

Beverly SOPP

From: Robert Bass
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:57 PM
To: MIEMSS ALL
Subject: Update on Senate Bills
Importance: High

All

SB 1041, that would have delayed helicopter procurement for a study of the system, was defeated in the Maryland Senate today by a vote of 32 - 14. SB 649 was defeated last evening. SB650, that would have split the fleet and invited privatization, and SB764 that would have reorganized the system, are both dead in committee at this point.

We have 13 days left in the session, so we still have to be attentive... however, the final vote against SB1041 was a strong affirmation of the current system. We will continue to work with the members of the General Assembly make improvements. We have recommendations from the Expert Panel and the House EMS Workgroup to implement and we hope to put in a system of oversight with the General Assembly that will help address long term issues. We are continuing to move ahead with the procurement of new helicopters for the MSP.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to all our partners in the volunteer and career fire and EMS Services, trauma centers, and law enforcement that supported us. We also owe a special debt to all the members of the General Assembly that have and continue to believe in us and support us. We have the strong support of the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House to be thankful for as well.

At some point, we will endeavor to recognize all those that played a special role during this difficult legislative session. There are too many at this point to try to include in this email and I fear I would leave someone out.

I want to pass on my special appreciation to all of you as well. Were it not for your dedication, hard work, and commitment to the system and our partners, we would not be where we are today.

B.