



SYNOPSIS

House Bills and Joint Resolutions
2025 Maryland General Assembly Session

January 22, 2025
Schedule 8

PLEASE NOTE: February 7 – Bill introduction deadline.

All bills must be given to the Chief Clerk by 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 6.

As required by House Rule 32(b), bills introduced after this date will be referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee.

HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED JANUARY 22, 2025

HB 498 **The Speaker (By Request – Administration), et al**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – DELIVERING ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AND ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS (DECADE) ACT

Requiring the Department of Commerce to evaluate the potential employment and economic growth of the State's industry sectors and establish a certain list of industry sectors and activities to be considered for additional support; repealing the Maryland Economic Development Commission and Commerce Subcabinet; altering the designation, administration, and purposes of and eligibility for certain economic development programs; altering eligibility for and the calculation of certain economic development incentives; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

CA, EC, ED, HS, SF, SG, TG, and TP, Various Sections - amended, added, and repealed

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Appropriations

Department of Legislative Services

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Baltimore Area: 410-946-5400 — Washington Area: 301-970-5400

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HB 499 The Speaker (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

CP, §§ 10-101, 10-105(c)(6) and (8), 10-110(a), (c), and (f), and 10-401 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 500 The Speaker (By Request – Administration), et al**PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT OF 2025**

Authorizing the Secretary of General Services to delegate certain powers and duties to the Chief Procurement Officer; altering the authority of the Department of General Services to engage in or control procurement of certain equipment and services; altering the authority of the Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transportation Authority to engage in procurement for certain supplies and services for transportation related activities; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CS, § 10-101(c), EL, § 2-109(a)(3), SF, Various Sections, and SG, § 4-113(b)(5) - amended and SF, Various Sections - added and repealed

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 501 The Speaker (By Request – Administration), et al**REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP INVESTMENTS FOR A STRONGER ECONOMY (RAISE) ACT**

Authorizing the State Board of Plumbing to waive the license examination requirement for a journey plumber license; authorizing the Secretary of Labor to waive the examination for certain licenses; altering the duties of the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council; repealing the Youth Apprenticeship Advisory Committee; establishing the Maryland Office of Registered Apprenticeship Development to market and advance the registered apprenticeship system throughout the State; etc.

This bill requires a mandated appropriation in the annual budget bill.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

BOP, BR, LE, & SF, Various Sections - added, LE, § 11-405(a) & (d) & SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(ii)204. & 205. - amended, & LE, § 11-409 - repealed

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 502 The Speaker (By Request – Administration), et al**OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT AND POLICY AND MARYLAND AS A MODEL EMPLOYER INITIATIVE – ESTABLISHED**

Establishing the Office of Disability Employment Advancement and Policy within the Department of Disabilities; establishing the Maryland as a Model Employer Initiative within the Office of Disability Employment Advancement and Policy to facilitate efforts that improve outcomes in the hiring, recruitment, retention, and advancement of people with disabilities in the State government workforce; and requiring the Office to report annually on the progress and outcomes of the Initiative.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HU, § 7-114(b) - amended and §§ 7-1201 through 7-1205 - added

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 503 The Speaker (By Request – Administration), et al**LAND USE – REGIONAL HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE GAP
(HOUSING FOR JOBS ACT)**

Requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Planning to calculate certain regional housing infrastructure gaps; providing for the apportionment of regional housing infrastructure gaps to counties and incorporated municipalities; authorizing local jurisdictions to reduce local housing infrastructure gaps in a certain manner; establishing that certain local jurisdictions have an affirmative obligation to expeditiously approve housing development project applications; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

LU, §§ 1-401 and 10-103 - amended and §§ 12-101 through 12-203 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 504 The Speaker (By Request – Administration), et al**EXCELLENCE IN MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACT**

Altering the definitions of target per pupil foundation amount, collaborative time per pupil amount, and special education per pupil amount for certain fiscal years; altering the source of funds for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund to include the interest earnings of the Academic Excellence Fund; freezing certain increases in the Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program for certain fiscal years; establishing the Collaborative Time Innovation Demonstration Grant and the Academic Excellence Program and Fund, etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

