To the Members of the General Assembly

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On April 22, 2025, the Honorable Wes Moore, Governor; the Honorable Bill Ferguson, President of the Senate; and the Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates, signed the following pieces of legislation, which you passed:

SB 432 Chapter 95

The President (By Request - Administration), et al

CRIMINAL RECORDS – EXPUNGEMENT AND MARYLAND JUDICIARY CASE SEARCH (EXPUNGEMENT REFORM ACT OF 2025)

Altering certain provisions of law relating to waiting periods for the filing of certain petitions for expungement to authorize the filing of a petition a certain amount of time after the completion of the sentence; adding to the list of misdemeanor convictions that a person may expunge under certain circumstances; prohibiting the Maryland Judiciary Case Search from in any way referring to the existence of a charge of possession of cannabis if the conviction was later pardoned by the Governor; etc.

VARIOUS EFFECTIVE DATES

HB 853 Chapter 96

Delegate Pasteur, et al

POSTCONVICTION REVIEW – PROCEDURE TO REDUCE DURATION OF SENTENCE (MARYLAND SECOND LOOK ACT)

Authorizing a certain individual to file a motion to reduce the duration of a certain sentence if the individual was convicted between the ages of at least 18 and under 25, was not sentenced to life, is not a sex offender, has served at least 20 years of the term of confinement, and was not convicted of murder involving a victim who was a first responder who was killed in the line of duty; applying procedures for a proceeding under the Act; etc.

HB 1424 Chapter 97

Delegate J. Lewis, et al

SUPPORT AND PROTECTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY FEDERAL ACTIONS (PROTECT OUR FEDERAL WORKERS ACT)

Renaming the Federal Government Shutdown Employee Assistance Loan Fund to be the Federal Government Employee Assistance Loan Fund; authorizing funds appropriated to the Catastrophic Event Account to be expended to assist in funding costs connected to a relocation, closure, or mass layoff of a unit of the federal government; establishing the Expedited Hiring Program in the Department of Budget and Management; authorizing an appointing authority to recruit for certain vacant positions in State government; etc. EMERGENCY BILL

SB 285 Chapter 98

Chair, Finance Committee (By Request - Office of the Attorney General)

MARYLAND PROTECTING OPPORTUNITIES AND REGIONAL TRADE (PORT) ACT – REPORTS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL – FREQUENCY

Altering from each month to every 6 months the frequency with which the Attorney General is required to report to the General Assembly regarding the status of the recovery of economic damages arising from the closure of the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore and the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge; and requiring the Attorney General to pursue all available options, including filing actions against the applicable parties, to recover all possible economic damages arising from the Port closure and the Bridge collapse. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 575 Chapter 99

Chair, Economic Matters Committee (By Request - Office of the Attorney General)

MARYLAND PROTECTING OPPORTUNITIES AND REGIONAL TRADE (PORT) ACT – REPORTS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL – FREQUENCY

Altering the frequency, from every month to every 6 months, of the reports required to be submitted by the Attorney General to the General Assembly regarding the status of the recovery of economic damages arising from the closure of the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore and the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Senator Henson

Chapter 100

CIVIL ACTIONS – TORTIOUS INJURY TO OR DEATH OF PET – COMPENSATORY DAMAGES (BUDDY'S LAW)

Increasing from \$10,000 to \$25,000 the maximum amount of compensatory damages that may be awarded to an owner of a pet from a person who tortiously causes an injury to or death of the pet while acting individually or through an animal under the person's ownership, direction, or control.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 438

Delegate Bartlett, et al

Chapter 101

CIVIL ACTIONS – TORTIOUS INJURY TO OR DEATH OF PET – COMPENSATORY DAMAGES (BUDDY'S LAW)

Increasing from \$10,000 to \$25,000 the maximum amount of compensatory damages that may be awarded to an owner of a pet from a person who tortiously causes an injury to or death of the pet while acting individually or through an animal under the person's ownership, direction, or control.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 181

Senator Hettleman, et al

Chapter 102

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – GERIATRIC AND MEDICAL PAROLE

Requiring the Maryland Parole Commission to consider the age of incarcerated individuals when determining whether to grant parole; altering how the Commission evaluates a request for medical parole; repealing the authorization for the Governor to disapprove a decision to grant medical parole; requiring the Commission, within 60 days of receiving a name for parole consideration, to conduct a risk assessment for an individual serving sentences for crimes of violence with an aggregate term of confinement of 40 years or more; etc.

Delegate Bartlett, et al

Chapter 103

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – GERIATRIC AND MEDICAL PAROLE

Requiring the Maryland Parole Commission to consider the age of an incarcerated individual when determining whether to grant parole; altering how the Commission evaluates a request for medical parole; requiring the Commission to develop procedures for assessing parole requests by certain incarcerated individuals; repealing the authorization for the Governor to disapprove of a decision by the Commission to grant medical parole; requiring the Commission to conduct a certain risk assessment at a certain time; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 1378

Delegate Wilson

Chapter 104

CIVIL ACTIONS - CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Altering certain provisions relating to the award of noneconomic damages to a claimant in an action for child sexual abuse; altering certain provisions relating to the liability of the State under the Maryland Tort Claims Act and of a local government under the Local Government Tort Claims Act for certain claims of child sexual abuse; and requiring the Maryland Judiciary to report to the General Assembly by January 31, 2027, and each year thereafter, on the amount of each award and a summary of the sexual abuse claims related to the award.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

HB 956

Delegate Wilson

Chapter 105

CONSUMER PROTECTION – WORKGROUP ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IMPLEMENTATION

Establishing the Workgroup on Artificial Intelligence Implementation; requiring the Workgroup to monitor and make recommendations related to the regulation of artificial intelligence, consumer protection, current private sector use of artificial intelligence, enforcement authority for the Office of the Attorney General's Office of Consumer Protection, and impact in the determination of government benefits; and requiring the Workgroup to make its recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly by July 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Senator Hettleman

Chapter 106

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES EXPANSION ACT

Authorizing an owner of real property used for rental housing and the governing body of a county to enter into a payment in lieu of taxes agreement for maintaining at least 25% of the rental housing units located at the real property as affordable dwelling units for at least 15 years; and authorizing the governing body of the county to require the owner of real property to maintain a higher percentage of rental housing units as affordable dwelling units than the minimum percentage specified in the Act.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

HB 390

Delegate Korman, et al

Chapter 107

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES EXPANSION ACT

Authorizing an owner of real property used for rental housing and the governing body of a county to enter into a payment in lieu of taxes agreement for maintaining at least 25% of the rental housing units located at the real property as affordable dwelling units for at least 15 years; and authorizing the governing body of the county to require the owner of real property to maintain a higher percentage of rental housing units as affordable dwelling units than the minimum percentage specified in the Act.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

HB 790

Delegate Atterbeary

Chapter 108

PROPERTY TAX – PAYMENT PLANS – NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Requiring the State Tax Sale Ombudsman to include certain information concerning a certain State installment payment program for property taxes on the Ombudsman's website; requiring the Ombudsman to contract with a vendor to operate an installment payment program for payment of taxes in which any homeowner may enroll; requiring a collector of taxes to include certain information concerning a certain State or local installment payment program for property taxes in a separate insert included with each property tax bill; etc.

