of February.

- **Marriage Equality Bill on the House Floor**

Valentine's Day included a House joint-committee favorable report of [HB 438, the Civil Marriage Protection Act](#). The committee action sends the Marriage Equality bill to the full House. Debate on amendments and the second reading of the bill was originally scheduled for Thursday evening, but has been postponed for later today. The House chamber is where a similar bill stalled last year, so the next few hours and days will be critical to securing passage of this civil rights legislation.

At the 2011 MSEA Convention, delegates [passed New Business Item 16](#), calling on the association to support passage of the Marriage Equality Act. We will continue our work on this bill to get it through the House and Senate this session.

- **O'Malley Unveils His Gas Tax Proposal**

The [Maryland Transportation Financing and Infrastructure Investment Act of 2012 \(HB 1302/ SB 971\)](#) is the O'Malley Administration's gas tax proposal. Saying "we can't keep kicking the can down the road," O'Malley argues for imposing the state's 6 percent sales tax to gasoline. His proposal phases in the sales tax at 2 percent a year for three years. Once fully phased in, the administration projects that the gas tax would raise \$613 million annually.

The governor's office reports that the sales tax would be applied to the retail price of motor fuel, minus federal and state taxes already included in the calculation at the pump. [The administration summarizes that a motorist driving 10,000 miles per year in a car getting 20 miles per gallon would pay an additional \\$90 per year](#) under this proposal.

- **Race to the Top Update**

Interim Superintendent of Schools Bernard Sadusky presented to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee this week with an update on Race to the Top implementation, No Child Left Behind waivers, and other matters of the State Department of Education. [Superintendent Sadusky's full presentation is available here.](#)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Educator Town Hall: Monday, February 27 in Annapolis**

The Marc Steiner Show is hosting an Educator Town Hall in Annapolis from 5-7 PM on Monday, February 27. [RSVP today to join the discussion at this important event](#) with legislators and policymakers!

- **Statewide Call To Action: Tuesday, February 28**

On Tuesday, February 28, MSEA members and education advocates are encouraged to call the MSEA legislative hotline at **866-268-MSEA** to be connected with their senators and delegates to advance our agenda to protect school funding. Learn more about the day of action and the Do Your Part campaign at www.marylandeducators.org/doyourpart.