This bill requires a mandated appropriation in the annual budget bill.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, Various Sections - repealed, amended, and added; SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(ii)204. and 205. - amended and 206. - added

Assigned to: Appropriations and Ways and Means

HB 505 The Speaker (By Request – Administration), et al**EMPOWERING NEW ENERGY RESOURCES AND GREEN INITIATIVES TOWARD A ZERO-EMISSION (ENERGIZE) MARYLAND ACT**

Renaming the “renewable energy portfolio standard” to be the “clean energy portfolio standard”; altering the minimum required percentage of energy that must be derived from clean energy sources in certain years under the clean energy portfolio standard; altering the contents of and approval criteria for an application for an offshore wind project; establishing a process for the Public Service Commission to review and approve an application for a proposed nuclear energy generation project; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

NR and SG, Various Sections - amended and PU, Various Sections repealed, renumbered, amended, and added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 506 The Speaker (By Request – Administration), et al**CHESAPEAKE BAY LEGACY ACT**

Establishing the Maryland Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming (LEEF) Program; establishing the Maryland Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming (LEEF) Program Fund to support actions associated with the Program’s purpose; altering the definition of “healthy soils” for purposes of the Maryland Healthy Soils Program; exempting certain holders of certain fishing licenses from the requirement to obtain a food establishment license from the Maryland Department of Health; establishing the Water Quality Monitoring Program; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

AG, HG, and NR, Various Sections - added and amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 507 Delegate Kerr**STATE CONTRACTS – PROHIBITED PROVISIONS**

Clarifying a prohibition on including in State contracts provisions pertaining to limitations of liability for damage to real or tangible personal property; and clarifying a prohibition on including in State contracts provisions limiting the recovery of costs related to the use of replacement contractors under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SF, § 2-901 - amended

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 508 Delegate Kerr

STATE PROCUREMENT PREFERENCES – BLIND INDUSTRIES AND SERVICES OF MARYLAND – PACKAGING AND REPACKAGING

Requiring a State or State aided or controlled entity to require a prime contractor to procure certain janitorial products packaged or repackaged by Blind Industries and Services of Maryland.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SF, § 14-103(c) - amended

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 509 Delegate Simmons, et al

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF CEMETERIES AND BURIAL SITES WORKGROUP – ESTABLISHMENT

Establishing the Maryland Inventory of Cemeteries and Burial Sites Workgroup for the purpose of studying issues related to the establishment and maintenance of a State cemetery inventory system; and requiring the Workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 510 Frederick County Delegation

FREDERICK COUNTY – GAMING – ACCEPTANCE OF CREDIT AS PAYMENT

Authorizing certain fire, rescue, and ambulance organizations conducting certain gaming events in Frederick County to accept credit from a person as payment to play a gaming device at the gaming event.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

CR, § 12-108 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 511 Frederick County Delegation

FREDERICK AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES – BOW HUNTING – OPENLY CARRYING HANDGUNS

Prohibiting the Department of Natural Resources from prohibiting certain licensed bow hunters from openly carrying a handgun under certain circumstances in Frederick County and Washington County during deer hunting season.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

NR, § 10-408 - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 512 Frederick County Delegation

FREDERICK COUNTY – BARBERSHOP AND BEAUTY SALON BEER AND WINE LICENSE – ALTERATIONS

Increasing from 5 to 6.5 ounces of wine by the glass that a holder of a barbershop or beauty salon beer and wine license in Frederick County may provide to a certain customer for on-premises consumption.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

AB, §§ 20-1001.3 and 20-1002 - amended

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 513 Delegate Allen, et al

AGRICULTURE – ROOSTERS – RESTRICTIONS

Prohibiting, beginning January 1, 2027, unless authorized by the Department of Agriculture, a person who keeps roosters that are maintained individually and kept movement-constrained through use of an enclosure or tether from keeping more than 5 roosters per acre on a single property or more than a total of 25 roosters on a single property, subject to certain exceptions; and authorizing the Department to work in cooperation with a local animal control or law enforcement officer to enforce the Act.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

