



SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions
2025 Maryland General Assembly Session

January 23, 2025
Schedule 12

PLEASE NOTE: February 3 – Bill introduction deadline.

All bills should be given to the Secretary of the Senate's office by 5:00 P.M. on Monday, February 3.

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

SENATE BILLS INTRODUCED *January 22, 2025*

SB 467 Senator Benson

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: Budget and Taxation

Department of Legislative Services

90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401–1991

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

Other Maryland Areas: 1–800–492–7122 — Maryland Relay Service: 1–800–735–2258

SB 468 **Senator Benson****PUBLIC MIDDLE, HIGH, AND CHARTER SCHOOLS – START TIME FOR INSTRUCTION**

Requiring, beginning in the 2027–2028 school year, each public middle school and each public high school to begin instruction not earlier than 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., respectively, unless granted a waiver by the State Board of Education under certain circumstances; and requiring each county board of education and each public charter school to implement a certain public service campaign to raise awareness on sleep deprivation and later school start times.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 7-103 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 469 **Senator Benson****STATE GOVERNMENT – MARYLAND REPARATIONS COMMISSION – ESTABLISHMENT (HARRIET TUBMAN COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT)**

Establishing the Maryland Reparations Commission to develop and administer a program to provide compensatory benefits to the descendants of individuals enslaved in the State; providing that any individual whose ancestors were enslaved in the State is eligible to receive certain benefits; authorizing the Commission to seek the assistance of State agencies to develop and evaluate processes and applications; requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill such sums as necessary to carry out the Act; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SG, §§ 9-4101 through 9-4108 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment and Budget and Taxation

SB 470 **Senators Rosapepe and Corderman****FANTASY COMPETITIONS – ALTERATIONS AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION REQUIREMENTS**

Altering the definition of “fantasy competition” for purposes of provisions of law governing fantasy competitions to include certain competitions; requiring the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to establish a certain voluntary exclusion program; prohibiting a fantasy competition operator from permitting an individual on the mandatory exclusion list to establish a fantasy competition account or participate in fantasy competitions; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SG, §§ 9-1D-01(d), 9-1D-02, 9-1D-05, and 9-1E-01(i) and (j) - amended and § 9-1D-05 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 471 **Senator Rosapepe****VEHICLE LAWS – MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION – 3–HOUR ROADWAY SAFETY DRIVING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to establish a 3–hour Roadway Safety Driving Education Program for certain applicants for and holders of driver’s licenses.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

TR, §§ 16-105(f), 16-212, and 16-212.1 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 472 **Senator Rosapepe****PROPERTY TAX – IMPROVEMENTS TO PROPERTY ADJACENT TO RAIL STATIONS – SUBCLASS, SPECIAL RATE, AND PENALTY**

Authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county to establish, by law, a subclass of real property consisting of improvements to real property located within 1 mile of a rail station and to set a special property tax rate for the property; authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county or municipal corporation to set, by law, a tax penalty against the total tax liability on the property for which a special tax rate has been set; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

TP, §§ 4-201(d), 6-202.2 and 14-702(e) - added and § 6-302 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 473 **Senators West and Hester****AGRICULTURE – MARYLAND FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESILIENCY MECHANISM GRANT PROGRAM – EXPANSION**

Expanding the Maryland Food and Agricultural Resiliency Mechanism Grant Program by making certain qualified suppliers eligible for grant funding; establishing the Maryland Food and Agricultural Resiliency Operating Fund; and requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to the Operating Fund beginning in fiscal year 2027.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

AG, §§ 10-2101 and 10-2102 - amended and § 10-2104 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment and Budget and Taxation

SB 474 **Senator Beidle****HEALTH INSURANCE – ADVERSE DECISIONS – REPORTING AND EXAMINATIONS**

Requiring certain carriers, if the number of adverse decisions issued by the carrier for a type of service has grown by more than 10% in the immediately preceding calendar year or 25% in the immediately preceding 3 calendar years, to provide certain information to the Maryland Insurance Commissioner; and authorizing the Commissioner to use certain adverse decision information as the basis of a certain examination.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

IN, § 15-10A-06 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 475 **Senator Beidle****HEALTH INSURANCE – UTILIZATION REVIEW – EXEMPTION FOR PARTICIPATION IN VALUE-BASED CARE ARRANGEMENTS**

