## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT MARCH 5, 2025

J Davis and Laura Downey attended by Zoom three MRSPA Legislative Committee meetings since the last PGPSRA General Meeting. We also attended by Zoom the MRSPA Legislative Workshop on Jan. 28. Over 2600 bills have been filed this year. The MRSPA Legislative Committee has taken positions on 14 bills, many of which have been filed in both the House and the Senate with different numbers—the Committee has voted to support 7 and to oppose 7. The MRSPA Legislative Update can be found here Legislative Update (as of February 25, 2025).

The biggest item being discussed by the State legislators is the proposed budget and the estimated budget deficit of \$3 billion. This estimate may increase as the impact of Federal lay-offs and the freeze on Federal grants becomes more apparent. The State Legislature is waiting until the last half of the session to see what, if any, Federal budget is approved. There may need to be a special session held to deal with the budget or perhaps a three-month extension on budget deliberation.

Governor Moore, as part of his proposed budget, has delayed funding for some planned programs in the Blueprint for Maryland. The MRSPA Committee is asking the MRSPA Board to approve an all-member appeal to send emails and calls to their delegations not to vote for these delays in funding. These delays, if enacted, could impact school systems throughout the State, especially Prince George's County, which are expecting full funding. A decrease in funding will cause school systems to look for possible cuts in their budgets. Cutting or reducing retiree benefits, such as health insurance, could be on the table.