AG, § 3-105.2 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 514 Delegate Hill**HEALTH OCCUPATIONS – STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS – REVISIONS**

Altering certain provisions of law governing the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners and the practice of chiropractic in the State related to Board membership, licensure of chiropractors, the discipline of chiropractors, and the denial of licenses to applicants; authorizing the Board to inspect chiropractor offices under certain circumstances; and requiring the Board to require a licensee or applicant to submit to an examination by a health care provider under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HO, Various Sections - amended and repealed and §§ 3-304(d) through (g), 3-313(31) through (33), and 3-318 - added

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 515 Delegates Rogers and Pruski**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSES – VETERANS’ ORGANIZATIONS**

Authorizing a certain holder of a Class C beer, wine, and liquor license in Anne Arundel County to convert the license to a Class C (veterans’ organization) license; reducing from \$400 to \$300 the annual license fee for a Class C (veterans’ organization) license; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Anne Arundel County to provide application and administrative fee discounts to certain licensees and applicants; and authorizing a Class C (veterans’ organization) licensee to operate on Sunday without a Sunday license.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

AB, §§ 11-1009 and 11-2004(c) - amended

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 516 Delegate Korman**MOTOR VEHICLES – AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS – PRIVACY PROTECTIONS**

Requiring a custodian of recorded images produced by certain automated enforcement systems to deny inspection of the images, subject to certain exceptions; prohibiting certain State and local agencies from using a recorded image or associated data from an automated enforcement system without a warrant, subpoena, or court order unless the use is for an appropriate traffic or law enforcement purpose; and establishing certain requirements and authorizations for the removal and destruction of recorded images.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

GP, § 4-321 and TR, Various Sections - amended and TR, § 12-113.1 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 517 Delegates Korman and Solomon**TRANSPORTATION – MARYLAND AREA RAIL COMMUTER RAIL AUTHORITY – ESTABLISHMENT (MARC RAIL AUTHORITY ACT OF 2025)**

Establishing the Maryland Area Rail Commuter (MARC) Rail Authority and the powers and duties of the MARC Rail Authority, acting on behalf of the Department of Transportation, with respect to the supervision, construction, operation, maintenance, and repair of MARC railroad facilities projects; authorizing the MARC Rail Authority to issue certain revenue bonds to finance the cost of MARC railroad facilities; establishing the MARC Rail Authority Fund; and requiring certain funds and revenues to be deposited in the Fund.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

TR, §§ 7-1301 through 7-1333 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Appropriations

HB 518 Delegate Grammer**GENERAL ASSEMBLY – CRIMINAL OFFENSES – MENS REA REQUIREMENT**

Establishing a certain mens rea requirement for bills passed by the General Assembly that establish a criminal offense; requiring the Department of Legislative Services to report annually by December 1 to certain committees of the General Assembly on laws in the State that do not specify an explicit mens rea requirement for the offense; requiring that a fiscal note prepared for a bill establishing a criminal offense include certain information; and requiring adoption or rejection of the amendment by the qualified voters of the State.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – CONTINGENT – VARIOUS EFFECTIVE DATES

Maryland Constitution, Art. III, § 62 and SG, § 2-1262 - added and SG, § 2-1505(e) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 519 Delegate Schindler, et al**PUBLIC HEALTH – HOSPITALS – PARKING FOR PATIENTS**

Requiring hospitals in the State to offer parking at no cost for inpatients for the duration of the inpatient's admission and for outpatients attending a scheduled medical appointment for the duration of the appointment; and requiring hospitals in the State to display signage notifying inpatients and outpatients of the availability of parking at no cost.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HG, § 19-308.12 - added

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 520 Delegate Wolek, et al

STATE PERSONNEL – JOB SHARING ARRANGEMENTS AND TRI-POSITION IDENTIFICATION NUMBER SYSTEM (MARYLAND WORKFORCE RETENTION, RECRUITMENT, AND REENTRY ACT)