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2027

Delegate Otto, et al

Chapter 109

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – DEATH OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL – NOTIFICATION

Requiring the Commissioner of Correction to notify certain elected representatives whenever an incarcerated individual dies in a Division of Correction facility; and requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt certain regulations compliant with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 877

Delegate Amprey

Chapter 110

PRISON EDUCATION DELIVERY REFORM COMMISSION – REPORTING AND SUNSET EXTENSION

Extending the time for submission of the interim report and final report of the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission by 3 years; and extending the termination date for the Commission by 3 years.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

HB 1171

Delegate Amprey

Chapter 111

CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS – REVISIONS

Establishing a process for and certain exceptions to the transfer of assets that are collateral for securing a mortgage, pledge, or security interest without the approval of the stockholders; and repealing provisions of law specifying what shall be included in the articles of merger if a limited partnership or limited liability company is a party to the articles.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 811

Senator James, et al

Chapter 112

TASK FORCE ON THE CREATION OF A DIVISION OF RETURNING CITIZENS AND EXPANDED REENTRY SERVICES – EXTENSION OF REPORT DEADLINE AND TASK FORCE

Extending the deadline for the reporting requirement for the Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services to be October 31, 2026; and extending the termination date for the Task Force to be June 30, 2027.

Delegate Taylor, et al

Chapter 113

TASK FORCE ON THE CREATION OF A DIVISION OF RETURNING CITIZENS AND EXPANDED REENTRY SERVICES – EXTENSION OF REPORT DEADLINE AND TASK FORCE

Extending the deadline for the reporting requirement for the Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services to be October 31, 2026; and extending the termination date for the Task Force to be June 30, 2027. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 608

Senators Augustine and Smith

Chapter 114

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – U NONIMMIGRANT STATUS PETITIONS

Altering the requirements for certification of a U Nonimmigrant Status Petition; altering the individuals eligible to request a certain official to certify victim helpfulness relating to certification of a U Nonimmigrant Status Petition; altering the time periods within which a certain certifying entity shall certify or decline a certain form under certain circumstances; and requiring a certifying entity to develop protocols to assist certain petitioners to take certain actions. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 32 Chapter 115

Delegate Charkoudian, et al

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – FORENSIC REVIEW BOARD – ESTABLISHED

Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to establish a forensic review board at facilities that have charge of persons who have been committed to the facility as not criminally responsible; authorizing a forensic review board to make recommendations relating to the release or rehabilitation of a committed person; requiring the board to give notice at least 10 days before a meeting concerning the committed person; requiring the board to give consideration to a written statement offered by the committed person to the board; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

Senator Augustine

Chapter 116

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – FORENSIC REVIEW BOARD – ESTABLISHED

Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to establish a forensic review board at facilities that have charge of persons who have been committed to the facility as not criminally responsible; authorizing a forensic board to make recommendations relating to the release or rehabilitation of a committed person; requiring the Board to give notice at least 10 days before a meeting concerning the committed person; requiring the Board to give consideration to a written statement offered by the committed person to the Board; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 305

Senators Beidle and Hettleman

Chapter 117

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES – VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSKS – REGISTRATION AND REGULATION

Establishing registration and operating requirements for a virtual currency kiosk operator to operate a virtual currency kiosk in the State; authorizing the Commissioner of Financial Regulation to investigate and enforce the Act in a certain manner; and authorizing the Commissioner to assess against a virtual currency kiosk operator a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each knowing and willful violation of the Act.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 1026

Senator Beidle

Chapter 118

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS – CONSUMER CREDIT – APPLICATION OF LICENSING REQUIREMENTS (MARYLAND SECONDARY MARKET STABILITY ACT OF 2025)

Providing that certain provisions of law governing the licensing of providers of certain financial services in the State do not apply to a certain person that acquires or is assigned a certain mortgage, mortgage loan, or installment loan under certain circumstances or a certain trust that acquires or is assigned a certain mortgage loan under certain circumstances; establishing the Maryland Licensing Workgroup; and requiring the Workgroup to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2025.

EMERGENCY BILL

Delegate Queen

Chapter 119

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS – CONSUMER CREDIT – APPLICATION OF LICENSING REQUIREMENTS (MARYLAND SECONDARY MARKET STABILITY ACT OF 2025)

Providing that certain provisions of law governing the licensing of providers of certain financial services in the State do not apply to a certain trust that acquires or is assigned a certain mortgage loan under certain circumstances; establishing the Maryland Licensing Workgroup to study and make recommendations on licensing requirements for persons that provide financial services in the State; and requiring the Workgroup to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2025.

EMERGENCY BILL

SB 215 Chapter 120

Chair, Finance Committee (By Request – Maryland Cannabis Administration)

CANNABIS REFORM - REVISIONS

Extending the time period from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2026, during which a holder of a certain cannabis dispensary license may continue to deliver medical cannabis; limiting application submissions for on—site consumption licenses to social equity applicants under certain circumstances; authorizing a political subdivision to establish hours of operation for on—site consumption establishments; providing that a certain food sales exemption from the sales and use tax does not apply to the sale of certain cannabinoid beverages; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 1020 Chapter 121

Delegate Palakovich Carr

CONSUMER PROTECTION – CREDIT REPORTING – MEDICAL DEBT (FAIR MEDICAL DEBT REPORTING ACT)

Prohibiting a consumer reporting agency from furnishing any consumer report containing certain adverse information relating to a consumer's medical debt, or any collection action against a consumer for medical debt, or maintain a file on a consumer related to medical debt or collections; prohibiting a person from using medical debt information from a consumer report for certain purposes; prohibiting a health care facility, a health care practitioner, or an ambulance service from disclosing medical debt to a consumer reporting agency; etc.

Delegates Palakovich Carr and D. Jones

Chapter 122

PROPERTY TAX – DAY CARE CENTERS, CHILD CARE HOMES, AND CHILD CARE CENTERS

Exempting personal property used in connection with certain large family child care homes from valuation and taxation; authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county or a municipal corporation to grant, by law, a property tax credit against the real property tax owed on the portion of real property used for certain large family child care homes; increasing the maximum amount of a property tax credit that may be granted for certain child care homes and centers and day care centers; etc. EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

SB 516

Senator King, et al

Chapter 123

PROPERTY TAX – DAY CARE CENTERS, CHILD CARE HOMES, AND CHILD CARE CENTERS

Exempting personal property used in connection with certain large family child care homes from valuation and taxation; authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county or a municipal corporation to grant, by law, a property tax credit against the real property tax owed on the portion of real property used for certain large family child care homes; increasing the maximum amount of a property tax credit that may be granted for certain child care homes and centers and day care centers; etc. EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

HB 322

Delegate Wims

Chapter 124

ELECTION LAW MUNICIPAL **ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION**

Authorizing the State Administrator of Elections to enter into memoranda of understanding with municipal corporations that allow the State Administrator to work collaboratively with a municipal corporation to support the administration of the municipal corporation's elections; authorizing the State Administrator to lease a voting system or other equipment used to administer an election for use in a municipal election; repealing the authority of a local board to lease a voting system to certain entities within the county; etc.

EMERGENCY BILL

SB 262 Chapter 125

Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request – Departmental – State Board of Elections)

ELECTION LAW - SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Altering requirements for scheduling special elections to fill vacancies in a county council or in the office of chief executive officer or county executive; requiring the State Administrator to conduct a special election in accordance with State law and regulations if the State Administrator determines a conflict exists between State law and regulations and a county charter or other county law relating to the conduct of a special election; etc.

