

## Board of County Commissioners

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## Carroll County Government

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Carroll County Commissioners Identify Legislative Priorities

**Westminster, MD, Thursday, September 21, 2017** – Today, the Board of Carroll County Commissioners (BCC) discussed and identified Carroll County legislative initiatives for the 2018 State of Maryland Legislative Session.

The legislative initiatives identify priorities for the BCC, including three bills on opioid issues, two on education funding from the state, as well as other proposals covering nonprofit fundraising enhancements, private land rights, easements and wildlife management plans.

The following legislative initiatives were discussed and unanimously approved by the BCC:

- **Bond Bill** – This bill is submitted each year and is what enables the county to borrow money in order to fund various public projects.
- **Detention of Overdosed Individual** – The proposal is intended to address the drug epidemic and to prevent overdose deaths. Any individual who has ingested an amount of drugs as to render himself or herself unconscious or in need of medical treatment to prevent imminent death or serious bodily harm, would be made subject to an involuntary emergency examination, treatment and counseling regimen for a period not to exceed 12 hours.
- **Mandatory Counseling for Patients Prescribed Maintenance Drugs for Opioid Dependence (H-G Article)** – This proposal would mandate that patients prescribed a regimen of maintenance drugs to treat opioid dependence must also be required to meet with a licensed substance abuse counselor on a regular basis and provide proof of attendance to the prescribing physician during the course of treatment.
- **Mandatory Post-Detoxification Counseling (H-G Article)** – This proposal requires that licensed detoxification centers provide a discharge plan for each client completing a substance abuse disorder treatment program, which must include a mandatory same day out-patient or in-patient session of behavioral counseling and a long term follow up counseling regimen to prevent relapse and ensure continuity of care.
- **Education – Hold Harmless** – This proposal provides grants to certain county boards of education in certain fiscal years if the total direct education aid in the current fiscal year is less than in the prior fiscal year.
- **Education – Maintenance of Effort** – The proposal provides funding relief for the county where full-time student enrollment is declining. The “per pupil” maintenance of effort amount would be frozen at the funding level for the prior fiscal year.
- **Gaming – Repeal Sunday Prohibition** – This proposal will allow non-profit organizers to increase fundraising by allowing card games, card tournaments or casino events to operate on Sunday.

(more)

## CARROLL COUNTY

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- Greywater – This proposal would provide additional opportunities for citizens to conserve and recycle water resources.
- Pinball Licensing – Repeal of CCCPLLO, § 6-102 – This proposal repeals the law requiring county licensing fees for pinball machines and other similar coin operated type games.
- Private Lands – Protection of Public Access – This proposal protects private property owners from undesired public access to any private property.
- Special Occasion Events on MALPF Easement Lands (Ag Article) – This proposal would permit special occasion events conducted on land subject to a MALPF easement provided certain criteria are met. This would be specific only to homestead areas, not the preserved land as designed in the easement.
- Wildlife Management Plans for State and Local Publicly Owned Properties in Excess of 20 Acres – This proposal provides that state and local publicly owned property in excess of twenty acres be subject to a Wildlife Management Plan to control the population of deer.

Next, the Commissioners will present the initiatives to the Carroll County Delegation in a joint meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in the Reagan Room of the County Office Building, 225 N. Center Street, Westminster, MD.

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