

HOUSE BILL 36

P1, P5
HB 2/25 – HRU

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0666
CF SB 93

By: **Delegate Stewart**

Requested: August 1, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Annotated Code – Terminology – Clergy and Churches, Faith Institutions, and**
3 **Places of Worship**

4 FOR the purpose of altering certain terminology throughout the Annotated Code that refers
5 to a clergyman to refer to a member of the clergy and churches to refer to faith
6 institutions and places of worship; and generally relating to clergy, churches, faith
7 institutions, and places of worship.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
10 Section 16–405(b)(1)(iii) and 26–904(d)(2)(ix)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Business Regulation
15 Section 5–602(a)(2) and 17–1803(e)(1)(i)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Commercial Law
20 Section 13–104(1), 14–401(l)(3), and 23–101(e)(2)(vi)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2025 Replacement Volume)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
24 Article – Corporations and Associations
25 Section 5–301(b), 5–301.1, 5–302, 5–304(b), 5–305, 5–307(b) and (c), 5–310(a)(1),
26 5–311, and 5–312(a) and (b)(1)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2025 Replacement Volume)
- 3 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
4 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
5 Section 3–2A–01(f)(2) and 9–111
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Criminal Law
10 Section 4–209(b)(1)(iii)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Economic Development
15 Section 10–301(k)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Education
20 Section 2–206(e)(4), 2–304(b)(1), 7–108(b)(1)(iv), and 7–404(g)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 23 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
24 Article – Education
25 Section 11–202.1(h)(2)(i)
26 Annotated Code of Maryland
27 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 28 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
29 Article – Environment
30 Section 6–401(g)(2)(ix)
31 Annotated Code of Maryland
32 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 33 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
34 Article – Environment
35 Section 14–108(4), 15–505(b)(2)(v), and 15–810(b)(4)
36 Annotated Code of Maryland
37 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 38 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
39 Article – Family Law

- 1 Section 2–403(a)(1) and 5–705(a)(3)
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 4 BY adding to
5 Article – General Provisions
6 Section 1–108.1
7 Annotated Code of Maryland
8 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Health – General
11 Section 7–1003(i), 10–703, 19–301(o)(2), 19–403(3), and 19–4A–02(2)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Health Occupations
16 Section 1–401(a)(4)(ii) and 9–307(a) and (c)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Article – Labor and Employment
21 Section 8–208(b) and (c)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2025 Replacement Volume)
- 24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
25 Article – Natural Resources
26 Section 10–410(g)(1), (3), (5), and (6)
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 29 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
30 Article – Public Safety
31 Section 6–307(a)(1)(ii), 10–204(a)(1)(i), and 14–1001(a)(1)
32 Annotated Code of Maryland
33 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 34 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
35 Article – Real Property
36 Section 12–104(d)
37 Annotated Code of Maryland
38 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 39 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Government
Section 9–1010(a)(1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Tax – General
Section 11–204(b)(1) and (7) and 11–206(d)(1)(ii)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 8–714(b)(3)(ii), 8–742, 11–117(a), and 21–703(a)(3) and (g)(2)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

16–405.

(b) (1) In this subsection, “protected building” means:

(iii) a [church or other] place of worship.

26–904.

(d) (2) A license holder that obtains an entertainment permit under § 26–1103
of this title may allow an individual under 21 years of age to be present on the premises
while an alcoholic beverage is being served during any of the following events:

(ix) [church] event **HELD BY A FAITH INSTITUTION**;

Article – Business Regulation

5–602.

(a) This subtitle does not apply to a cemetery that:

(2) is owned and operated by:

(i) a county;

(ii) a municipal corporation;

(iii) [a church;

(iv) a synagogue;] **A FAITH INSTITUTION;**

[(v)] **(IV)** a religious organization;

[(vi)] **(V)** a nonprofit organization created before 1900 by an act of
the General Assembly;

[(vii)] **(VI)** a family and does not conduct public sales; or

[(viii)] **(VII)** a State veterans agency.

17–1803.