Prohibiting certain carriers from imposing a prior authorization, step therapy, or quantity limit requirement on eligible providers for health care services that are included in a two-sided incentive arrangement.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

IN, § 15-113(f) - amended and § 15-147 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 476 **Senator Beidle****HEALTH INSURANCE – GENETIC TESTING AND CANCER IMAGING
– REQUIRED COVERAGE AND PROHIBITED COST-SHARING**

Requiring certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for genetic testing for certain individuals who may have an increased risk of developing cancer and follow-up evidence-based cancer imaging for individuals with an increased risk of developing cancer; and prohibiting certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations from imposing a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible requirement on the coverage.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

IN, § 15-861 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 477 **Cecil County Senators****PORT OF DEPOSIT STATE HISTORICAL PARK – SIZE AND SCOPE**

Altering the size and scope of the Port of Deposit State Historical Park; extending the deadline for the Bainbridge Development Corporation to transfer certain property to the Department of Natural Resources to June 1, 2026; and altering the purpose for which a certain appropriation may be used.

EMERGENCY BILL

NR, § 5-1012(g), Chapter 39 of the Acts of 2022, as amended, § 5, and Chapter 602 of the Acts of 2023, § 2 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 478 **Senator Gallion, et al****PUBLIC UTILITIES – SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATIONS –
LOCAL APPROVAL**

Prohibiting the Public Service Commission from approving a certificate of public convenience and necessity for a solar energy generating station unless the Commission receives written approval for the construction of the generating station from each county or municipal corporation where the generating station is proposed to be located.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

PU, § 7-207(i) - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 479 **Senator Gallion, et al****BUILDING ENERGY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS – PUBLIC SAFETY, EMERGENCY, AND PUBLIC UTILITY BUILDINGS – EXCLUSION**

Altering the definition of “covered building” for purposes of certain building energy performance standards to exclude certain public safety, emergency, and public utility buildings.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

EN, § 2-1601(e) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 480 **Senators Gallion and Hester****DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES – CLEAN ENERGY PROCUREMENT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT**

Requiring the Department of General Services, in consultation with the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee, the University System of Maryland, and the Maryland Clean Energy Center, to establish a Clean Energy Procurement Program in the Department on or before January 1, 2026; requiring the Department, in consultation with certain entities, to issue a certain solicitation for a biogas contract; authorizing the Department to enter into a contract to procure biogas; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SF, §§ 4-325 and 4-326 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment and Budget and Taxation

SB 481 **Senators Gallion and Hester****ON-FARM HOME PROCESSING LICENSE – REVENUE LIMIT – PROHIBITION**

Prohibiting the Maryland Department of Health from limiting the amount of revenue the holder of an on-farm home processing license may derive from food processed under the license.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HG, § 21-309.3 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 482 **Senator Gallion, et al****PUBLIC MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS – STUDENT DISCIPLINE
(RIGHT TO TEACH ACT OF 2025)**

Authorizing a teacher in a public middle or high school in the State to take certain disciplinary actions in response to certain student behavior and to direct students to certain school officials; and prohibiting a county board of education from taking disciplinary action against a certain teacher for certain actions.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 7-306.1 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 483 **Senator Gallion, et al****PUBLIC UTILITIES – ALTERNATIVES TO CONSTRUCTION OF NEW
TRANSMISSION LINES**

Requiring the Public Service Commission to examine alternatives to the construction of a new transmission line if the use of an alternative will best maintain historical, environmental, or agricultural preservation areas, or will avoid any overlap with certain lots, parcels, or tracts of land.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

PU, § 7-209 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 484 **Senator Muse****UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS – RIGHTS, CIVIL ACTION, AND
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Providing that all unhoused individuals have certain rights; authorizing the Attorney General or an individual harmed by a violation of the Act to bring a certain civil action against a political subdivision, a unit of State or local government, or a government official; establishing an affirmative defense of necessity to certain criminal charges relating to trespass or disturbing the peace; and repealing the authority of a municipality to prohibit vagrancy.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CJ, §§ 3-2601 through 3-2605 - added and LG, § 5-207 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 485 **Senator Muse****PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY – SPEED MONITORING SYSTEMS – MARYLAND ROUTE 210**

Increasing civil penalties for violations recorded by speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 (Piscataway Highway) in Prince George’s County that involve exceeding the maximum speed limit by certain amounts; and repealing the termination provision for the authority to place speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 (Piscataway Highway).

