

Government Relations...

Summary of Maryland Legislature Activities

Our immediate Past President, Lou Rudinski, reports that the 1995 Maryland Legislature had a relatively "slow" year where golf courses were concerned. There were a total of three bills that were of concern to the Maryland Association of Green Industries (MAGI) and its lobbyist, Maxine Adler. The two House Bills were narrowly defeated in committee and the Senate Bill passed committee with amendments, but was defeated by the appropriate House committee. The following is a summary of the three defeated Bills:

House Bill 738 would have established a pesticide incident reporting system within the Department of Agriculture with cooperation from the Departments of Environment, Water Resources, Health and Mental Hygiene, as well as the Maryland Poison Center. The Department would have been required to set up a "hotline" so that **anyone** could report suspected misapplications, reactions to pesticides and potential threats to human, animal, or plant-life. All reported incidents would have to be investigated, verified, logged into a permanent record and remedial or corrective action taken. A data base of statistics regarding specific information about each incident would have to be developed, maintained and compiled into an annual report.

House Bill 742 would have required pesticide licensees to provide all golfers with at least 48 hours notice of a pesticide application.

Senate Bill 569 would have required golf courses to use Municipal water, if it was in the proximity, limit use to an average of 25,000 gallons per day, if a permit was granted, and the user would have been required to prove that they were adequately protecting and preserving the adjacent property owners from environmental degradation of the existing ground water and natural resources.

These Bills were scary, not only because of the cost and hardships involved to implement, but because they all would have had a detrimental effect on the daily maintenance of our golf courses. Nothing happened this year, but the writing is on the wall, so whenever you have a chance to get involved and be proactive, please do so!

A Productive Relationship Between Golf Professional and Golf Course Manager

*Tom Beidleman, Head Golf Professional
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In the ever increasing world of golf management companies and downsizing of club management structures, the changes in Golf Course Manager and Golf Professional roles have put a tremendous strain on working relationships between the two positions. In an attempt to cut out "fat" in payroll budgets, clubs have lost an important ingredient in the success of golf programs - the healthy relationship between the two positions that allow each professional to show his expertise.

On a daily basis, the two positions interact to provide a golf atmosphere that is seen and enjoyed by members and guests of a facility. If this interaction is interrupted, either by a poor working relationship or lack of communication, what is ultimately produced is a program that appears to be lacking organization and direction. In either case, the argument for combining or eliminating one of the two positions becomes stronger. However, if the Golf Course Manager and Golf Professional work harmoniously, both positions become stronger and create a management team that is respected and supported by their superiors.

Communication is the key to all successful working relationships and cannot be limited to a series of "memo writing". Communication starts with a clear understanding of another's goals and thinking in terms of the overall mission of a program. It is not enough to deal with problems as they arise, but rather, to plan in order to avoid problems. If each professional has the same objectives, this process is certainly made easier. However, if two opinions differ as to the overall direction of the program and club, it does not mean that the communication process is over. It simply means that it will require more work on each person's side to compromise for the good of the program. And the more work spent on improving this relationship, the more each position will be elevated, creating a better and more satisfying work environment.