(e) (1) An exhibitor need not get a trader’s license for a show if the show is
promoted by:

(i) a [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION**, as defined in § 5–301(b) of the
Corporations and Associations Article;

Article – Commercial Law

13–104.

This title does not apply to:

(1) The professional services of a certified public accountant, architect,
[clergyman] **MEMBER OF THE CLERGY**, professional engineer, lawyer, veterinarian,
insurance company authorized to do business in the State, insurance producer licensed by
the State, Christian Science practitioner, land surveyor, property line surveyor,
chiropractor, optometrist, physical therapist, podiatrist, real estate broker, associate real
estate broker, or real estate salesperson, or medical or dental practitioner;

14–401.

(l) (3) “Services” does not include the professional services of an accountant,
architect, [clergyman] **MEMBER OF THE CLERGY**, engineer, lawyer, or medical or dental
practitioner.

23–101.

(e) (2) “Retirement community” does not include:

(vi) A retirement community that is owned by or affiliated with a [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION** or religious organization;

Article – Corporations and Associations

5–301.

(b) [“Church”] **“FAITH INSTITUTION”** means any [church,] **CHRISTIAN, JEWISH, ISLAMIC, BUDDHIST, OR HINDU CONGREGATION, OR ANY OTHER** religious society, [or] congregation [of any sect, order], or denomination.

5–301.1.

Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle or in any other provision of law, this part applies to every religious corporation formed in this State by any [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION**.

5–302.

(a) The adult members of a [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION** may form a religious corporation as provided in this part.

(b) The members shall:

(1) Elect at least four individuals to act as trustees in the name of and on behalf of the [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION**; and

(2) Prepare a plan of the [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION**.

(c) The plan shall include:

(1) The purposes for which the religious corporation is formed;

(2) The name of the religious corporation and the [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION**;

(3) The time and manner for election and succession of trustees; and

(4) The exact qualifications of individuals eligible:

(i) To vote at elections; and

(ii) To be elected to office.

5–304.

(b) The articles of incorporation shall contain:

(1) The plan of the [church] FAITH INSTITUTION;

(2) The address of the principal place of worship of the [church] FAITH INSTITUTION; and

(3) The name and address of the resident agent of the [church] FAITH INSTITUTION.

5–305.

If a [church] FAITH INSTITUTION forms a religious corporation, any assets held in trust for the [church] FAITH INSTITUTION by any person shall be conveyed immediately to the religious corporation.

5–307.

(b) Unless the plan provides otherwise, the trustees shall be elected and their successors continued at the time and place ordinarily used for public meetings of the [church] FAITH INSTITUTION, by the individuals who, according to the custom and usage of the [church] FAITH INSTITUTION, have a voice in the management and direction of congregational or temporal affairs.

(c) Unless the plan permits otherwise, the minister of the [church] FAITH INSTITUTION or, if there is more than one minister, the senior minister shall be a trustee of the religious corporation, in addition to the trustees required by § 5–302(b)(1) of this subtitle.

5–310.

(a) If any contest arises over the voting rights or the fair conduct of an election:

(1) Each contending party shall appoint one individual from among the members of a neighboring [church] FAITH INSTITUTION of the same religious persuasion or, if there is no such [church] FAITH INSTITUTION, from among the members of any other [church] FAITH INSTITUTION; and

5–311.

(a) Members of a [church] FAITH INSTITUTION may separate from the [church] FAITH INSTITUTION, form a house of worship, and employ a minister if:

(1) They are of sufficient number to form a house of worship and maintain a minister; and

(2) All debts and contracts incurred by them as members of the original [church] FAITH INSTITUTION are discharged.

(b) When incorporated, the new [church] FAITH INSTITUTION is entitled to the benefits of this subtitle relating to religious corporations.

5–312.

(a) If any [church] FAITH INSTITUTION organized since 1800 as a religious corporation under any law of the State did not file its plan or articles of incorporation for record in the proper office within the time required by law, but subsequently files its plan or articles of incorporation in the proper office:

(1) The [church] FAITH INSTITUTION is a lawful religious corporation;

(2) The date of incorporation is the date of the plan or articles of incorporation; and

(3) If otherwise lawful, every action of the [church] FAITH INSTITUTION from the date of incorporation is valid.

