



## MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 11, 2007**

CONTACT: Craig Orlan, 410-841-3380

### **Delegate Taylor's Living Wage bill passes on Sine Die**

Annapolis, MD – The Maryland General Assembly passed a first in the nation living wage requirement for some companies who are awarded state contracts. HB 430, sponsored by Delegate Herman Taylor (D-Montgomery) sets a two-tier regional wage requirement of at least \$8.50 an hour for employers seeking state contracts, with an even higher wage requirement (\$11.30) for more expensive areas of the state. The fact that Maryland is the first state to implement this is appropriate because the concept was first implemented in Baltimore. While similar legislation has been enacted in 120 cities and municipalities including Los Angeles, Boston and Detroit, this bill would make Maryland the first to implement a statewide living wage program.

“It is important that the state stop subsidizing poverty” said Taylor. Studies by the Economic Policy Institute in Washington DC show that every minimum wage job created costs the state up to \$9000 in state aid for programs like food stamps, subsidized housing, and childcare. Taylor said “as a businessman, I know that it is a privilege to do business with the state. It is not unreasonable for us to require that in order for the privilege of being awarded a state contract, employers pay their employees a wage that is high enough for them to feed their families.”

This bill has been a three year odyssey for Taylor. He introduced similar legislation in 2004, which passed both houses, but was vetoed by Governor Ehrlich. Delegate Taylor was encouraged by O'Malley's victory, and decided to resubmit the bill, in an effort to help working families. The passage of this bill is a major win for both Delegate Taylor and Governor O'Malley, who publicly supported the bill in his first state of the state address back in February.

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