Establishing, to the extent practicable, a certain Tri-Position Identification Number (Tri-PIN) system that is applicable to the Executive Branch of State government; requiring certain appropriate officials in State government to review vacant positions occurring on or after October 1, 2025, for potential placement into a Tri-PIN system that enables positions to be filled with part-time employees under a certain job sharing arrangement or a full-time employee; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SP, § 2-313 - added

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 521 Delegate Rosenberg

STATE PROCUREMENT – COMMERCIAL NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY – ANTISEMITISM

Altering certain provisions of State procurement law prohibiting discrimination based on certain protected characteristics to include prohibitions against antisemitism.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SF, §§ 19-103 and 19-115 - amended

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 522 Delegate Taveras, et al

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES – REHABILITATION SERVICES – FUNDING

Authorizing the Department of Juvenile Services to provide funding for up to 1 year of certain rehabilitation services to certain rehabilitation institutions.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HU, § 9-216 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 523 Delegate Taveras, et al**COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION – ROOT CAUSES OF CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AND EXPULSION – INVESTIGATION AND REPORTING**

Requiring each county board of education to investigate, identify, and report on root causes of chronic absenteeism and expulsion in the county; and requiring, beginning January 1, 2026, and each quarter thereafter for 10 years, each county board to report its findings to each applicable county delegation to the General Assembly and certain committees in the General Assembly.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 4-147 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 524 Delegate Guzzone, et al**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – MEMBERSHIP – EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL**

Increasing the membership of the State Board of Education from 13 to 14 members to include, as a member, an early childhood development professional with extensive experience in the operations of a child care business and early childhood curriculum and development; and requiring the Governor to appoint the early childhood development member, with the advice and consent of the Senate, from a list of three qualified individuals submitted from the Office of Child Care Advisory Council.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 2-202 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 525 Delegate Feldmark, et al**ELECTION LAW – INFLUENCE ON A VOTER’S VOTING DECISION BY USE OF FRAUD – PROHIBITION**

Prohibiting a person from using fraud to influence or attempt to influence a voter’s voting decision; providing that fraud includes the use of synthetic media; and defining “synthetic media” as an image, an audio recording, or a video recording that has been intentionally created or manipulated with the use of generative artificial intelligence or other digital technology to create a realistic but false image, audio recording, or video recording.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

EL, § 16-201 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 526 Delegate Miller, et al**PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION – DEFINITION AND NOTIFICATION OF REPORTABLE OFFENSE – ALTERATIONS**

Altering the definition of “reportable offense” to remove the requirement that the offense occurred off school premises and did not occur at an event sponsored by the school; and requiring the Department of Juvenile Services to report to the local superintendent of schools and school principal for certain decisions made during a certain inquiry of a juvenile offender for certain offenses.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 7-303 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary and Ways and Means

HB 527 Delegate Charkoudian, et al**MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION – PURPLE LINE – FREE RIDERSHIP AND ADVERTISING**

Requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to develop and implement a program providing, for the first 3 months after transit service begins on the Purple Line, free ridership on Purple Line transit vehicles to individuals residing within a one-quarter mile radius of the Purple Line track and free advertising space on Purple Line transit vehicles and at Purple Line transit stations to businesses located within a one-quarter mile radius of the Purple Line track.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

TR, § 7-718 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Appropriations

HB 528 Delegate Stein, et al**BALTIMORE COUNTY – VEHICLE LAWS – PRIVATE ROADWAYS IN RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS AND COMMUNITIES**

Prohibiting a person from driving a motor vehicle in violation of certain provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law on private roadways in certain residential areas in Baltimore County; and authorizing a police officer to enforce the Maryland Vehicle Law on private roadways in certain residential areas in Baltimore County.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

TR, §§ 11-205(c) and 21-101.1(b)(1) - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 529 Delegate Taveras, et al**HEALTH INSURANCE – PRESCRIPTION DRUG FORMULARIES AND COVERAGE FOR GENERIC DRUGS AND BIOSIMILARS**

Requiring certain carriers to post updated, accurate, and complete prescription drug formularies and changes to the formularies in a certain manner on a carrier's website; and requiring certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to make certain generic drugs and biosimilars available on a formulary with certain cost sharing.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

IN, §§ 15-147 and 15-861 - added

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 530 Delegate Stein, et al**MARYLAND FORESTRY EDUCATION FUND – MANDATORY FUNDING – EXTENSION**

Extending the fiscal years through 2031 in which the Governor is required to include a \$250,000 appropriation in the annual budget bill for the Maryland Forestry Education Fund.

