

# Worksession

<b>Agenda Item #</b>	5
<b>Meeting Date</b>	September 8, 2008
<b>Prepared By</b>	Suzanne Ludlow, Deputy City Manager
<b>Approved By</b>	Barbara B. Matthews, City Manager

<b>Discussion Item</b>	Discussion of Proposed State Legislation
<b>Background</b>	<p>Each year, the City Council identifies legislation it would like to promote or support in the upcoming Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly. The bill deadline for submission of local bill requests (for Montgomery County or Bi-County legislation) is September 17. We have already submitted our Legislative Action Request to the Maryland Municipal League on protecting/enhancing municipal resources.</p> <p>Staff to the General Assembly have recently told legislators that Maryland is likely to be running a \$1 billion deficit this year—after they went through two rounds of cuts last year. Protection of municipal resources is likely to take all of our legislative effort this year.</p> <p>HCD Director Sara Daines has proposed legislation to help renters who face utility disconnections when property owners go into foreclosure or otherwise do not pay utility bills. The legislation would permit tenants to pay for the utility service. This could be introduced as local legislation, but may also be considered statewide.</p> <p>Councilmembers may have other legislation to propose for consideration.</p>
<b>Policy</b>	The Takoma Park City Council identifies and advocates for legislation that is beneficial to the City of Takoma Park.
<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	n/a
<b>Attachments</b>	none
<b>Recommendation</b>	Identify legislation to be pursued.
<b>Special Consideration</b>	A Request for Proposals for an Intergovernmental Representative/Advocate to help lobby on behalf of the City of Takoma Park was issued on September 4. Proposals are due September 18, 2008.