

# ACE-AFSCME

# Annapolis Update

Local 2250, AFL-CIO

March 24, 2009

## ANNAPOLIS LEGISLATIVE REPORT by James Shearer, Legislative Representative

### **H.B. 631—Criminal Law—Assaults on Transit Operators and School Employees**

This legislation provides enhanced penalties on persons who would cause physical injury to a person operating a transit vehicle or is a school employee. This bill was amended in committee to change school employees to school bus drivers.

Local 2250's President Faith Jones testified in support of this legislation without the amendment. This legislation passed the Judiciary Committee (as amended) and was passed by the full house on March 19, 2009. This bill was sponsored by Delegate Gerron Levi, District 23.

### **S.B. 754 - School Buses Prohibition on sitting or standing on floor of bus**

This bill would have prohibited a person who is responsible for pupils on a school bus from permitting any pupil to sit on the floor of the bus. This bill received an unfavorable report in both House and Senate.

### **S.B. 673 – Fairness in Negotiations Act**

This legislation would require specific collective bargaining agreements to provide for binding arbitration of grievances between school employer and union representing employees. Local 2250's President Faith Jones testified in support of this bill. This legislation has not, as yet, been voted on in Senate Finance Committee. Local 2250 will continue to lobby for a favorable report on this bill. Jim Shearer, AFSCME Political/Legislative Representative testified in support of this bill.

### **S.B. 648/S.B. 710 and H.B. 525/1046**

This legislation would pass a certain percentage of the cost of Teachers Retirement and Pension Plan to Local County Government. Many members of Local 2250 are covered under the Teachers Retirement and Pension System. Should this legislation pass it will reduce monies available to Local School System which, in turn, could make negotiations for pay raises and benefits more difficult.

AFSCME International Legislative Director Michelle Lewis testified against these bills. No action has been taken as yet.

Faith I. Jones, President

Richard L. Putney, Executive Director