(b) There is a conclusive presumption in every court of the State that a plan or articles of incorporation of a religious corporation were properly filed for record in the appropriate office and that these records were lost or destroyed, if:

(1) It appears from the record book of the religious corporation or from any other source that the [church] FAITH INSTITUTION adopted a valid plan or articles of incorporation; and

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

3–2A–01.

(f) (2) “Health care provider” does not include any nursing institution conducted by and for those who rely upon treatment by spiritual means through prayer alone in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized [church or religious denomination] FAITH INSTITUTION.

9–111.

A minister of the gospel, [clergyman] MEMBER OF THE CLERGY, or priest of an established [church of any denomination] FAITH INSTITUTION may not be compelled to testify on any matter in relation to any confession or communication made to him in confidence by a person seeking his spiritual advice or consolation.

Article – Criminal Law

4–209.

(b) (1) A county, municipal corporation, or special taxing district may regulate the purchase, sale, transfer, ownership, possession, and transportation of the items listed in subsection (a) of this section:

(iii) except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, within 100 yards of or in a park, [church] **PLACE OF WORSHIP**, school, public building, and other place of public assembly.

Article – Economic Development

10–301.

(k) “Noncollegiate educational institution” means a noncollegiate educational institution as defined in § 2–206 of the Education Article that:

(1) has received a certificate of approval from the State Board of Education; or

(2) is an institution operated by a bona fide [church organization] **FAITH INSTITUTION**.

Article – Education

2–206.

(e) (4) This subsection does not apply to [an] **A NONCOLLEGIATE EDUCATIONAL** institution operated by a bona fide [church organization] **FAITH INSTITUTION**, including the Amish and Mennonite church parochial schools. However, [an] **A NONCOLLEGIATE EDUCATIONAL** institution that does not have a certificate of approval from the State Board may not receive State funds, except that [an] **A NONCOLLEGIATE EDUCATIONAL** institution operated by a bona fide [church organization] **FAITH INSTITUTION** is not required to have a certificate to receive State funds for eligible students in the food service program who are enrolled in nursery school through the eighth grade.

2–304.

(b) (1) Before a private noncollegiate educational institution that operates in this State ends operations, including those operated by bona fide [church organizations] **FAITH INSTITUTIONS**, the chief administrative officer of the **PRIVATE NONCOLLEGIATE EDUCATIONAL** institution shall file with the State Superintendent the original or a legible copy of all essential records of the academic achievements of each former student of the

1 **PRIVATE NONCOLLEGIATE EDUCATIONAL** institution who received instruction in any
2 combination of grades 9 through 12 or their equivalents.

3 7–108.

4 (b) (1) If written application is made to the county superintendent, the county
5 board shall provide for the use of a public school facility for:

6 (iv) Other civic, educational, social, or recreational purposes or
7 [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION** affiliated civic purposes.

8 7–404.

9 (g) A student whose parent or guardian objects in writing to hearing and vision
10 screening on the ground that it conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized [church
11 or religious denomination] **FAITH INSTITUTION** of which he is an adherent or member may
12 not be required to take these screenings.

13 11–202.1.

14 (h) With regard to a religious educational institution authorized to operate
15 without a certificate of approval under subsection (b) of this section, a person may not:

16 (2) Enroll a student in the institution unless, before enrollment, the person
17 gives written notice to and obtains a written acknowledgment from the student that:

18 (i) The institution's instructional program is only designed for and
19 aimed at persons who hold or seek to learn the particular religious faith or beliefs of the
20 [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION** or religious institution, and provides only educational
21 programs for religious vocations or purposes;

22 **Article – Environment**

23 6–401.

24 (g) (2) “Public and commercial building” includes:

25 (ix) [Churches] **PLACES OF WORSHIP**;

26 14–108.