This bill requires a mandated appropriation in the annual budget bill.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

NR, § 5-2001 - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 531 Delegate Simmons, et al**EDUCATION – REMOTE LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS – ESTABLISHED (COLLEGE DISABILITY EDUCATION ACT)**

Requiring all public institutions of higher education to establish remote learning accommodations for students with disabilities that impede regular, in-person attendance beginning in the 2026–2027 academic year; authorizing the Maryland Higher Education Commission to issue waivers from the requirement under certain circumstances; establishing a grant program to assist institutions to meet the remote learning accommodations requirement; and providing for certain review procedures and penalties for noncompliance.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 15-140 - added

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 532 Delegate Barnes

LOCAL GOVERNMENT – MUNICIPAL ANNEXATION – PETITION AND REFERENDUM

Allowing a certain redevelopment authority that owns real property in an area to be annexed with fewer than 20 eligible residents to sign a petition for annexation and vote in the annexation referendum.

EMERGENCY BILL

LG, § 4-413 - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 533 Delegate Crutchfield

PEACE ORDERS AND PROTECTIVE ORDERS – MILITARY PROTECTION ORDERS

Authorizing a judge to consider whether a military protection order has been issued against a respondent when determining whether to grant a temporary peace order or a temporary protective order; and requiring a law enforcement officer to notify a certain law enforcement agency that an individual may have violated a military protection order under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CJ, §§ 3-1501, 3-1504(a)(1), and 3-1508 and FL, §§ 4-501, 4-505(a)(1), and 4-509 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 534 Delegate Hill, et al

INTERSTATE DENTAL AND DENTAL HYGIENE LICENSURE COMPACT

Entering into the Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact; authorizing a dentist or dental hygienist to practice in a member state; establishing the Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Compact Licensure Commission to oversee the Compact and its powers and duties; and providing that the Act is contingent on enactment of substantially similar legislation in four other states.

CONTINGENT – EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HO, § 4-3A-01 - added

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 535 Delegate Simmons, et al**ABANDONED AND NEGLECTED CEMETERIES FUND – ESTABLISHMENT AND INCOME TAX CHECKOFF**

Establishing the Abandoned and Neglected Cemeteries Fund to provide for the care, preservation, maintenance, and restoration of abandoned and neglected cemeteries in the State; establishing an income tax checkoff for contributions to the Fund; requiring the Comptroller to include a checkoff on individual income tax returns and to include certain information in income tax return packaged; and requiring an annual report by September 30 to the General Assembly on the donations to the Fund and promotional efforts undertaken by money from the Fund.

VARIOUS EFFECTIVE DATES

BR, SF, TG, and Chapter 717 of the Acts of 2024, Various Sections - added and amended

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations and Ways and Means

HB 536 Delegate Guzzone, et al**EDUCATION AND HEALTH – EMERGENCY USE EPINEPHRINE – ALTERATIONS**

Altering the defined term “auto–injectable epinephrine” to be “emergency use epinephrine” and to include certain drug delivery devices and products; and altering the name of the Emergency Use Auto–Injectable Epinephrine Program to be the Emergency Use Epinephrine Program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, HG, and HO, Various Sections - amended, added, and repealed

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Health and Government Operations

HB 537 Delegate Cardin, et al**POLICE DISCIPLINE – ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE**

Authorizing a police officer who is denied a certain right to apply to the circuit court at any time before a hearing is held by the hearing board for an order that directs the law enforcement agency to show cause why the right should not be granted.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

PS, § 3-113.1 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 538 Delegate Shetty, et al

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – FEDERAL COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM – ADMINISTRATION

Requiring the Family Investment Administration in the Department of Human Services to be the central coordinating and directing agency of the federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program using certain funds and resources; and repealing the requirement that the Secretary of Aging administer the Program.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HU, §§ 5-205(a) and 10-204(a) - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 539 Delegate Ebersole

