

May 16, 2025

To the Members of the General Assembly

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On May 16, 2025, the Honorable Wes Moore, Governor, vetoed the following pieces of legislation passed by the General Assembly; the reasons for the vetoes are indicated:

SB 980

Policy

Senators Corderman and M. Jackson

**NATURAL RESOURCES – MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS
AUTHORITY – FUNDING AND GRANTS**

Authorizing the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority to award grants and loans to certain entities for the management of certified heritage areas under certain circumstances; establishing a maximum funding amount of \$300,000 for certain grants, not to exceed 80% of the estimated project cost; decreasing from 10% to 7%, or \$600,000, whichever amount is greater, the percentage of Program Open Space funds transferred to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund that may be used for certain operating expenses; etc.
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 177

Policy

Senator Hester

**PROCUREMENT – STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION –
LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING PROGRAM**

Requiring the State Department of Education, in coordination with the Department of General Services and the Department of Agriculture, to establish a program to procure local food for local school systems from certified local farms and certified Chesapeake invasive species providers under certain circumstances; altering a certain percentage price preference adopted by the Board of Public Works by regulations; requiring the Board to adopt certain regulations relating to limiting responses for certain procurements; etc.
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 56

Policy

Delegate Charkoudian, et al

**PROCUREMENT – STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION –
LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING PROGRAM**

Requiring the State Department of Education, in coordination with the Department of General Services and the Department of Agriculture, to establish a program to procure, when funding is available, local food for local school systems with preference to providers that are certified local farms or certified Chesapeake invasive species providers; altering the percentage price preference adopted by the Board of Public Works for locally grown food from 5% to 10%; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 328

Policy

Delegate Ebersole, et al

**STATE LOTTERY – INSTANT TICKET LOTTERY MACHINES –
VETERANS’ AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Authorizing the Director of the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency to issue certain fraternal organizations a license for not more than three instant ticket lottery machines; altering the distribution of proceeds from instant ticket lottery machine sales by veterans’ organizations; providing for the distribution of proceeds from instant ticket lottery machine sales by fraternal organizations; altering certain requirements concerning the conduct of gaming through instant ticket lottery machines; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 482

Policy

Delegate Harrison

**OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION –
CRIMINAL HISTORY – PREDETERMINATION REVIEW
PROCESS**

Providing that “department” does not include the Maryland Department of Health or the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services for purposes of certain provisions prohibiting a department from refusing to issue an occupational license or certificate based on a certain conviction under certain circumstances; establishing a predetermination review process for occupational licenses and certificates in certain departments of State government; authorizing a department to charge a criminal history review fee of up to \$100; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 1116

Policy

Delegate Healey

PUBLIC SAFETY – STATE CLEARINGHOUSE FOR MISSING PERSONS

Renaming and transferring the State Clearinghouse for Missing Children to be the State Clearinghouse for Missing Persons; requiring the Department of State Police to study the Department's capacity to report about persons who have disappeared from, or thought to be located in Maryland, to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System; and requiring the Department to submit its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2025.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HB 628

Policy

Delegate Healey, et al

HIGHWAYS – SIDEWALKS AND BICYCLE PATHWAYS – CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION

Requiring the State Highway Administration to prioritize funding for the construction and reconstruction of sidewalks and bicycle pathways to sidewalks and bicycle pathways that are, or are adjacent to highways that are, subject to a complete streets policy or another similar Vision Zero program; requiring a local government to request certain funding from the Department of Transportation; and authorizing certain State funding for the construction or reconstruction of sidewalks or bicycle pathways.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 655

Policy

Senator Hester

COURTS – ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EVIDENCE CLINIC PILOT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT

Establishing an Artificial Intelligence Evidence Clinic Pilot Program within the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide expertise in artificial intelligence to the circuit courts and the District Court in the form of expert testimony on certain types of evidence before the courts; requiring the Office to develop a grant application for the Program and award grants to eligible higher education institutions; and authorizing the Governor for fiscal years 2027 and 2028 to include \$250,000 in the annual budget bill for the Program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 128
Policy

Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION – TOTAL
ASSESSED COST OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – STUDY
AND REPORTS

Requiring the Comptroller, in coordination with the Department of the Environment and the Department of Commerce, to conduct a study to assess the total cost of greenhouse gas emissions in the State and report certain findings to certain committees by December 1, 2026, on the total assessed cost of greenhouse gas emissions in the State based on the findings of the study; authorizing the Comptroller to hire a consultant to conduct the study; and requiring the report to include certain information and calculations.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 149
Policy

Senator Hester

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION – TOTAL
ASSESSED COST OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – STUDY
AND REPORTS