27 The Department shall deny the permit if the Department determines that:

28 (4) The operation will constitute a significant physical hazard to a
29 neighboring dwelling unit, school, [church] **PLACE OF WORSHIP**, hospital, commercial or

1 industrial building, public road, or other public or private property in existence at the time
2 of the application for the permit;

3 15–505.

4 (b) (2) Subject to valid existing rights, as that term is used in the federal
5 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, the Department may not issue,
6 extend or renew any permit:

7 (v) Within 300 feet of any public building, school, public park,
8 [church] **PLACE OF WORSHIP**, community or institutional building; or

9 15–810.

10 (b) The Department may deny the permit on finding that:

11 (4) The operation will constitute a substantial physical hazard to a
12 neighboring dwelling house, school, [church] **PLACE OF WORSHIP**, hospital, commercial
13 or industrial building, public road, or other public or private property in existence at the
14 time of application for the permit;

15 **Article – Family Law**

16 2–403.

17 (a) (1) A license shall read substantially as follows:

18 “State of Maryland and County of To any individual authorized by the laws
19 of this State to perform a marriage ceremony. You are hereby authorized to join together
20 in matrimony according to the rules and ceremonies of your [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION**,
21 society or religious sect and the laws of this State, or according to the laws of this State,
22 the following individuals:

23
24 (state here name of intended party one)

25
26 (state here name of intended party two)

27 Given under my hand and seal of the Circuit Court for, this day of
28 (state here month and year).”

29 5–705.

30 (a) (3) A minister of the gospel, [clergyman] **MEMBER OF THE CLERGY**, or
31 priest of an established [church of any denomination] **FAITH INSTITUTION** is not required
32 to provide notice under paragraph (1) of this subsection if the notice would disclose matter
33 in relation to any communication described in § 9–111 of the Courts Article and:

(i) the communication was made to the minister, [clergyman] **MEMBER OF THE CLERGY**, or priest in a professional character in the course of discipline enjoined by the [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION** to which the minister, [clergyman] **MEMBER OF THE CLERGY**, or priest belongs; and

(ii) the minister, [clergyman] **MEMBER OF THE CLERGY**, or priest is bound to maintain the confidentiality of that communication under canon law, [church] **THE doctrine OF THE FAITH INSTITUTION**, or practice.

Article – General Provisions

1–108.1.

“FAITH INSTITUTION” MEANS ANY CHRISTIAN, JEWISH, ISLAMIC, BUDDHIST, OR HINDU CONGREGATION, OR ANY OTHER RELIGIOUS SOCIETY, CONGREGATION, OR DENOMINATION.

Article – Health – General

7–1003.

(i) (1) An individual shall be entitled to receive visits:

(i) From a lawyer that the individual chooses;

(ii) From a [clergyman] **MEMBER OF THE CLERGY** that the individual chooses; and

(iii) During reasonable visiting hours that the licensee sets, from any other visitor.

(2) Each married individual in a licensed residential facility shall have privacy during a visit by the spouse.

(3) If, for the welfare of the individual, visits are restricted, the restriction shall be:

(i) Signed by the executive officer or administrative head of the licensee; and

(ii) Made a permanent part of the individual’s record.

(4) Visits of an individual’s lawyer or [clergyman] **MEMBER OF THE CLERGY** may not be restricted.

10–703.

1 (a) Each individual in a facility shall be entitled to converse privately with and
2 receive visits:

3 (1) At all reasonable hours, from a lawyer that the individual chooses;

4 (2) At all reasonable hours, from a [clergyman] **MEMBER OF THE CLERGY**
5 that the individual chooses; and

6 (3) During reasonable visiting hours that the facility sets, from any other
7 visitor if the individual wishes to see the visitor.

8 (b) If an individual refuses to see a visitor, the refusal shall be made a permanent
9 part of the individual's record.

10 (c) (1) If, for medically justified reasons, visits or private conversations are
11 restricted, the restriction and the reasons for the restriction shall be:

12 (i) Signed by a physician;

13 (ii) Dated as to when the restriction expires;

14 (iii) Made a permanent part of the individual's record; and

15 (iv) Reviewed every 30 days if the restriction remains in effect.