STATE LOTTERY – TICKET PURCHASE AND DELIVERY BY THIRD-PARTY ENTITY – AUTHORIZATION

Authorizing the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency to allow licensed agents to enter into an agreement with third-party entities to allow those entities to purchase State lottery tickets on behalf of individuals in the State and deliver the tickets to the purchasers; and authorizing the third-party entities to charge a service fee.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SG, § 9-111(g) - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 540 Delegate Wolek

MARYLAND GREEN SCHOOLS – WEBSITE, OUTREACH, AND DESIGNATIONS (GREEN SCHOOLS STEWARDSHIP ACT)

Requiring the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education to update, by March 1, 2027, and maintain a certain website; requiring the Association to conduct certain outreach efforts with a certain frequency; requiring the Department of Natural Resources, in collaboration with the State Department of Education and in consultation with other relevant parties, to establish criteria for designating green schools in the State as green schools mentor schools; etc.

This bill requires a mandated appropriation in the annual budget bill.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 7-117.1 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 541 Delegate Guzzone, et al**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS NAVIGATOR – ESTABLISHED**

Establishing a nonprofit organizations navigator within the Department of Commerce to provide certain technical assistance to nonprofit organizations, to work with nonprofits and units of State government resolve complexities and delays in State grant-making processes, collect and share certain information, and represent nonprofit organizations' interests and concerns as a member of the Maryland Efficient Grant Application Council; and altering the composition and duties of the Maryland Efficient Grant Application Council.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

EC, § 2.5-110 - added and amended, SF, §§ 2-209 and 2-210 - amended, and Chapters 28 and 29 of the Acts of 2024, § 2 - repealed

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 542 Delegate Crutchfield**ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES – INVESTIGATIONS AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION**

Authorizing a local department of social services to request assistance from federal law enforcement officers in an investigation relating to an alleged vulnerable adult; and altering certain provisions relating to the disclosure of certain information concerning human services to include adult protective services.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

FL, § 14-303 and HU, § 1-201 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 543 Delegate Taveras**COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION – SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT – STUDENT INFORMATION DISCLOSURE POLICY**

Requiring each county board of education to establish a certain policy requiring certain public schools to disclose a student's directory information or personally identifiable information to a detoxification center or hospital for substance abuse treatment under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 7-455 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 544 Delegate Moon**CRIMINAL LAW – THIRD-DEGREE ASSAULT**

Establishing that it is a misdemeanor to intentionally cause offensive contact, engage in conduct tending to put another in fear of offensive contact, or attempt to cause offensive contact; and altering a certain list of convictions that are eligible for expungement under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, § 3-203.1 - added and CR, §§ 3-206 and 3-209, CJ, §§ 4-301(b) and 4-302(d), and CP, § 10-110(a)(1) and (c)(2) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 545 Delegate Moon, et al**CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – AUTOMATED EXPUNGEMENT**

Repealing a certain provision of law requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to expunge certain cases involving charges of possession of cannabis on or before a certain date; and establishing procedures for the automated expungement of certain cases by the Department and the Judiciary.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CP, § 10-112 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 546 Delegate Feldmark**DIGITAL ADVERTISING GROSS REVENUES TAX – ASSESSMENTS – APPEALS AND CORRECTIONS**

Establishing a certain appeal process for persons who are subject to the digital advertising gross revenues tax and receive a notice of assessment from the Comptroller; authorizing the Comptroller or the Comptroller's designee to issue an order to correct an erroneous assessment of the digital advertising gross revenues tax, subject to certain conditions; and applying the Act to assessments of the digital advertising gross revenues tax made after December 31, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

TG, §§ 13-508 and 13-509 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 547 Delegate Grammer, et al**HOSPITALS – PRICE TRANSPARENCY – REQUIREMENTS AND FUND**