Requiring the Comptroller, in coordination with the Department of the Environment and the Department of Commerce, to conduct a study to assess the total cost of greenhouse gas emissions in the State and report certain findings to certain committees on or before December 1, 2026, on the total assessed cost of greenhouse gas emissions in the State based on the findings of a certain study; authorizing the Comptroller to hire a consultant to conduct the study; and requiring the report to include certain information and calculations.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 333
Policy

Delegate Kerr, et al

**HEALTHCARE ECOSYSTEM STAKEHOLDER CYBERSECURITY
WORKGROUP**

Establishing the Healthcare Ecosystem Stakeholder Cybersecurity Workgroup to develop strategies to prevent cybersecurity disruptions to the healthcare ecosystem, ensure the continuous delivery of essential healthcare ecosystem services, and enhance recovery efforts of the healthcare ecosystem following a cybersecurity incident; and requiring the Workgroup to submit an interim report on or before January 1, 2026, and a final report of its findings and recommendations on or before December 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 691
Policy

Senator Hester

**HEALTHCARE ECOSYSTEM STAKEHOLDER CYBERSECURITY
WORKGROUP**

Establishing the Healthcare Ecosystem Stakeholder Cybersecurity Workgroup to develop strategies to prevent cybersecurity disruptions to the health care ecosystem, ensure the continuous delivery of essential healthcare ecosystem services, and enhance recovery efforts of the healthcare ecosystem following a cybersecurity incident; and requiring the Workgroup to submit an interim report by January 1, 2026, and a final report of its findings and recommendations by December 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 1037
Policy

Delegate Crosby

ENERGY RESOURCE ADEQUACY AND PLANNING ACT

Establishing the Strategic Energy Planning Office; requiring the Office to develop a Comprehensive Wholesale Energy Markets and Bulk Power System Risk Report and examine certain scenarios to support the development of the Risk Report; requiring the Risk Report to assess wholesale energy market financial resource adequacy and reliability risks and to identify any necessary cost-effective solutions that ensure electric system reliability while meeting the State's energy policy goals; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 909
Policy

Senator Hester

ENERGY RESOURCE ADEQUACY AND PLANNING ACT

Establishing the Strategic Energy Planning Office; requiring the Office to develop a Comprehensive Wholesale Energy Markets and Bulk Power System Risk Report and examine certain scenarios to support the development of the Risk Report; requiring the Risk Report to assess wholesale energy market financial resource adequacy and reliability risks and to identify any necessary cost-effective solutions that ensure electric system reliability while meeting the State's energy policy goals; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 157
Policy

Senator Simonaire, et al

MARYLAND DISABILITY SERVICE ANIMAL PROGRAM – ESTABLISHED

Establishing the Maryland Disability Service Animal Program in the Department of Disabilities to select one or more nonprofit training entities to participate in the Program and provide additional funding mechanisms to assist eligible individuals in the Program; requiring the Department to select at least one nonprofit training entity to develop and implement a training protocol and to select qualified participants; and establishing the Maryland Disability Service Animal Program Fund to pay a participating nonprofit training entity.

CONTINGENT

HB 384
Policy

Delegate Lehman, et al

MARYLAND DISABILITY SERVICE ANIMAL PROGRAM – ESTABLISHED

Establishing the Maryland Disability Service Animal Program in the Department of Disabilities to select one or more nonprofit training entities to participate in the Program and provide additional funding mechanisms to assist eligible individuals in the Program; requiring the Department to select at least one nonprofit training entity to develop and implement a training protocol and to select qualified participants; and establishing the Maryland Disability Service Animal Program Fund to pay a participating nonprofit training entity.

CONTINGENT – EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 121

Duplicative

Senator A. Washington

**VEHICLE LAWS – NOISE ABATEMENT MONITORING SYSTEMS
PILOT PROGRAM – INSPECTION AND EXTENSION**

Establishing that certain provisions of law relating to the inspection of recorded images apply to recorded images produced by a noise abatement monitoring system; and extending by 2 years the reporting and termination dates of the noise abatement monitoring systems pilot programs in Montgomery County and Prince George's County.
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 168

Policy

Senator Simonaire

**CONFINED AQUATIC DISPOSAL CELLS – CONSTRUCTION –
MORATORIUM**

Prohibiting the Department of the Environment from processing or making any recommendation on a certain application submitted for the purpose of constructing a confined aquatic disposal cell from June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2029; and prohibiting the Board of Public Works from approving a certain application submitted for the purpose of constructing a confined aquatic disposal cell from June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2029.
EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

SB 227

Policy

**Chair, Finance Committee (By Request – Departmental –
Uninsured Employers' Fund)**

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION – PAYMENT FROM UNINSURED
EMPLOYERS' FUND – REVISIONS**

Authorizing the Worker's Compensation Commission to offset or credit against an award certain benefits paid by the Uninsured Employer's Fund; requiring the Workers' Compensation Commission to make the Fund a party to a claim filed against an uninsured employer; authorizing a covered employee or the dependents of a covered employee to apply to the Director of the Fund for payment from the Fund; requiring the Fund to pay certain additional awards under certain circumstances; etc.
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 193
Policy

