

Maryland Nonprofits

April 2008

Public Policy and Advocacy

2008 Maryland Legislative Recap

Wondering what happened in Annapolis this year, and how it will affect you? Find out about major legislative action, Maryland Nonprofits' legislative package and how it fared, legislation affecting subsectors of the nonprofit community, and the enacted state budget. This session closes the process that started with our annual legislative preview and ends with the close of the legislative session on April 7th. *This recap will be of particular interest to those who attended Maryland Nonprofits' Legislative Preview, BRAC iNPact!, and Advocacy Leaders Program.* All are welcome, and pre-registration is encouraged.

FREE to Attend

Maryland Nonprofits, Baltimore
4/23/08, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

[Register Online>>](#)

Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute

The [Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute](#) has been closely following the progress of the state budget, issuing special reports following key steps in the budget process. The [April issue](#) of Maryland Policy Reports includes a budget update as well as reports on the effects of the state hiring freeze and transportation issues.

The budget totals \$31 billion, of which \$15 billion is "general funds." As this is written, Senate and House conferees are working to reconcile their separate versions of the budget for the state. The proposed budgets include \$226 million to \$264 million in spending reductions compared with the budget proposed by Governor O'Malley and \$160 million to \$210 million in transfers from dedicated funds to the state general fund.

Some of the key differences involve funding for stem cell research, Medicaid expansion, and public higher education.

The legislature is also considering proposals to repeal the unpopular sales tax on computer services passed during the special session, and replacing it with increased income taxes on high earners and some combination of more transfers and more budget cuts. The Institute will issue a final budget update after the legislature completes its work and the dust settles.