Requiring hospitals in the State to comply with a certain federal price transparency law; requiring hospitals to maintain and make available a list of standard charges for the hospital's shoppable services; prohibiting hospitals from selling certain personal data; requiring the Secretary of Health to perform certain hospital monitoring duties; requiring hospitals who violate certain provisions of the Act to submit corrective action plans; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HG, §§ 19-349.3 and 19-349.4 and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(ii)206. - added and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(ii)204. and 205. - amended

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 548 Delegate Grammer, et al**PUBLIC SAFETY – MILITIA – ACTIVE DUTY COMBAT (DEFEND THE GUARD)**

Prohibiting the Governor from ordering the militia or a member of the militia into active duty combat unless the U.S. Congress has passed an official declaration of war or taken a certain official action; and establishing that this prohibition does not limit or prohibit the Governor from deploying the militia or a member of the militia under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

PS, § 13-702 - amended

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 549 Delegate Grammer**NUISANCE AND BREACH OF LEASE ACTIONS – RODENT HARBORAGE**

Authorizing an individual to bring a nuisance action for damages caused by rodent harborage on certain real property against certain individuals; authorizing a landlord to bring a breach of lease action against a tenant for behavior that causes or contributes to rodent harborage; and providing that a nuisance action may not be brought under the Act if the rodent harborage occurs on property that is zoned for agricultural use and is actually and primarily used as agricultural property.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

RP, § 14-134 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 550 Delegate Feldmark

LOCAL PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING – EXPANSION TO ADDITIONAL OFFICES

Authorizing the governing body of a county to establish a system of public campaign financing after the governing body of the county has implemented a system of public campaign financing for elective offices in the executive or legislative branches of county government for at least one complete election cycle for the offices of State’s Attorney, sheriff, register of wills, judge of the circuit court, clerk of the circuit court judge of the orphans’ court, or an elected member of the county board of education.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

EL, § 13-505 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 551 Delegate Feldmark

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION – PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES – SALARIES

Altering, beginning July 1, 2026, the minimum salary for certain public school employees to be \$60,000; and establishing, subject to certain conditions, certain salary increases for certain public school employees.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 6-408 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 552 Delegate Taveras, et al

HIGHER EDUCATION – DRUG DETECTION PRODUCTS – DISTRIBUTION AND REPORT

Requiring each institution of higher education to provide certain drug detection products to students at no charge; and altering a certain reporting requirement.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 11-1204 - added and amended

Assigned to: Appropriations and Health and Government Operations

HB 553 Delegate Taveras, et al**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – SELF–MEASURED BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORING**

Requiring, beginning on January 1, 2026, the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide coverage for self–measured blood pressure monitoring for certain eligible Program recipients; requiring the Program to develop and implement an education campaign to inform eligible program recipients and health care providers about the benefits of blood pressure monitoring and the availability of certain assistance; and requiring the Department to submit an annual report beginning December 1, 2027 on the program’s outcomes.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HG, § 15-103(a)(2)(xxiii) and (xxiv) - amended and §§ 15-103(a)(2)(xxv) and 15-141.6 - added

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 554 Delegate Charkoudian**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2025**

Repealing and establishing the methodology used to calculate the weekly benefit amount; altering the taxable wage base used to determine employer contributions to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, the dependent allowance, and the amount of earned wages subtracted from a weekly benefit amount; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to determine and make available online the State annual average wage applicable to the rate of contribution; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

LE, §§ 8-607(b), (c), and (d)(1) and 8-804 - amended and § 8-803 - repealed and added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 555 Delegate Taveras, et al**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION – CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – ELIGIBILITY**

Specifying eligibility for the Child Care Scholarship Program, including that a child shall reside in the State, be under a certain age, and be in a household that meets certain need and income requirements; and prohibiting the State Department of Education from considering the immigration status of a parent, guardian, or child when determining eligibility for Program benefits.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 9.5-113 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 556 Delegate Simpson, et al**DRUG PARAPHERNALIA FOR ADMINISTRATION –
DECRIMINALIZATION**

Repealing the prohibition against 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; altering a prohibition against a person possessing or distributing controlled paraphernalia under certain circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, §§ 5-101(h), 5-619(c) and (d), and 5-620(a), (b), and (d) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary