

SENATE BILL 93

P1, P5
SB 24/25 – EEE

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0665
CF HB 36

By: Senator Kagan

Requested: August 1, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article – Tax – General
7 Section 11–204(b)(1) and (7) and 11–206(d)(1)(ii)
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Transportation
12 Section 8-714(b)(3)(ii), 8-742, 11-117(a), and 21-703(a)(3) and (g)(2)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

18 16-405

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

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

21 26-904

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

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

Article – Business Regulation

27 5-602.

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

29 (2) is owned and operated by:

30 (i) a county;

31 (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
bly;
- [(vii)] (VI)** a family and does not conduct public sales; or
- [(viii)] (VII)** a State veterans agency.

8 17-1803.

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

Article – Commercial Law

14 13-104.

15 This title does not apply to:

22 14-401.

23 (l) (3) "Services" does not include the professional services of an accountant,
24 architect, ~~clergyman~~ **MEMBER OF THE CLERGY**, engineer, lawyer, or medical or dental
25 practitioner.

26 23-101.

27 (e) (2) "Retirement community" does not include:

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

Article – Corporations and Associations

4 5-301.

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

8 5-301.1.

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

12 5-302.

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

15 (b) The members shall:

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

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

19 (c) The plan shall include:

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

21 (2) The name of the religious corporation and the [church] FAITH
22 INSTITUTION:

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

24 (4) The exact qualifications of individuals eligible:

25 (i) To vote at elections; and

26 (ii) To be elected to office.

27 5=304

(b) The articles of incorporation shall contain:

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

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

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

7 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.

11 5-307.

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

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

21 5-310.

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

27 5-311.

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

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

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

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

5 5-312.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

22 3-2A-01.

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

27 9-111.

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

Article – Criminal Law

1 4–209.

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

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

8 Article – Economic Development

9 10–301.

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

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

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

16 Article – Education

17 2–206.

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

27 2–304.

28 (b) (1) Before a private noncollegiate educational institution that operates in
29 this State ends operations, including those operated by bona fide [church organizations]
30 **FAITH INSTITUTIONS**, the chief administrative officer of the **PRIVATE NONCOLLEGIATE**
31 **EDUCATIONAL** institution shall file with the State Superintendent the original or a legible
32 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.

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

8 7-404.

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:

Article – Environment

23 6-401.

24 (g) (2) "Public and commercial building" includes:

(ix) [Churches] PLACES OF WORSHIP;

26 14-108.

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

(4) The operation will constitute a significant physical hazard to a neighbouring 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:

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

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

Article – General Provisions

9 1-108.1.

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

Article – Health – General

14 7-1003.

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

16 (i) From a lawyer that the individual chooses;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Article – Health Occupations

7 1-401.

12 9-307.

13 (a) In this section, "certified institution" means an institution that:

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

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

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

Article – Labor and Employment

24 8-208.

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

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

28 (2) an organization that is:

29 (i) operated primarily for religious purposes; and

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

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

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

Article – Natural Resources

10 10-410.

(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.

Article – Public Safety

13 6-307.

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

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

18 10-204.

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

23 14-1001.

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

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

Article – Real Property

27 12-104.

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

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

3 **Article – State Government**

4 9–1010.

5 (a) The Archives:

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

9 **Article – Tax – General**

10 11–204.

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

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

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

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

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

21 11–206.

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

23 (1) a sale of food:

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

25 **Article – Transportation**

26 8–714.

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

(3) That is used only to advertise:

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

4 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;

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

12 11-117.

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

19 21-703.

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

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

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

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