**Coming Up at the Council: February 2022**

The Frederick County Council began its 2022 Legislative Session in January with six bills and one carryover from 2021. The FCAR Advocacy Committee is tracking new legislation as it’s introduced and following two bills which are currently under consideration:

* [21-13](https://frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/334752/Bill-No-21-13--Amend-the-Uniformed-Service-Members-Property-Tax-Credit) – to remove the income-based needs test for uniformed service members, and raise the home value threshold to $500,000 to qualify for the uniformed service members property tax credit
* [22-01](https://frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/335770/PROPOSED-BILL---EV-PV) - to require electric vehicle charging infrastructure for new residential structures

To read more about all the bills, visit the [Council Bills](https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/8283/Council-Bills-2022) website. County meetings will be streamed through the [County website](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/councilmeetings).

**February Meeting Dates**

Tuesday, February 8, 5:30 PM – County Council Workshop

Tuesday, February 8, 7:00 PM – County Council Public Hearing

Tuesday, February 15, 5:30 PM – County Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 22, 5:30 PM – County Council Workshop

Tuesday, February 22, 7:00 PM – County Council Public Hearing

**RPAC Spotlight**

RPAC – the REALTORS® Political Action Committee - works in conjunction with the FCAR Legislative Committee to affect legislation and initiatives that affect homeownership. RPAC pools the contributions of fellow Realtors® in Frederick County, in the state of Maryland, and from across the country to elect candidates who understand you and your business. These candidates recognize the important role homeownership plays in our society, defend private property rights, and oppose costly mandates that keep buyers from realizing the American Dream.

RPAC’s success comes only through the continued participation of FCAR members like you. Protect your business in 2022 by investing in RPAC today!

**State Legislation Update**

The 444th Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly kicked off on January 12, and FCAR is working closely with the Maryland REALTORS® Legislative Committee to monitor legislation that could affect your business. To read up on the bills we’ve already reviewed please view the [Maryland Realtors Legislation Status Report](http://206.125.169.9/RealtorStatusReport.html). A few of the noteworthy bills that the state is opposing include:

* [HB 298/SB 223](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB0298?ys=2022RS) - to increase, from not more than $8 to not more than $73, the surcharge that the District Court is required to assess per civil case for summary ejectment, tenant holding over, or breach of lease that seeks a judgment for possession of residential property against a residential tenant and requiring the District Court to assess the surcharge against a landlord
* [HB 361/SB 320](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB0361?ys=2022RS) - to establish uniform standards for mold assessment and remediation and authorizing a tenant to deposit rent in an escrow account if mold is found in the home
* [SB 52](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2022RS/fnotes/bil_0002/sb0052.pdf) - to require a homeowner who does not have a mortgage to maintain homeowner's insurance coverage on the property with liability coverage of at least $100,000 for bodily or personal injury occurring on the property