**Chair, Economic Matters Committee (By Request –
Departmental – Uninsured Employers’ Fund)**

**UNINSURED EMPLOYERS’ FUND – ASSESSMENTS AND
SPECIAL MONITOR**

Altering the circumstances under which the Uninsured Employers’ Fund must collect or suspend a certain assessment; altering, from 1% to up to 1.5%, the additional percentage the Uninsured Employers’ Fund Board may direct the Workers’ Compensation Commission to assess on awards and settlements if the Board determines that the reserves of the Fund are inadequate to meet anticipated losses; and requiring the Workers’ Compensation Commission to designate a special monitor to assess the financial condition of the Uninsured Employers’ Fund.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 219
Policy

**Chair, Finance Committee (By Request – Departmental –
Uninsured Employers’ Fund)**

**UNINSURED EMPLOYERS’ FUND – ASSESSMENTS AND
SPECIAL MONITOR**

Altering the circumstances under which the Uninsured Employers’ Fund must collect or suspend a certain assessment; altering, from 1% to up to 1.5%, the additional percentage the Uninsured Employers’ Fund Board may direct the Workers’ Compensation Commission to assess on awards and settlements if the Board determines that the reserves of the Fund are inadequate to meet anticipated losses; and requiring the Workers’ Compensation Commission to designate a certain special monitor for certain purposes.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 481
Policy

Washington County Delegation

**WASHINGTON COUNTY – BOARD OF LICENSE
COMMISSIONERS – MEMBERSHIP**

Requiring that certain numbers of members of the Board of License Commissioners for Washington County belong to certain political parties based on the aggregated number of votes in the preceding election of the Board of County Commissioners.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 503

Policy

Washington County Senators

WASHINGTON COUNTY – BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS – MEMBERSHIP

Requiring that certain numbers of members of the Board of License Commissioners for Washington County belong to certain political parties based on the aggregated number of votes in the preceding election of the Board of County Commissioners.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 270

Policy

Delegate Crosby

DATA CENTER IMPACT ANALYSIS AND REPORT

Requiring the Department of the Environment, the Maryland Energy Administration, and the University of Maryland School of Business, in coordination with the Department of Legislative Services, to conduct an analysis of the likely environmental, energy, and economic impacts of data center development in the State; and requiring the Department of Legislative Services to coordinate preparation of the final report to be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly by September 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 116

Policy

Senators Lewis Young and Ready

DATA CENTER IMPACT ANALYSIS AND REPORT

Requiring the Department of the Environment, the Maryland Energy Administration, and the University of Maryland School of Business, in coordination with the Department of Legislative Services, to conduct an analysis of the likely environmental, energy, and economic impacts of data center development in the State; and requiring the Department of Legislative Services to coordinate preparation of the final report to be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly by September 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 1316
Policy

Delegate Wolek, et al

**PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION – YOUTH–CENTRIC
TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCE GUIDE**

Requiring the National Center for School Mental Health at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to develop and publish a youth–centric technology and social media resource guide by the 2027–2028 school year; requiring the guide to be distributed, beginning with the 2027–2028 school year, to each public school and the parent teacher organization for each public school and posted on the websites of the Department and each county board; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 455
Policy

Senator McKay, et al

**SECURITY GUARD AGENCIES – SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS –
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT**

Authorizing a certain security guard agency to apply for the appointment of special police officers in order to protect property owned or leased by the security guard agency’s clients.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SB 972
Policy

Senator Lam

**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – BOARD OF LICENSE
COMMISSIONERS – ALTERATIONS**

Increasing from three to five the membership of the Board of License Commissioners for Anne Arundel County; altering the eligibility requirements for Board membership; requiring the Board to adopt and publish a certain ethics policy; prohibiting the Board from using any race or ethnicity information as a factor in determining whether to issue or renew a license; and requiring the Board to submit a report on the racial breakdown of the disciplinary actions taken by the Board to the General Assembly each year.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SB 587

Policy

Senator Muse, et al

STATE GOVERNMENT – MARYLAND REPARATIONS COMMISSION

Establishing the Maryland Reparations Commission to study and make recommendations relating to appropriate benefits to be made to individuals whose ancestors were enslaved in the State or were impacted by certain inequitable government policies; and requiring the Commission to submit a preliminary report by January 1, 2027, and a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HB 350

Policy

(Vetoed in part)

The Speaker (By Request – Administration)

BUDGET BILL (FISCAL YEAR 2026)

Making the proposed appropriations contained in the State Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, in accordance with Article III, Section 52 of the Maryland Constitution; etc.

(This bill received two line item vetoes from the Governor – Section 21(56) and (61))

Sincerely,

Victoria L. Gruber
Executive Director