

# ACE-AFSCME

# Annapolis Update

Local 2250, AFL-CIO

March 30, 2010

**ANNAPOLIS UPDATE**  
by  
**Jim Shearer, Political & Legislative Representative**

The current Maryland Legislative session has approximately 12 more days to go. There has been good news and not so good news.

**S.B. 727 SCHOOL VEHICLE LAWS – SCHOOL BUSES**

Thanks to the hard work of our International Union Political and Legislative Director, Michele Lewis, and lobbying activities on the part of Local 2250, a bill which would have seriously penalized School Bus Drivers was defeated. The bill would have banned students from standing on the bus and from sitting on the floor. The original bill would have fined bus drivers \$500.00 and given them 3 points if the students were standing or sitting on the floor.

**FAIRNESS IN NEGOTIATION ACT H.B. 243**

This bill would create a school employees labor panel which would be independent of the State Board of Education. They would handle disputes between school employees union and the local school system. We believe this legislation would provide a level playing field and would allow school employee unions a better chance of receiving fair and equitable decisions.

Local 2250 has added two amendments which would strengthen the bill. Jim Shearer testified before the Ways and Means Committee in support of the bill. The Senate has passed this bill without the amendments and the House has yet to vote on the bill or the amendments.

**S.B. 141 BUDGET & RECONCILIATION AND FINANCE ACT**

Now the bad news, beginning in FY 2012 local boards of education, community colleges and libraries would have to increase their contribution to the combined retirement costs of their employees by 1% of the 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 costs.

Beginning in 2016, the State and Local contributions will adjust annually based on the estimated required contribution for the State and Local shares to remain at 50% each. The obvious effect will be fewer dollars available to the school system's state wide.

Please go to [www.ace-afscme.org](http://www.ace-afscme.org) website to view this and other important information.

Faith I. Jones, President

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