EMERGENCY BILL

HB 75 Chapter 126

Chair, Ways and Means Committee (By Request - Departmental - State Board of Elections)

ELECTION LAW – SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Altering requirements for scheduling special elections to fill vacancies in a county council or in the office of chief executive officer or county executive; requiring the State Administrator to conduct a special election in accordance with State law and regulations if the State Administrator determines a conflict exists between State law and regulations and a county charter or other county law relating to the conduct of a special election; etc.

EMERGENCY BILL

SB 84

Senator Corderman

Chapter 127

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – STUDY ON LOCATION OF INDIVIDUALS PRIOR TO AND FOLLOWING INCARCERATION

Requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to conduct an annual study examining and comparing certain data regarding an individual's residence prior to incarceration and on release from a State correctional facility; and requiring the Department by October 1, 2026, and each October 1 thereafter, to report the results of the study to certain committees of the General Assembly.

Delegate Valentine

Chapter 128

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – STUDY ON LOCATION OF INDIVIDUALS PRIOR TO AND FOLLOWING INCARCERATION

Requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to conduct an annual study examining and comparing certain data regarding an individual's residence prior to incarceration and on release from a State correctional facility; and requiring the Department by October 1, 2026, and each October 1 thereafter, to report the results of the study to certain committees of the General Assembly.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 1200

Chapter 129

Delegate Valentine, et al

PROPERTY TAX – CREDIT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR RESCUE WORKER – EXPANSION TO JUDICIAL OFFICER

Authorizing the governing body of a county or municipal corporation or the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City to provide a certain property tax credit to certain judicial officers, surviving spouses, or cohabitants; requiring the county or municipal corporation to define, by law, who is a correctional officer and judicial officer; and applying the Act retroactively to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2022.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

SB 502

Senator Corderman, et al

Chapter 130

PROPERTY TAX – CREDIT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR RESCUE WORKER – EXPANSION TO JUDICIAL OFFICER

Authorizing the governing body of a county or municipal corporation or the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City to provide a certain property tax credit to certain judicial officers, surviving spouses, or cohabitants; requiring the county or municipal corporation to define, by law, who is a correctional officer and judicial officer; and applying the Act retroactively to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2022.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

St. Mary's County Delegation

Chapter 131

ST. MARY'S COUNTY - CORRECTIONS

Adding programs, a day reporting program, an in-patient treatment program, and a pretrial release supervision program, that the St. Mary's County Sheriff is authorized to establish; repealing a requirement that the Sheriff or the Sheriff's designee collect the earnings of a certain individual participating in a certain program; and authorizing the Sheriff or the Sheriff's designee to direct an individual participating in a certain program to provide proof that the individual has made payments toward certain obligations.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 767

Senator M. Jackson

Chapter 132

CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF – DEPUTY SHERIFFS AND CORRECTIONAL DEPUTIES – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Providing that full—time deputy sheriffs and correctional deputies at the rank of major and below in the Calvert County Sheriff's Office have the right to organize and negotiate with the County Administrator of Calvert County and the Calvert County Sheriff with regard to certain wages and employee benefits in a certain manner. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 271

Senator M. Jackson

Chapter 133

MARYLAND TORT CLAIMS ACT – EMPLOYEES OF AN OFFICE OF A SHERIFF

Providing that an employee of the office of a sheriff of a county or Baltimore City is immune from liability under the Maryland Tort Claims Act in the same manner as a sheriff or deputy sheriff. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 302

Delegate Moon

Chapter 134

COURTS AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS – STATEMENT OF CHARGES – HUMAN SERVICE WORKERS

Expanding certain provisions of law relating to a certain investigation and recommendation by a State's Attorney concerning the filing of a statement of charges against certain professionals to include certain human service workers.

Delegate Moon

Chapter 135

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – FORENSIC GENETIC GENEALOGICAL DNA ANALYSIS AND SEARCH – AFFIDAVIT FOR JUDICIAL AUTHORIZATION

Altering and clarifying the requirement that a sworn affidavit for judicial authorization to initiate forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis and search (FGGS) assert that the reasonable investigative leads have been pursued and failed to identify the perpetrator and instead requiring that a sworn affidavit for judicial authorization assert that identity of the perpetrator is unknown.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 413

Delegates Moon and Clippinger

Chapter 136

CRIMINAL LAW – CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES AND FIREARMS

Authorizing a person who is at least 21 years of age to manufacture a personal use amount of cannabis products or concentrated cannabis for personal use or adult sharing at a private residence if the manufacturing process does not involve the use of a volatile solvent; specifying that manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, or possessing certain large quantities of certain controlled dangerous substances is a felony; altering the penalties for being a volume dealer and drug kingpin with regard to cannabis; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 1440

Delegate R. Lewis, et al

Chapter 137

COURTS - PARENTAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Requiring circuit courthouses in the State, constructed or renovated on or after October 1, 2025, to maintain on its premises a private lactation room to be used by certain individuals; providing that breast—feeding mothers and certain individuals caring for children under 3 years old may be excused from jury service; and requiring the Maryland Judiciary to collect certain information on jury service excusals and report annually to the Maryland General Assembly beginning by December 31, 2025.

SB 622 Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee (By Request - Chapter 138 Maryland Judiciary)

COURTS - STATE REPORTER - PUBLICATION OF CASES

Repealing a requirement that the State Reporter secure copyright for the State of published reports of opinions of the Supreme Court of Maryland and the Appellate Court of Maryland. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 787 Chair, Judiciary Committee (By Request - Maryland Chapter 139 Judiciary)

COURTS - STATE REPORTER - PUBLICATION OF CASES

Repealing a requirement that the State Reporter secure copyright for the State of published reports of opinions of the Supreme Court of Maryland and the Appellate Court of Maryland. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 786 Chair, Judiciary Committee (By Request - Maryland Chapter 140 Judiciary), et al

APPELLATE COURT OF MARYLAND – SESSIONS AT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Authorizing the Appellate Court of Maryland, in conjunction with the administrations of secondary and postsecondary educational institutions in the State, to hold sessions at certain secondary and postsecondary educational institutions in the State. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

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SB 621 Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee (By Request - Chapter 141 Maryland Judiciary)

COURTROOM SECURITY – MINIMUM ADEQUATE SECURITY

Requiring each law enforcement agency, department, or entity providing security at a courthouse facility to submit a report by September 30, 2025, to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland; requiring the report include the current number of court security officers available, the minimum number needed to meet adequate security standards, the current number of vacancies and a viable plan to meet minimum adequate security standards as identified in the Act; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 784 The President (By Request - Department of Legislative Chapter 142 Services)

ANNUAL CORRECTIVE BILL

Correcting certain errors or omissions in certain articles of the Annotated Code; clarifying language; correcting certain obsolete references; reorganizing certain sections of the Annotated Code; providing that the Act is not intended to affect any law other than to correct technical errors; and providing for the correction of certain errors and obsolete provisions by the publishers of the Annotated Code.

EMERGENCY BILL

SB 9 Chapter 143

Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION – ACADEMIC PROGRAM APPROVAL – REVISIONS

Requiring certain nonpublic institutions of higher education to submit a certain letter of intent regarding intended new graduate level programs to the Maryland Higher Education Commission in a certain manner and every 6 months; repealing a provision of law that required the Commission to circulate certain letters of intent; repealing a certain provision of law that limited which institutions of higher education could propose or implement certain academic programs for certain graduate level programs under certain circumstances; etc.

EMERGENCY BILL

SB 1039

Senator Sydnor

Chapter 144

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – CLASS 5 BREWERIES – ON–PREMISES CONSUMPTION

Increasing the percentage of beer not produced by the holder of a Class 5 brewery license that the license holder is permitted to sell for on–premises consumption if the holder also holds an applicable on–site consumption permit or a Class D license.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 241 Delegate Simpson

Chapter 145

MARRIAGE - CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION

Clarifying that "spouse" includes a former spouse for purposes of disclosure of confidential communications occurring during marriage; and establishing that a spouse, who is the alleged victim, is competent to disclose a confidential communication between spouses occurring during their marriage in a criminal action in which one spouse is charged with a crime against the other spouse.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 142

Senator Sydnor

Chapter 146

MARRIAGE - CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION

Clarifying that "spouse" includes a former spouse for purposes of disclosure of confidential communications occurring during marriage; and establishing that a spouse, who is the alleged victim, is competent to disclose a confidential communication between spouses occurring during their marriage in a criminal action in which one spouse is charged with a crime against the other spouse. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 442

Delegate Simpson, et al

Chapter 147

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – VICTIMS AND WITNESSES – OUT OF COURT STATEMENT OF CHILD TO FORENSIC INTERVIEWER

Expanding the evidentiary rule on the admissibility of out of court statements made by child victims or witnesses to make admissible an out of court statement made by a child to a forensic interviewer. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 333

Senators West and Folden

Chapter 148

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – VICTIMS AND WITNESSES – OUT OF COURT STATEMENT OF CHILD TO FORENSIC INTERVIEWER

Expanding the evidentiary rule on the admissibility of out of court statements made by child victims or witnesses to make admissible an out of court statement made by a child to a forensic interviewer. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

Delegate Simpson, et al

Chapter 149

FREDERICK COUNTY – COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS – CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK

Authorizing the Director of Human Resources of Frederick County to request from the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services a State and national criminal history records check for a prospective or current county employee or county volunteer; requiring the Central Repository to forward certain information to certain persons; requiring that the information remain confidential and that it be used only for personnel—related purposes; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 293

Delegate Pippy, et al

Chapter 150

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – CHILD VICTIMS – TESTIMONY IN CHILD ABUSE CASES

Altering a certain requirement under which a court is authorized to order that the testimony of a child victim be taken outside a courtroom and shown in the courtroom by closed circuit television in certain child abuse cases; requiring the testimony of a child victim taken by closed circuit television within the courthouse be in a setting that reasonably mitigates the likelihood the child victim will suffer emotional distress; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 274

Senator Love, et al

Chapter 151

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – CHILD VICTIMS – TESTIMONY IN CHILD ABUSE CASES

Altering a certain requirement under which a court is authorized to order that the testimony of a child victim be taken outside a courtroom and shown in the courtroom by closed circuit television in certain child abuse cases; requiring the testimony of a child victim taken by closed circuit television within the courthouse be in a setting that reasonably mitigates the likelihood the child victim will suffer emotional distress; etc.

Senator Love, et al

Chapter 152

CRIMINAL LAW – VISUAL SURVEILLANCE WITH PRURIENT INTENT – MODIFICATIONS

Altering the definition of "private place" as it relates to the prohibition on conducting visual surveillance with prurient intent of an individual without the consent of the individual; and altering the prohibition against conducting visual surveillance with prurient intent.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 437

Delegate Crutchfield, et al

Chapter 153

CRIMINAL LAW – VISUAL SURVEILLANCE WITH PRURIENT INTENT – MODIFICATIONS

Altering the definition of "private place" as it relates to the prohibition on conducting visual surveillance with prurient intent of an individual without the consent of the individual to include a residence; and altering the prohibition against conducting visual surveillance with prurient intent.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 831

Carroll County Delegation

Chapter 154

CARROLL COUNTY – PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS – CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK

Repealing certain limitations on the prospective employees or volunteers of Carroll County for whom the Department of Human Resources of Carroll County may request a criminal history records check.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 418

Carroll County Senators

Chapter 155

CARROLL COUNTY – PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS – CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK

Repealing certain limitations on the prospective employees or volunteers of Carroll County for whom the Department of Human Resources of Carroll County may request a criminal history records check.

Delegate Embry

Chapter 156

CRIMINAL LAW – CRIMES RELATING TO ANIMALS – CONVICTION AND SENTENCING

Establishing that certain crimes relating to animals do not include certain activities; establishing that each animal harmed in a violation of a prohibition against animal cruelty is a separate offense and shall be deemed an individual victim for purposes of the sentencing guidelines stacking rule; establishing that a conviction for a crime relating to animals may not merge with a conviction for any other crime based on the act establishing the violation; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 152

Senator West

Chapter 157

CRIMINAL LAW – CRIMES RELATING TO ANIMALS – CONVICTION AND SENTENCING

Establishing that certain crimes relating to animals do not include certain activities; establishing that each animal harmed in a violation of a prohibition against animal cruelty is a separate offense and shall be deemed an individual victim for purposes of the sentencing guidelines stacking rule; establishing that a conviction for a crime relating to animals may not merge with a conviction for any other crime based on the act establishing the violation; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 421

Senator McKay

Chapter 158

CRIMINAL LAW – DESTROYING FUNERARY OBJECTS AND CEMETERY ELEMENTS – STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS AND PROHIBITION

Extending from 1 year to 3 years the statute of limitations for prosecutions relating to destroying funerary objects and other elements of a cemetery to begin at the time local authorities knew or reasonably should have known of the violation; and prohibiting a person from willfully destroying, damaging, defacing, or removing any part of the grounds of a cemetery.

Delegate Hutchinson, et al

Chapter 159

CRIMINAL LAW – DESTROYING FUNERARY OBJECTS AND CEMETERY ELEMENTS – STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS AND PROHIBITION

Extending from 1 year to 3 years the statute of limitations for prosecutions relating to destroying funerary objects and other elements of a cemetery to begin at the time local authorities knew or reasonably should have known of the violation; and prohibiting a person from willfully destroying, damaging, defacing, or removing any part of the grounds of a cemetery.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 81

Senator Kagan

Chapter 160

CRIMINAL LAW – INTERFERENCE WITH A PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT – PENALTIES

Prohibiting a person from taking certain actions with the intent to interrupt or impair the functioning of a public safety answering point; and providing that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to imprisonment of up to 5 years or a fine of up to \$25,000 or both.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 445

Delegate Hill

Chapter 161

CRIMINAL LAW – INTERFERENCE WITH A PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT – PENALTIES

Prohibiting a person from taking certain actions with the intent to interrupt or impair the functioning of a public safety answering point; and providing that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not to exceed 5 years or a fine of up to \$25,000 or both.

Delegate Kerr, et al

Chapter 162

STATE GOVERNMENT – GRANTS AND CONTRACTS – REIMBURSEMENT OF INDIRECT COSTS

Altering the rate at which nonprofit organizations receiving State—funded grants or contracts may be reimbursed for indirect costs to match the rate established under relevant federal guidelines; requiring the Maryland Efficient Grant Application Council to study and make certain recommendations to the Department of Budget and Management regarding the entire grants life cycle; requiring the Council to submit a report on its full recommendations to the Department and the General Assembly by July 1, 2027; etc. EMERGENCY BILL

SB 127

Senator Kagan

Chapter 163

STATE GOVERNMENT – GRANTS AND CONTRACTS – REIMBURSEMENT OF INDIRECT COSTS

Altering the rate at which nonprofit organizations receiving State—funded grants or contracts may be reimbursed for indirect costs to match the rate established under relevant federal guidelines; requiring the Maryland Efficient Grant Application Council to study and make certain recommendations to the Department of Budget and Management regarding the entire grants life cycle; requiring the Council to submit a report on its full recommendations to the Department and the General Assembly by July 1, 2027; etc. EMERGENCY BILL

HB 235 Chapter 164

Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee (By Request – Departmental – Information Technology)

STATE GOVERNMENT – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – CYBERSECURITY REVISIONS

Altering the duties of the Cyber Preparedness Unit in the Maryland Department of Emergency Management; altering the duties of the Office of Security Management in the Department of Information Technology; requiring the Office to submit a yearly report to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly on the State's cybersecurity expenditures and recommendations for changes to the budget; and altering the responsibilities of the Secretary of Information Technology with regard to information technology policies.