16 (2) Visits of an individual's lawyer or [clergyman] **MEMBER OF THE**
17 **CLERGY** may not be restricted during reasonable hours.

18 19-301.

19 (o) (2) "Related institution" does not include a nursing facility or visiting nurse
20 service that is conducted only by or for adherents of a bona fide [church] **FAITH**
21 **INSTITUTION** or religious organization, in accordance with tenets and practices that
22 include reliance on treatment by spiritual means alone for healing.

23 19-403.

24 This subtitle does not:

25 (3) Prohibit the care of an individual who relies on treatment in accordance
26 with the tenets and practices of a recognized [church or religious denomination] **FAITH**
27 **INSTITUTION** and, with or without compensation, is cared for in accordance with those
28 tenets and practices.

29 19-4A-02.

This subtitle does not:

(2) Prohibit the care of an individual who relies on treatment in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized [church or religious denomination] **FAITH INSTITUTION** and, with or without compensation, is provided care in accordance with those tenets and practices.

Article – Health Occupations

1–401.

(a) (4) (ii) “Provider of health care” does not include any nursing institution that is conducted by and for those who rely on treatment by spiritual means through prayer alone in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized [church or religious denomination] **FAITH INSTITUTION**.

9–307.

(a) In this section, “certified institution” means an institution that:

(1) Cares for and treats the sick in accordance with the teachings of any recognized [church or religious denomination] **FAITH INSTITUTION** that teaches reliance on spiritual means through prayer alone for healing; and

(2) Is certified by that [church or religious denomination] **FAITH INSTITUTION** to provide this care and treatment.

(c) An applicant qualifies for a limited license only if a recognized [church or religious denomination] **FAITH INSTITUTION** that teaches reliance on spiritual means through prayer alone for healing approves the applicant as qualified to administer certified institutions.

Article – Labor and Employment

8–208.

(b) Employment is not covered employment if the employment is performed for:

(1) a [church or an association or convention of churches] **FAITH INSTITUTION OR AN ASSOCIATION OR CONVENTION OF FAITH INSTITUTIONS**; or

(2) an organization that is:

(i) operated primarily for religious purposes; and

(ii) controlled, operated, principally supported, or supervised by a [church or an association or convention of churches] **FAITH INSTITUTION OR AN ASSOCIATION OR CONVENTION OF FAITH INSTITUTIONS**.

(c) Employment is not covered employment if the employment is performed by:

(1) a commissioned, licensed, or ordained minister of a [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION** in the exercise of the ministry; or

(2) a member of a religious order in the exercise of duties required by the order.

Article – Natural Resources

10–410.

(g) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, a person, other than the owner or occupant, while hunting for any wild bird or mammal may not shoot or discharge any firearm or other deadly weapon within 150 yards, known as the “safety zone”, of a dwelling house, residence, [church] **PLACE OF WORSHIP**, or other building or camp occupied by human beings, or shoot at any wild bird or mammal while it is within this area, without the specific advance permission of the owner or occupant.

(3) (i) For archery hunters in Allegany County, Calvert County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Frederick County, Garrett County, Harford County, Montgomery County, St. Mary’s County, Washington County, Worcester County, or Wicomico County, the safety zone described in paragraph (1) of this subsection extends for 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, [church] **PLACE OF WORSHIP**, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

(ii) For archery hunters in Anne Arundel County, the safety zone described in paragraph (1) of this subsection extends for 100 yards from a dwelling house, residence, [church] **PLACE OF WORSHIP**, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.

(iii) In Howard County, for archery hunters who are hunting under the authority of a deer management permit, or who are actively participating in a hunting program administered by the county, the safety zone described in paragraph (1) of this subsection extends for 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, [church] **PLACE OF WORSHIP**, or any other building or camp occupied by humans.

