

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 93

(Senator Kagan)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Rules and Executive Nominations

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**Annotated Code - Terminology - Clergy and Churches, Faith Institutions, and  
Places of Worship**

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This bill alters terminology throughout the Maryland Annotated Code so that (1) references to clergymen are replaced with terms that are religiously and gender neutral and (2) references to churches are replaced with terms that are religiously neutral, including “faith institutions” and “places of worship.” A “faith institution” is any Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, or Hindu congregation, or any other religious society, congregation, or denomination. The bill also makes conforming changes.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill is technical in nature and has no effect on governmental operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Generally, the Maryland Annotated Code refers to clergymen in gendered language and religious institutions as churches.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 24 and HB 2 of 2025.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 36 (Delegate Stewart) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 6, 2026  
sj/mcr

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