SB 244 Chapter 165

Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request – Departmental – Information Technology)

STATE GOVERNMENT – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – CYBERSECURITY REVISIONS

Altering the duties of the Cyber Preparedness Unit in the Maryland Department of Emergency Management; altering the duties of the Office of Security Management in the Department of Information Technology; altering the content of a certain report on the activities of the Office and the state of cybersecurity preparedness in the State; and altering the responsibilities of the Secretary of Information Technology with regard to information technology policies and a statewide cybersecurity strategy.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 209 Chapter 166

Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee (By Request – Departmental – Information Technology)

STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT – LOCAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN AND ASSESSMENT – REPEAL

Repealing a duplicative provision of law requiring each county government, local school system, and local health department, in consultation with the local emergency manager, to create or update a cybersecurity preparedness and response plan and complete a cybersecurity preparedness assessment in a manner and frequency established by the Department of Information Technology. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 239 Chapter 167

Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request - Departmental - Information Technology)

STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT – LOCAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN AND ASSESSMENT – REPEAL

Repealing a duplicative provision of law requiring each county government, local school system, and local health department, in consultation with the local emergency manager, to create or update a cybersecurity preparedness and response plan and complete a cybersecurity preparedness assessment in a manner and frequency established by the Department of Information Technology. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Delegates Howard and Behler

Chapter 168

LOCAL FINANCE – SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS – ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY EROSION PREVENTION PROJECTS AND EROSION CONTROL PROJECTS

Requiring interest earnings on money deposited for a certain taxing and assessment district to be credited to that district; specifying that a certain provision of law governing the petition process for the construction of an erosion prevention project or erosion control project in a certain district in Anne Arundel County does not apply to certain planning, permitting, or cost estimate activities; authorizing certain entities to use tax funds for upkeep or reconstruction of an existing shore erosion control project; etc.

EMERGENCY BILL

HB 1085

Delegate Fair, et al

Chapter 169

HOUSING AUTHORITIES – TAX–EXEMPT STATUS – MODIFICATIONS

Exempting certain real property owned by certain nonprofit entities created by public housing authorities from State and local property taxation; directing certain nonprofit entities created by public housing authorities to make payment in lieu of taxes that may be set by mutual agreement with a political subdivision; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

SB 550

Senators McCray and Hayes

Chapter 170

BALTIMORE CITY – PROPERTY TAX – AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE ON VACANT AND ABANDONED PROPERTY OWNED BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City to impose, by law, the general property tax rate and a certain special property tax rate on vacant and abandoned property owned by certain nonprofit organizations that would otherwise be exempt from property tax under certain provisions of law; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

Senators Bailey and Mautz

Chapter 171

NATURAL RESOURCES – INVASIVE BLUE CATFISH PILOT PROGRAM

Establishing the Invasive Blue Catfish Pilot Program in the Department of Natural Resources to curb the spread of the invasive blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; requiring the Department to expand the use of practices determined to be effective under the Program; and requiring the Department to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2025, on its findings and recommendations based on the Pilot Program. EMERGENCY BILL

HB 446

Delegate T. Morgan, et al

Chapter 172

NATURAL RESOURCES – INVASIVE BLUE CATFISH PILOT PROGRAM

Establishing the Invasive Blue Catfish Pilot Program in the Department of Natural Resources to curb the spread of the invasive blue catfish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; requiring the Department to expand the use of practices determined to be effective under the Program; and requiring the Department to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2025, on its findings and recommendations based on the Pilot Program. EMERGENCY BILL

HB 397

Delegate D. Jones, et al

Chapter 173

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE–BASED INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – OYSTER SHUCKING HOUSE LOAN PROGRAM

Altering a certain loan program to authorize the Maryland Agricultural and Resource—Based Industry Development Corporation to provide loans in an amount up to \$25,000 for certain seasonal full—time jobs; and reducing, from 5 years to 3 years, the number of years that a person must have been a licensed seafood dealer in order to be eligible to receive financing under the loan program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Senator Bailey

Chapter 174

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE–BASED INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – OYSTER SHUCKING HOUSE LOAN PROGRAM

Altering a certain loan program to authorize the Maryland Agricultural and Resource—Based Industry Development Corporation to provide loans in an amount up to \$25,000 for certain seasonal full—time jobs; and reducing, from 5 years to 3 years, the number of years that a person must have been a licensed seafood dealer in order to be eligible to receive financing under the loan program. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 1343

Delegate D. Jones, et al

Chapter 175

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – PROPERTY TAX – DAY CARE CENTERS AND CHILD CARE CENTERS

Exempting personal property used in connection with certain large family child care homes from valuation and taxation in Anne Arundel County; authorizing the governing body of Anne Arundel County or the governing body of a municipal corporation in Anne Arundel County to grant, by law, a property tax credit against the real property tax owed on the portion of real property used for certain child care centers and day care centers; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

SB 131

Senator Simonaire, et al

Chapter 176

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – SUPERMARKETS

Authorizing the governing body of Anne Arundel County or of a municipal corporation in Anne Arundel County to grant, by law, a property tax credit against the personal property tax imposed on personal property of a supermarket that completes certain construction and is located in a certain food desert retail incentive area; requiring the governing body to designate what constitutes a food desert retail incentive area for purposes of the tax credit; etc. EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

Delegate D. Jones, et al

Chapter 177

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – SUPERMARKETS

Authorizing the governing body of Anne Arundel County or of a municipal corporation in Anne Arundel County to grant, by law, a property tax credit against the personal property tax imposed on personal property of a supermarket that completes certain construction and is located in a certain food desert retail incentive area; requiring the governing body to designate what constitutes a food desert retail incentive area for purposes of the tax credit; etc. EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

HB 447

Delegate Chisholm

Chapter 178

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF THE CHESAPEAKE, INCORPORATED

Altering the name of Arundel Habitat for Humanity, Inc., to be Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake, Incorporated, for purposes of a certain property tax credit against the county or municipal corporation tax imposed on the entity; and authorizing the tax credit for any real property owned by the entity.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

SB 178

Senator Simonaire, et al

Chapter 179

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF THE CHESAPEAKE, INCORPORATED

Altering the name of Arundel Habitat for Humanity, Inc., to be Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake, Incorporated, for purposes of a certain property tax credit against the county or municipal corporation tax imposed on the entity; authorizing the tax credit for any real property owned by the entity; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

Delegate Cardin, et al

Chapter 180

CRIMINAL LAW – DRUG PARAPHERNALIA – PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES

Altering the penalties for a person using or possessing with intent to use, delivering or selling under certain circumstances, or manufacturing or possessing with intent to deliver or sell under certain circumstances drug paraphernalia to inject, ingest, inhale, or otherwise introduce into the human body a controlled dangerous substance; removing intent to administer a controlled dangerous substance from a certain list of intents; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 525

