

ACE-AFSCME

Annapolis Update

Local 2250, AFL-CIO

April 9, 2009

ANNAPOLIS LEGISLATIVE REPORT
by
James Shearer, Legislative Representative

Maintenance of Effort

The Prince George's County Executive and County Council have requested a Maintenance of Effort Waiver which would allow the Prince George's County Government to provide less funding to the Prince George's County School System.

Local 2250 opposes this proposal which would create further reductions in the school system budget that obviously will result in less money for jobs and wage increases.

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

This legislation would reduce state funding for the Teachers Retirement and Pension System. Many members of Local 2250 are covered under these retirement plans.

ACE-AFSCME Local 2250 opposes this legislation and has been contacting state legislators in opposing this legislation. AFSCME International Union Legislative Director, Michelle Lewis, testified in opposition to these bills. No action has been taken as of yet.

Budget Legislation

The Maryland Senate version of the Proposed Budget would create a \$13.8 billion budget. The Senate would cut more than \$900 million in fiscal years, 2009 and 2010, compared to \$825 million in cuts made by the House.

The Senate and the House Budget Conference Committee continue to meet to reconcile these differences. No matter what comes out of the Conference Committee there will be considerable cuts in Local funding.

S.B. 673-Fairness in Negotiations Act

This legislation would provide binding arbitration on disputes between the Unions and School Systems. Local 2250 President, Faith Jones, and Legislative Representative, Jim Shearer testified in support of this legislation. The final outcome has yet to be determined.

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

H.B. 631-Transportation-Interfering with Transit Operators and School Bus Drivers

This legislation as amended provides significant penalties for a person obstructing, hindering, interfering with or otherwise disrupting or disturbing school bus drivers. This legislation has passed the house. Local 2250 President, Faith Jones, testified in support of this bill.

Faith I. Jones, President

Richard L. Putney, Executive Director