

ACE-AFSCME

Annapolis Update

Local 2250, AFL-CIO

April 9, 2010

ANNAPOLIS UPDATE
Jim Shearer, Political/Legislative Representative

The current Maryland Legislative Session has seven more days to go.

FAIRNESS IN NEGOTIATION ACT H.B. 243

As reported in the March 30, 2010, update, the Fairness in Negotiation Legislation has passed the Senate, but unfortunately, without the two amendments proposed by Local 2250 which would strengthen the bill. The House Ways & Means Committee has yet to report on this legislation to the full House. We continue to press the Prince George's County Delegates to urge the Education Sub Committee to approve the bill with our proposed amendments.

If the House were to pass the legislation with the amendments, it still would require a Conference Committee meeting made up of House & Senate Representatives to approve the legislation with our amendments. The Attorney General's office has written a favorable opinion of H.B. 243.

PENSION ISSUE S.B. 141

The Senate calls for local school systems (and libraries and community colleges) to begin contributing towards retirement payments for teachers and support employees beginning in 2012. The local school systems, libraries, and community colleges would be required to increase their contributions to the combined cost of their employees by 1% of salary wage base in FY 2012, 3% in FY 2013, and 5% in FY 2014 and 2015 which is approximately 50% of the total combined cost.

Beginning in 2016 the state and local contributions will adjust annually based on the estimated required contributions. The obvious effect will be fewer dollars available to the school systems state wide. The House rejected the plan and is calling for a panel of experts to study the proposal prior to next year's legislative session.

The final outcome will be decided at 12 midnight on the 12th of April.

Faith I. Jones, President

Richard L. Putney, Executive Director