

SENATE BILL 79 HOUSE BILL 163

- The Ocean City Convention Center was opened in 1970. It was renamed to the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in 1997 after its first major renovation; it originally opened with around 50,000 square feet, hosting a handful of events;
- Three renovations later, thanks to this House, it now boasts over 240,000 square feet, hosting over 110 events;
- Those events include the MSFA, MML, MACo, the MD Bar Assn., MD State Education Assn., to name a few;
- We also host over 20 competition-based events, i.e. cheerleaders, dance competitions, wrestling, volleyball and more;
- With the addition of Phase III, including 30,000 square feet of exhibit space and an additional 12,000 square feet of pre-function, it has made the venue much more conducive to host multiple events running simultaneously, such as this coming weekend when we will be hosting the Allegheny East Conference Youth Congress, as well as SPORTSWORX (GYMNASTICS EVENT);
- We also host consumer shows such as Bikefest, two car shows, the ever-growing ComicCon and more;
- Phase II brought us the Performing Arts Center, bringing entertainment from around the country and guests from around the region;
- Which brings us to the RV Show: So many of the above mentioned started small, we see this as a boon to not only Ocean City, but the surrounding area and State as well. I strongly and respectfully request that the committee provide Senate Bill 79 and House Bill 163 with a favorable report.
- Thank you!