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

TR, § 21-809(c) and Chapter 806 of the Acts of 2018, § 3, as amended - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 486 **Senator Lam****SCHOOL HEALTH AND WELLNESS PERSONNEL ASSESSMENT AND MARYLAND COUNCIL ON ADVANCEMENT OF SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS**

Requiring the State Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Health jointly to conduct an assessment of school health and wellness personnel each year; requiring the Departments, by December 1, 2027, and each December 1 thereafter, to jointly report to the General Assembly on the findings of the assessment; and altering the membership of the Maryland Council on Advancement of School-Based Health Centers from 15 to 16 members to include one school nurse to be nominated by the Maryland Association of School Health Nurses.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HG, § 19-22A-06(a) - amended and §§ 24-2501 and 24-2502 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 487 **Senators Jennings and Hester****PROCUREMENT – MAJOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

Requiring the Secretary of Information Technology to conduct a certain risk assessment of certain major information technology development projects under certain circumstances; authorizing the Secretary to recommend an increase in a certain limitation of liability amount under certain circumstances; requiring the Chief Procurement Officer to review a certain recommendation; authorizing the Chief Procurement Officer to approve a certain change to a certain limitation of liability; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SF, §§ 3.5-308 and 3.5-309(n) - amended and § 13-228 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 488 **Senator Jennings****MANUFACTURING BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX – EXEMPTION**

Exempting all personal property, including manufacturing inventory, in the possession of a person engaged in a manufacturing business that is a small- or medium-sized enterprise from the personal property tax, including any special taxing district property tax.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

TP, §§ 6-104, 7-109(a), 7-222, 7-225, and 7-508 - amended and § 7-225.1 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 489 **Senator Jennings****CRIMINAL LAW – FRAUD – POSSESSION OF RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY**

Prohibiting a person from possessing or claiming a right to possess residential real property the person does not lawfully possess or own, with the intent to defraud another; authorizing the owner of certain residential real property to file a certain sworn affidavit and requiring a sheriff to remove a certain person from residential real property under certain circumstances; and providing that the Act does not prohibit the owner of property from filing a wrongful detainer action.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, § 8-906 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 490 **Senator Kagan, et al**

STATE BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, TASK FORCES, AND WORKGROUPS – ELIMINATION OF CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF DIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

Eliminating citizenship requirements for boards and commissions; and requiring that members of boards, committees, commissions, task forces, and workgroups reflect the full diversity of the State to the extent practicable.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

BOP, BR, CS, CR, EC, EN, FL, GP, HG, HO, LE, NR, PS, SG, and TR, Various Sections - amended and SG, § 10-1702 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 491 **Senator Gile, et al**

GENERAL PROVISIONS – VETERANS BENEFITS – HONORABLE DISCHARGE

Defining “honorable discharge” with respect to any State program of benefits, rights, or privileges applicable to a veteran to include certain discharges based on an incident or incidents relating to a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury made by an individual licensed to provide health services at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facility, or an experience of sexual trauma disclosed to an individual licensed to provide health care services at a certain Veterans Affairs facility.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

GP, § 1-109.1 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 492 **Senator McKay**

MARYLAND COMMISSION TO STUDY THE DENTAL HYGIENIST SHORTAGE – ESTABLISHMENT

Establishing the Maryland Commission to Study the Dental Hygienist Shortage; providing that the purpose of the Commission is to support the State’s efforts to improve the oral health of Marylanders by ensuring the stability and sustainability of the State’s dental hygiene workforce; and requiring the Commission to submit an interim report by December 1, 2025, and a final report of its findings and recommendations by December 1, 2026, to the General Assembly, the Maryland Department of Health, and the Higher Education Commission.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

SB 493 **Senator Jackson**

MARYLAND PEDIATRIC CANCER FUND – FUNDING

Altering the fiscal years during which the Governor is required to include in the annual budget bill a certain appropriation to the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund; altering the funding source of the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund to include money from the Cigarette Restitution Fund; and altering uses of the Cigarette Restitution Fund to include the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HG, § 20-120 - amended and SF, § 7-317(f)(1) and (g) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED *January 22, 2025***SJ 3** **Senator Benson**

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION – THE AMERICAN DREAM

Affirming Maryland’s commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) as a foundation of the American Dream; and encouraging certain individuals and groups to adopt and uphold DEI principles.

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment