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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT

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Think Tank Analyzes 2009 Maryland General Assembly Session

ROCKVILLE, MD – With Maryland's next legislative session fast approaching, the Maryland Public Policy Institute has released "The Annapolis Report: A Review of the 2009 Legislative Session," authored by Gabriel J. Michael.

The Annapolis Report reviews dozens of this year's high profile legislative issues, with a particular emphasis on the state budget, taxes, healthcare and health insurance, education, regulation, and ethics and transparency. While the legislature received high marks for this session's work on education and ethics and transparency, the report gives failing grades for both budgetary matters and tax policy. In other areas, such as health insurance and regulation, the legislature received only middling marks.

Unlike many legislative scorecards, The Annapolis Report is not dominated by a single issue, nor does it evaluate the performance of individual legislators. Rather, it considers the actions of Maryland's General Assembly as a whole. The bulk of the report is made up of brief yet cogent analyses of selected legislation. The goal is not to name and shame, but instead to provide critical information to Maryland's citizens, taxpayers, and residents.

"Marylanders simply don't have the time to wade through the hundreds of bills introduced and passed each legislative session," says Michael, the report's author. "There were over 2600 bill introduced and 700 bills passed this year, and there's only so much information you can gather from television, radio, and newspaper sources. Our goal is to highlight some of the most important legislation that was passed in 2009, along with legislation that's likely to be reintroduced in the coming session."

The report examines how the legislature and administration have repeatedly redirected taxpayers' dollars away from their intended purposes, such as building roads and purchasing helicopters, instead using that money to shore up the state's overall budget deficit. It also documents how, in their push to reregulate the state's electricity market, lawmakers have ignored the warnings of both government and private sector experts. For a more detailed look at these and other important issues, read the full report.

The full report can be viewed online at <http://www.mdpolicy.org/research/detail/the-annapolis-report>.

Founded in 2001, The Maryland Public Policy Institute is a nonpartisan public policy research and education organization that focuses on state policy issues. The Maryland Public Policy Institute's work can be found on the Internet at www.mdpolicy.org.

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