Senator Charles, et al

Chapter 181

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY – ILLEGAL DUMPING AND LITTER CONTROL LAW – VIDEO EVIDENCE AND REWARD PROGRAMS

Authorizing Prince George's County to establish a pilot program allowing a member of the public to submit video evidence of an alleged violation of the Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law to a certain enforcement unit; requiring the program to allow a member of the public to receive a portion of fines collected in relation to the violation; and authorizing the governing body of Prince George's County to refer unpaid fines to the Central Collection Unit of the Department of Budget and Management for collection.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 372

Prince George's County Delegation

Chapter 182

PRINCE GEORGE'S GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – SUNSET REPEAL PG 403–25

Repealing the termination of certain provisions of law establishing the Prince George's Gateway Development Authority. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

Senators Kramer and Smith

Chapter 183

CRIMINAL LAW – ANIMAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT – PENALTIES

Prohibiting a person from committing a violation of the prohibition against abusing or neglecting an animal that results in the death of a domestic animal or livestock or the need to euthanize the domestic animal or livestock; providing that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment for up to 1 year or a fine of up to \$5,000 or both; and authorizing a court to impost certain conditions of sentencing and probation. EMERGENCY BILL

SB 375

Senator Kramer

Chapter 184

CRIMES RELATING TO ANIMALS – RESTRICTIONS ON KEEPING ROOSTERS

Prohibiting, beginning January 1, 2027, a certain person from keeping a rooster movement–constrained through use of a certain enclosure or tether, subject to certain exceptions; establishing that a violation of the Act is a civil offense; and providing that the Act may be enforced by any State or local law enforcement officers or local animal control authority for the jurisdiction where the violation occurs.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 513

Delegate Allen, et al

Chapter 185

CRIMES RELATING TO ANIMALS – RESTRICTIONS ON KEEPING ROOSTERS

Prohibiting, beginning January 1, 2027, a certain person from keeping a rooster movement—constrained through use of a certain enclosure or tether, subject to certain exceptions; establishing that a violation of the Act is a civil offense; and providing the Act may be enforced by any State or local law enforcement officers or local animal control authority for the jurisdiction where the violation occurs. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

Delegate Allen, et al

Chapter 186

LOCAL GOVERNMENT – DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES, SURCHARGES, AND EXCISE TAXES – REPORTING

Requiring county governments to make a certain report by July 1 each year to the Department of Planning on the amount, use, and location of the use of county development impact fees, surcharges, and excise taxes; and requiring county governments to make certain reports to the Department of Planning identifying certain local laws. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 814

Senator Watson, et al

Chapter 187

LOCAL GOVERNMENT – DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES, SURCHARGES, AND EXCISE TAXES – REPORTING

Requiring county governments to make a certain report by July 1 each year to the Department of Planning on the amount, use, and location of the use of county development impact fees, surcharges, and excise taxes; and requiring county governments to make certain reports to the Department of Planning identifying certain local laws. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 46

Senator Watson, et al

Chapter 188

REAL PROPERTY – WRONGFUL DETAINER – TIME OF HEARING AND SERVICE OF PROCESS

Requiring a certain hearing to be held not more than 10 business days after a certain complaint is filed; and altering requirements relating to service of process in a wrongful detainer action.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 943

Delegate Toles

Chapter 189

CRIMINAL LAW – CRIMES OF MALICIOUS OR FRAUDULENT BURNING – PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES

Prohibiting a person from committing a certain crime of malicious or fraudulent burning that causes the death of or serious physical injury to a firefighter; and establishing that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not to exceed 10 years.

Senator Waldstreicher, et al

Chapter 190

CRIMINAL LAW – CRIMES OF MALICIOUS OR FRAUDULENT BURNING – PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES

Prohibiting a person from committing a certain crime of malicious or fraudulent burning that causes the death of or serious physical injury to a firefighter; and establishing that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not to exceed 10 years.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 11

Senator Watson

Chapter 191

ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT ACT OF 2025

Providing that multiple thefts committed by the same person in multiple counties under one scheme or continuing course of conduct may be joined and prosecuted in any county in which any one of the thefts occurred; prohibiting one or more persons from committing a series of thefts from retail merchants over a 90–day period with an aggregate value exceeding \$1,500; requiring a court to make a finding as to whether a certain crime is organized retail theft under certain circumstances for a certain purpose; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 179

Delegate Toles, et al

Chapter 192

ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT ACT OF 2025

Providing that multiple thefts committed by the same person in multiple counties under one scheme or continuing course of conduct may be joined and prosecuted in any county in which any one of the thefts occurred; prohibiting one or more persons from committing a series of thefts from retail merchants over a 90–day period with an aggregate value exceeding \$1,500; requiring a court to make a finding as to whether a certain crime is organized retail theft under certain circumstances for a certain purpose; etc.

Baltimore County Delegation

Chapter 193

BALTIMORE COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – CHANGE OF LOCATION

Establishing an additional circumstance under which the Board of License Commissioners for Baltimore County may approve a change of location for a certain alcoholic beverages license; and providing that the Board may approve a certain change if the license was originally issued within the same election district and has been at the same location for a least 10 years.

EMERGENCY BILL

HB 431

Delegate Stewart

Chapter 194

CONSUMER PROTECTION – CONSUMER CONTRACTS – LIMITATION PERIODS

Prohibiting a consumer contract from setting a shorter time to bring an action under or on the consumer contract than required by the law of the State; excluding certain entities from the application of this Act; and applying the Act prospectively.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

SB 894

Senator M. Washington

Chapter 195

OFFICE OF SOCIAL EQUITY – COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND REPAIR FUND – MODIFICATIONS

Repealing provisions of law requiring the Office of Social Equity to report on the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund and to solicit public input on the uses of the Fund and publish a review of the input; requiring the Office to oversee the appropriation of funds from the Fund and to train Fund recipients; altering certain limitations on the use of the Fund; limiting certain administrative costs to administer the Fund to a certain amount; requiring counties to administer funds from the Fund in a certain manner; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

Senators M. Washington and Kagan

Chapter 196

LAND USE AND REAL PROPERTY – ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS – REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITIONS

Establishing the policy of the State to promote and encourage the creation of accessory dwelling units on land with a single–family detached dwelling unit as the primary dwelling unit in order to meet the housing needs of the citizens of the State; requiring, on or before October 1, 2026, the legislative body of certain counties or municipal corporations to adopt a local law authorizing the development of accessory dwelling units on land with a single–family detached dwelling unit as the primary dwelling unit; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 1466 Chapter 197

Delegate Stewart, et al

LAND USE AND REAL PROPERTY – ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS – REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITIONS

Establishing the policy of the State to promote and encourage the creation of accessory dwelling units on land with a single–family detached dwelling unit as the primary dwelling unit in order to meet the housing needs of the citizens of the State; requiring, on or before October 1, 2026, the legislative body of certain counties or municipal corporations to adopt a local law authorizing the development of accessory dwelling units on land with certain single–family detached dwelling units subject to certain requirements; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 15

Delegates Qi and Charkoudian

Chapter 198

CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS – LIMITED WORKER COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS – AUTHORIZATION (MARYLAND LIMITED WORKER COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION ACT)

Authorizing the formation of limited worker cooperative associations; and establishing rules and procedures for the formation, governance, conversion, and dissolution of limited worker cooperative associations.