(5) In Harford County, an archery hunter shall use a tree stand when hunting any wild bird or mammal within 50 to 100 yards of a dwelling house, residence, [church] **PLACE OF WORSHIP**, public or nonpublic school, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

(6) (i) In Montgomery County or Washington County, an archery hunter shall be in an elevated position that allows the hunter to shoot in a downward trajectory when hunting any wild bird or mammal within 50 to 100 yards of a dwelling house, residence, [church] **PLACE OF WORSHIP**, public or nonpublic school, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

(ii) In Howard County, for archery hunters who are hunting under the authority of a deer management permit, or who are actively participating in a hunting program administered by the county, shall be in an elevated position that allows the hunters to shoot in a downward trajectory when hunting any wild bird or mammal within 50 to 150 yards of a dwelling house, residence, [church] **PLACE OF WORSHIP**, public or nonpublic school, or other building or camp occupied by human beings.

Article – Public Safety

6–307.

(a) (1) The State Fire Marshal shall inspect for fire exits and reasonable safety standards:

(ii) all schools, theaters, [churches] **PLACES OF WORSHIP**, and other places of public assembly.

10–204.

(a) (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, a mixing building or storage building of a fireworks plant shall be located at least:

(i) 1,000 feet from a school, [church] **PLACE OF WORSHIP**, hospital, place of public assembly, or gasoline or fuel oil storage building or service station; and

14–1001.

(a) In this section, “structure” means:

(1) a [church, chapel,] **PLACE OF WORSHIP** or convent;

Article – Real Property

12–104.

(d) The damages to be awarded for the taking of a structure, such as a [church or place of religious worship] **PLACE OF WORSHIP**, held in fee simple, or under a lease renewable forever, by or for the benefit of a religious body and regularly used by the religious body, are the cost of reproducing or replacing the improvements, adjusted for

physical and functional depreciation, to which shall be added the fair market value of the land.

Article – State Government

9–1010.

(a) The Archives:

(1) shall collect public and private records and other information that relate to the history of the province and State of Maryland from the earliest times, including [church] records **OF FAITH INSTITUTIONS** and newspapers;

Article – Tax – General

11–204.

(b) The sales and use tax does not apply to a sale by:

(1) a bona fide [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION** or religious organization, if the sale is made for the general purposes of the [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION** or organization;

(7) subject to subsection (e) of this section, a bona fide [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION**, religious organization, or other nonprofit organization exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code if:

(i) the sale is made at an auction sale; and

(ii) the proceeds of the sale are used to carry on the exempt purposes of the [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION** or organization; or

11–206.

(d) The sales and use tax does not apply to:

(1) a sale of food:

(ii) by a [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION** or religious organization;

Article – Transportation

8–714.

(b) A permit is not required under this section to erect or maintain any outdoor sign:

(3) That is used only to advertise:

(ii) A county [or church] fair held in this State **OR A FAIR HELD IN THIS STATE BY A FAITH INSTITUTION;**

8–742.

This part does not prohibit the erection or maintenance of:

(1) Any on premise outdoor sign that complies with § 8–744 of this subtitle;

(2) Any outdoor sign used to identify a [church] **PLACE OF WORSHIP** or a historical monument or location, if the sign is erected in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Administration; or

(3) Any outdoor sign along a highway that is not an expressway, even if the highway runs parallel or partially parallel to an expressway, if the sign faces that highway.

11–117.

(a) “Educational purposes” includes those activities of schools certified by the Department of Education, activities of centers for individuals with an intellectual disability and physically handicapped individuals, [church schools] **SCHOOLS OPERATED BY A FAITH INSTITUTION**, Sunday schools and [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION** related functions, child care centers, day camps, or summer camps, or any other activity that provides some educational experience for its participants.

21–703.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, this section applies to:

(3) Every bus that is owned or operated by a [church] **FAITH INSTITUTION** and carrying any passenger;

(g) (2) This section does not apply to school buses and [church] buses **THAT ARE OWNED OR OPERATED BY A FAITH INSTITUTION**, as described in subsection (a)(2) and (3) of this section, at locations within Baltimore City where complying with the provision of this section would conflict with the existing traffic signal indications.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.