

# CECIL WHIG

SERVING CECIL COUNTY SINCE 1841

## News

---

### Impact fee question awaits amendments

By Cheryl Mattix [cmattix@cecilwhig.com](mailto:cmattix@cecilwhig.com)

A decision on legislation authorizing a local ballot question on impact fees will have to wait at least one week.

The Cecil County delegation tabled a vote on Sen. E.J. Pipkin's proposed bill to allow time for amendments to be drafted.

Pipkin (R-Upper Shore) brought the bill up for discussion at the delegation's weekly meeting Monday in Annapolis.

The question would read: Do you support giving the Cecil County Commissioners the authority and power to impose an impact fee in Cecil County?

Delegate David Rudolph (D-Cecil) asked the delegation to table the issue until next Monday to give him time to prepare some amendments, mainly to "limit the use of the impact fee," he said.

"I just wanted to keep it simple," Pipkin said. "I thought that's what everyone wanted."

Pipkin first brought up the idea of putting the question to the voters during a campaign forum at Cecil Community College last fall.

The next general election in Cecil is November 2008, so voters couldn't decide on any referendum that makes it through the legislature for another 21 months or so.

Delegation Chairman Michael Smigiel (R-Upper Shore) brought up five other local bills for discussion Monday night.

The delegation only approved submitting one bill.

Local legislators unanimously agreed to submit a request from the county commissioners to delete language in existing code that states they appoint two members each to the county Board of Parks and Recreation.

The new language will say the commissioners will appoint eight members total.

The other four requests were tabled as the lawmakers await more information.

Delegation members voted to delay action on the Cecil County Liquor Board's four requests — which bill writers lumped together into one bill — until the new county commissioners have looked them over.

Smigiel said that County Commissioner Brian Lockhart, with whom he met Monday, "wants time to review the requests with the other commissioners before we introduce them as bills."

Rudolph is seeking another solution to a request by the Cecil County Soccer League for a property tax credit on equipment.

Delegate Richard Sossi (R-Upper Shore) agreed to find out more information regarding Mount Harmon's request for a \$150,000 bond.

Pipkin and Rudolph asked Smigiel to find out if Sheriff Barry Janney's request to allow his department to use technology to facilitate pretrial process is supported by the county's administrative judges.

Smigiel expects the drafts of several other local bill requests to be ready for discussion when the delegation meets again next Monday.

During the meeting, Pipkin complained about the communication process on local legislation issues.

"One way or another," he said, "the commissioners and others need to be in the loop on these local bill requests."

Delegate Mary Roe Walkup (R-Upper Shore) did not attend the meeting.

---

Copyright © 2007 Cecil Whig. All Rights Reserved.