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Sen. Jennie M. Forehand and former Rockville mayor Rose G. Krasnow were among those who testified Tuesday in support of what will be the state's largest district courthouse.

### GOVERNMENT

# State delays deadline for tax survey

## Business complaints spur 45-day reprieve

BY ANDY ROSEN

andy.rosen@mddailyrecord.com

ANNAPOLIS — The state has pushed back the deadline for companies to submit tax information for an analysis of whether to change the way corporations pay Maryland income tax.

The 45-day reprieve, approved Tuesday, pushed a Wednesday deadline to Nov. 30. Business groups had complained that they did not have enough time to compile the information, and appealed to lawmakers to cut the penalty for not complying with the study.

The study requires companies that operate in Maryland and are part of a larger corporation to give the state information about how they relate to other affiliates in the company. It is intended to gauge the effectiveness of "combined reporting," a corporate income tax system that charges companies based on what they make in the state instead of where they are headquartered.

The penalties will remain at \$5,000 per day for the first 30 days and \$10,000 per day after that, but the **Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review (AELR)** delayed the study under pressure from the **Maryland Chamber of Commerce**, the **Maryland Association of CPAs** and others.

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### GOVERNMENT

# Courthouse spared

## In midst of cost-cutting, BPW approves \$59.9M for a new district court building in Rockville

BY STEVE LASH

steve.lash@mddailyrecord.com

proposal for what would be the state's first district courthouse took a giant step toward becoming a Rockville reality Wednesday when the **Board of Public Works** approved a \$59.9 million contract for the building construction — even as a budget panel cut nearly \$300 million from other state programs and projects. The new courthouse will stand as "a monument to wasteful government spending," Rockville resident Frank S. Anastasi, opposes the project.

State Sen. Jennie M. Forehand, D-

Montgomery County, an ardent supporter of the new courthouse, called the construction justified even in these belt-tightening times.

"Montgomery County has waited far too long for this much needed district court," Forehand said in a prepared statement. "This facility is sorely needed to relieve the congestion and backlog in our current district court building."

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The approval of the construction contract came as cuts were made in other programs, including a \$400,000 reduction in the public defender's office; a \$15 million, or 1.5 percent, reduction in the **University System**

SEE COURTHOUSE PAGE 6A

### DEVELOPMENT

# Roland Park residents rail against Keswick plan

## Plan to build eldercare facility near green space draws heated protests

BY ROBBIE WHELAN

robbie.wheLAN@mddailyrecord.com

dozens of lawn signs bearing development slogans dot the landscape that runs down the middle of Roland Avenue outside of Roland Park Elementary and Middle School: "Save the Park in

hoods Matter" T-shirts printed by the Roland Park Civic League, comprised the scene that greeted officials from **Keswick Multi-Care** — a Baltimore-based nonprofit that is seeking to buy 17 acres of green space from the **Baltimore Country Club** and build a 300-unit eldercare facility — as they arrived at



# Taxes

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Sen. Paul G. Pinsky, D-Prince George's, said businesses are dragging their feet on the issue and would have been capable of filing the information on time. A long-time advocate of combined reporting and the Senate chairman of AELR, Pinsky said he does not want to see the study altered any more and will push for a law to institute combined re-

porting without the study during next year's General Assembly session.

Ronald Wineholt, vice president of government affairs for the chamber, said the delay in the study should be enough to help companies avoid the penalty. AELR also made a change that makes it easier for Comptroller Peter Franchot, whose office wrote the regulations for the study, to waive penalties for companies who are late in filing.

"This really takes the pressure off of businesses that were under the gun to

meet this deadline," Wineholt said. He said many businesses did not have enough time to get the tax information ready, because the regulations came out in August, and the online system for entering tax information was not in operation until mid-September.

The study, which will run until 2011, was conceived during a special legislative session late last year. Gov. Martin O'Malley included combined reporting as a part of his proposed fiscal bailout plan for the state, but it was met with staunch

criticism from members of the business community, so lawmakers passed the study bill instead.

This year, lawmakers scaled back the plan in the face of complaints that it included too many companies and would make the study difficult to conduct.

Sen. Nancy King, D-Montgomery, offered the amendment at AELR to delay the deadline. She said she does not think it would be fair to level harsh penalties on companies during an economic downturn.

## Auction sales

**OCTOBER 16, 2008**

**BALTIMORE CITY**

**A.J. BILLIG**

**4005 Norfolk Avenue**  
On the premises at 11:00 AM

**3517 Lucille Avenue**  
On the premises at 11:45 AM

**ALEX COOPER**

**2108 W. Fayette Street**  
At the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Clarence M. Mitchell Court House, Court House Door, Calvert Street entrance at 9:30 AM

**22 S. Howard Street, Unit #302**  
At the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Clarence M. Mitchell Court House, Court House Door, Calvert Street entrance at 10:00 AM

**4623 Shamrock Road**  
At the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Clarence M. Mitchell Court House, Court House Door, Calvert Street entrance at 10:00 AM

**3410 W. Franklin Street**  
At the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Clarence M. Mitchell Court House, Court House Door, Calvert Street entrance at 11:19 AM

**3330 Brendan Avenue**  
At the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Clarence M. Mitchell Court House, Court House Door, Calvert Street entrance at 11:20 AM

**2020 Saint Paul Street**  
At the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Clarence M. Mitchell Court House, Court House Door,

Calvert Street entrance at 2:30 PM

**128 W. Randall Street**  
At the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Clarence M. Mitchell Court House, Court House Door, Calvert Street entrance at 2:31 PM

**3300 Mary Avenue**  
At the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Clarence M. Mitchell Court House, Court House Door, Calvert Street entrance at 2:32 PM

**2219 Mount Holly Street**  
At the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Clarence

M. Mitchell Court House, Court House Door, Calvert Street entrance at 2:33 PM

**2922 Virginia Avenue**  
At the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Clarence M. Mitchell Court House, Court House Door, Calvert Street entrance at 2:34 PM

**EXPRESS**

**2909 Allendale Road and 1827 Penrose Avenue**  
At the main entrance of the Circuit Court House for Baltimore City (Calvert Street Doorway), 100 N. Calvert Street at 9:00 AM