Senator M. Washington

Chapter 199

CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS – LIMITED WORKER COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATIONS – AUTHORIZATION (MARYLAND LIMITED WORKER COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION ACT)

Authorizing the formation of limited worker cooperative associations; defining "limited worker cooperative association" as a Maryland limited liability company that elects to be a limited worker cooperative association in accordance with the provisions of the Act; and establishing rules and procedures for the formation, governance, conversion, and dissolution of limited worker cooperative associations.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HB 1450

Delegate Qi

Chapter 200

MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER INCENTIVE PROGRAM – ALTERATIONS

Repealing certain provisions of law specifying certain limitations on awards or investments provided to certain small businesses under the Maryland Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer Incentive Program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 302

Senator Lam

Chapter 201

MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER INCENTIVE PROGRAM – ALTERATIONS

Repealing certain provisions of law specifying certain limitations on awards or investments provided to certain small businesses under the Maryland Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer Incentive Program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Delegate Pruski

Chapter 202

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS – CONVENTIONAL HOME MORTGAGE LOANS – ASSUMPTION AND REQUIRED DISCLOSURES

Requiring banking institutions, credit unions, mortgage lenders, mortgage lending businesses, and mortgage loan originators to include a certain provision in certain conventional home mortgage loans authorizing a certain borrower to purchase the property interest of a certain borrower in connection with a decree of absolute divorce if the lending entity determines that the assuming borrower qualifies for the loan; applying certain provisions of the Act retroactively; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 689

Senator Gile

Chapter 203

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS – CONVENTIONAL HOME MORTGAGE LOANS – ASSUMPTION AND REQUIRED DISCLOSURES

Requiring banking institutions, credit unions, mortgage lenders, mortgage lending businesses, and mortgage loan originators to include a certain provision in certain conventional home mortgage loans authorizing a certain borrower to purchase the property interest of a certain borrower in connection with a decree of absolute divorce if the lending entity determines that the assuming borrower qualifies for the loan; and applying certain provisions of the Act retroactively.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 49

Senator Gile

Chapter 204

CONSUMER PROTECTION – AUTOMATIC RENEWALS

Requiring a person who makes an automatic renewal offer to consumers to allow a consumer to cancel the automatic renewal in a cost—effective, timely, and easy—to—use manner; requiring automatic renewal offers to be displayed in a certain manner and contain certain information; establishing that compliance with certain regulations or a certain license shall be considered to be compliance with the Act; establishing that a violation of the Act is an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

Delegate Pruski

Chapter 205

CONSUMER PROTECTION – AUTOMATIC RENEWALS

Requiring a person who makes an automatic renewal offer to consumers to allow a consumer to cancel the automatic renewal in a cost-effective, timely, and easy-to-use manner; requiring automatic renewal offers to be displayed in a certain manner and contain certain information; establishing that compliance with certain regulations or a certain license shall be considered to be compliance with the Act; establishing that a violation of the Act is an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

HB 208

Delegate Pruski

Chapter 206

CONSUMER PROTECTION – FALSE ADVERTISING – DIGITAL GOODS

Prohibiting a person that is a seller from advertising or offering for sale a digital good using certain terminology unless, before executing the sale, a certain affirmative acknowledgment is received from the purchaser or a certain clear and conspicuous statement is provided by the seller; and establishing that a violation of the Act is an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice subject to certain enforcement and penalty provisions.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 1046

Delegate Bagnall

Chapter 207

MECHANICAL REPAIR CONTRACTS – TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETINS

Prohibiting a mechanical repair contract from containing a provision precluding coverage for service to a motor vehicle solely for issues identified in a technical services bulletin and prohibiting the denial of a service claim solely for such an issue by a guarantor or provider. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

Senators Hershey and Zucker

Chapter 208

PROPERTY TAX – PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES AGREEMENTS – BROADBAND SERVICE PROVIDERS

Authorizing the governing body of a county to enter into a payment in lieu of taxes agreement with a provider of broadband service located in the county for property located in the county and owned by the provider; requiring that an agreement for a negotiated payment in lieu of taxes specify the amount to be paid each year and exempt all or part of the providers real and personal property in the county from county property tax; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

HB 969

Delegate A. Johnson, et al

Chapter 209

PROPERTY TAX – PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES AGREEMENTS – BROADBAND SERVICE PROVIDERS

Authorizing the governing body of a county to enter into a payment in lieu of taxes agreement with a provider of broadband service located in the county for property located in the county and owned by the provider; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

HB 979

Delegate A. Johnson, et al

Chapter 210

MARYLAND SELF–SERVICE STORAGE ACT – SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IN SATISFACTION OF LIEN – NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Requiring a certain operator of a certain self—service storage facility to notify at least 10 days prior to conducting a sale of an occupant's personal property stored in certain leased space at the self—service storage facility of the time, place, and terms of the sale by hand delivery, verified mail, or electronic mail at the occupant's last known address.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Senators Hershey and Lam

Chapter 211

MARYLAND SELF–SERVICE STORAGE ACT – SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IN SATISFACTION OF LIEN – NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Requiring an operator of a certain self—service storage facility to notify an occupant in default at least 10 days before conducting a sale of the occupant's property stored in the self—storage facility of the time, place, and terms of the sale by hand delivery, verified mail, or electronic mail at the occupant's last known address; and requiring the operator of a self—storage facility to send a second notice if no response has been received 5 days prior to the sale.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 227

Delegates Adams and Crosby

Chapter 212

CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS – ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES – NONESCHEAT CAPITAL CREDITS

Providing that certain unclaimed money held by an electric cooperative and due to a past member is not considered abandoned property; and authorizing an electric cooperative to use this money only to assist members of the cooperative or make donations to nonprofit, charitable organizations.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 561

Senators Hershey and Mautz

Chapter 213

CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS – ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES – NONESCHEAT CAPITAL CREDITS

Providing that certain unclaimed money held by an electric cooperative and due to a past member is not considered abandoned property; and authorizing an electric cooperative to use this money only to assist members of the cooperative or make donations to nonprofit, charitable organizations approved by the cooperative's board of directors.

Delegate Wells (By Request - Baltimore City Administration)

Chapter 214
BALTIMORE CONVENTION AND TOURISM REDEVELOPMENT
AND OPERATING AUTHORITY TASK FORCE – REVISIONS

Requiring the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority Task Force to identify certain funding sources and mechanisms, and to submit a report to the Governor, the Mayor of Baltimore City, and the General Assembly on its findings and recommendations by December 1, 2025; and extending the termination date for the Task Force from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 258

Delegate Wells

Chapter 215

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – WEST NORTH AVENUE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – ALTERATIONS

Altering the administration and membership of the West North Avenue Development Authority; specifying the powers and duties of the Authority, subject to certain limitations; requiring the Authority to take certain actions regarding the finances of the Authority; exempting the Authority from certain taxation or assessments under certain circumstances; establishing the West North Avenue Development Authority Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; altering the termination date of the Authority; etc.

