



Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley during a bill signing ceremony on May 20, 2010, during which he signed The Civil Air Patrol Leave Act of 2010 into law. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.governor.maryland.gov/>)

### **Gov. O'Malley signs Civil Air Patrol Leave Act of 2010 into law**

**Sponsored by Del. J.B. Jennings**

By **Maj. Brenda A. Reed, CAP**

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5/21/2010—**ANNAPOLIS, MD**—On May 20, 2010, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley signed House Bill 1323, *The Civil Air Patrol Leave Act of 2010*, into law during a bill signing ceremony in Annapolis, Md.

Sponsored by Delegate J.B. Jennings, the bill provides job protection for Civil Air Patrol (CAP) members in Maryland when called up to serve during missions vital to

the state and nation similar to the job protection National Guard and Reserve members receive when they are activated for federal or state duty. The law, which passed both the House and Senate unanimously, is effective October 1, 2010.

Lt. Col. Rory Garnice, Maryland Wing's Government Affairs Officer and commander of Maryland Civil Air Patrol Legislative Squadron, began working on this bill with assistance from Col. Jerry Weiss, then Maryland Wing commander, and Col. John Knowles, Maryland Wing commander.

In 2009, Garnice began an effort to expand the Legislative Squadron and thus further the awareness of Civil Air Patrol among our members' representatives in the Maryland General Assembly. Garnice's efforts paid off with the squadron growing from 4 members to a current 49 members, including Gov. O'Malley.

Assembly members were initially briefed about CAP and its missions and the needs of its members during a meeting at Maryland Wing Headquarters in Glen Burnie, followed by Del. Jennings' willingness to sponsor the bill. Garnice researched similar acts in other states and both he and Knowles traveled to Annapolis to visit with individual delegates and senators to garner their support for both CAP and the bill. Hearings were scheduled at which Knowles briefed the committee about how the bill would positively affect Maryland Wing members.

After passing the Senate Finance Committee on April 7, the bill passed the Senate on April 12, 2010. Jennings stated in a letter to Garnice, "I greatly appreciate all of our efforts and staunch support to move this bill forward in order to receive its successful passage in both chambers. Your testimony was of great benefit to the committee's consideration."

For complete details on the new law, visit <http://mlis.state.md.us/2010rs/billfile/hb1323.htm#Synopsis>

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 58,000 members nationwide. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 72 lives in fiscal year 2009. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 23,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for 68 years.

More than 1,500 members of CAP serve in Maryland. Last fiscal year wing members flew 42 search and rescue missions and were credited with 31 finds. For more information, visit [www.mdcap.org](http://www.mdcap.org).