EMERGENCY BILL

SB 4 Chapter 216

Senator Hayes

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – WEST NORTH AVENUE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – ALTERATIONS

Altering the administration and membership of the West North Avenue Development Authority; specifying the powers and duties of the Authority; requiring the Authority to take certain actions regarding the finances of the Authority; exempting the Authority from certain taxation or assessments under certain circumstances; establishing the West North Avenue Development Authority Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; and altering the termination date of the Authority from September 30, 2026 to September 30, 2029. EMERGENCY BILL

Delegate Vogel, et al

Chapter 217

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – MARYLAND INNOVATION INITIATIVE INSTITUTION PARTNERSHIP EXTENSION PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT

Establishing the Maryland Innovation Initiative Institution Partnership Extension Program to expand opportunities for technology validation, entrepreneurial development, and industry engagement at eligible institutions; establishing eligibility criteria for project proposals to receive funding under the Program; authorizing the Governor to include an appropriation of \$250,000 in the annual budget bill for fiscal years 2027 and 2028 for the Program; and altering the purpose and contents of the Maryland Innovation Initiative Fund.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 867

Senator Hester

Chapter 218

CYBER MARYLAND PROGRAM – REVISIONS

Transferring the Cyber Maryland Program from the Maryland Technology Development Corporation to the Maryland Department of Labor; altering the duties of the Program; requiring the Program to issue competitive grants and contracts beginning in fiscal year 2026, to enhance cybersecurity workforce development, including cybersecurity for operational technology; authorizing the Governor for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation sufficient to run the program; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 360

Senators Hester and Smith

Chapter 219

REVENGE PORN – DEFINITION OF VISUAL REPRESENTATION AND CIVIL ACTION

Defining the term "visual representation" as it relates to the crime of revenge porn to be an unaltered image of the person or an image created with or without using other existing depictions of the person that is indistinguishable from the person, from the perspective of an ordinary person; and authorizing a person to bring a civil action for revenge porn.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Delegates Cardin and Conaway

Chapter 220

TASK FORCE TO STUDY FIDUCIARY ADJUDICATION IN MARYLAND

Establishing the Task Force to Study Fiduciary Adjudication in Maryland to examine and analyze the efficiency, uniformity, and quality of fiduciary adjudication in Maryland and make recommendations; requiring the orphans' courts, circuit courts, registers of wills, and Administrative Office of the Courts to comply with certain requests of the Task Force; and requiring the Task Force to report its findings and make recommendations on or before January 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 88

Delegate Cardin

Chapter 221

ESTATES AND TRUSTS – MARYLAND TRUST DECANTING ACT – NOTIFICATION AND DOCUMENT TRANSMITTAL

Specifying the manner in which notice regarding an exercise of the decanting power or the sending of a document under the Maryland Trust Decanting Act is required to be provided.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 158

Senator West

Chapter 222

ESTATES AND TRUSTS – MARYLAND TRUST DECANTING ACT – NOTIFICATION AND DOCUMENT TRANSMITTAL

Specifying the manner in which notice regarding an exercise of the decanting power or the sending of a document under the Maryland Trust Decanting Act is required to be provided.

Senator West

Chapter 223

ESTATES AND TRUSTS – COMPENSATION OF GUARDIANS OF PROPERTY AND TRUSTEES

Clarifying the commissions that a guardian of the property may charge; authorizing a trustee of a trust to charge compensation that is reasonable under the circumstances; and authorizing trustees who are financial institutions or members of the Maryland Bar to charge compensation that is reasonable under the circumstances and calculated in accordance with a schedule of rates filed with an appropriate agency.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 27

Delegate Cardin

Chapter 224

ESTATES AND TRUSTS – COMPENSATION OF GUARDIANS OF PROPERTY AND TRUSTEES

Clarifying the commissions that a guardian of the property may charge; authorizing a trustee of a trust to charge compensation that is reasonable under the circumstances; and authorizing trustees who are financial institutions or members of the Maryland Bar to charge compensation that is reasonable under the circumstances and calculated in accordance with a schedule of rates filed with an appropriate agency.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 261

Delegate Forbes

Chapter 225

ESTATES AND TRUSTS – PRIORITY OF CLAIMS ON AN ESTATE – UNPAID CHILD SUPPORT

Prioritizing the payment of unpaid child support over certain other claims on an estate of a decedent with insufficient assets to pay all claims in full.

Delegate Forbes

Chapter 226

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP AND MARRIAGE – REQUIRED INFORMATION

Clarifying required information for registering a domestic partnership or obtaining a marriage license; and requiring a declaration of domestic partnership filed with the register of wills to include the Social Security number of each domestic partner who has a Social Security number.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 286

Senator West

Chapter 227

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP AND MARRIAGE – REQUIRED INFORMATION

Clarifying required information for registering a domestic partnership or obtaining a marriage license; and requiring a declaration of domestic partnership filed with the register of wills to include the Social Security number of each domestic partner who has a Social Security number.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 146

Delegate Cardin

Chapter 228

ESTATES AND TRUSTS – RESIGNATION OF TRUSTEE – NOTICE

Authorizing the trustee of a trust to resign under the Maryland Trust Act on 30 days' notice to qualified beneficiaries, the settlor, if living, all cotrustees, and any person that has a right to replace or appoint a successor to the resigning trustee.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 126

Senator West

Chapter 229

ESTATES AND TRUSTS – RESIGNATION OF TRUSTEE – NOTICE

Authorizing the trustee of a trust to resign under the Maryland Trust Act on 30 days' notice to qualified beneficiaries, the settlor, if living, all cotrustees, and any person that has a right to replace or appoint a successor to the resigning trustee.

SB 204 Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee (By Request – Chapter 230 Departmental – Assessments and Taxation)

PROPERTY TAX – DEADLINE TO SET COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATION TAX RATES – ALTERATION

Altering, from July 1 to June 20, the deadline by which the governing body of a county or municipal corporation is required to set its property tax rate for the next taxable year. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 59 Chair, Ways and Means Committee (By Request - Chapter 231 Departmental - Housing and Community Development)

PROPERTY TAX - TAX SALES - REVISIONS

Authorizing a tax collector to withhold from tax sale certain property occupied by an heir of a deceased owner of the property; requiring that certain owner—occupied property and certain property occupied by an heir of a deceased owner of the property be withheld from tax sale; requiring each county to establish a registry for interested parties or the Tax Sale Ombudsman to designate property to be withheld from tax sale; requiring the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to assist each county in creating and maintaining the registry; etc.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

HB 127 Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Chapter 232 Request – Departmental – Housing and Community Development)

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – MARYLAND HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM – LOCAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Expanding the entities eligible to administer local rehabilitation programs to include certain nonprofit sponsors. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Chapter 233

Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request - Departmental - Housing and Community Development)

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – MARYLAND HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM – LOCAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Expanding the entities eligible to administer local rehabilitation programs to include certain nonprofit sponsors. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 716 Chapter 234

Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request – Departmental – Housing and Community Development)

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – STATEWIDE RENTAL ASSISTANCE VOUCHER PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY – ALTERATIONS

Including the Department of Housing and Community Development in the definition of "public housing agency" for the purposes of the Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program; authorizing a public housing agency to administer the Program in accordance with a local administrative plan; authorizing the Department to project—base up to 100% of its authorized voucher units; altering the manner in which the Department and each public housing agency shall prioritize vouchers and housing assistance payments for certain families; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 1228 Chapter 235

Montgomery County Delegation

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – MONTGOMERY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL RESERVE STUDY MC 15–25

Requiring the Department of Commerce, in coordination with certain county agencies and organizations, to study economic development in and the tourist and visitor economy of the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve and, on or before June 30, 2026, report its findings to the members of the Montgomery County Delegation to the General Assembly; and requiring the Department to make recommendations regarding policies and programs that can help promote and preserve the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve. EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Washington County Delegation

Chapter 236

WASHINGTON COUNTY – PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Altering eligibility requirements for a certain property tax credit for certain business entities that invest a certain amount in certain real property in Washington County and create a certain number of new and permanent full—time jobs in the county; and altering the amount and duration of the property tax credit.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

Sincerely,

Victoria L. Gruber Executive Director