



SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions
2025 Maryland General Assembly Session

January 24, 2025
Schedule 13

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 23, 2025*

SB 494 **Senator Ellis**

PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIPS – PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS, COMMUNITY
BENEFIT AGREEMENTS, AND USE OF REGISTERED APPRENTICES

Establishing requirements related to project labor agreements, community benefit agreements, and the use of registered apprentices under procurement contracts and public-private partnerships.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SF, §§ 10A-103.1, 10A-103.2, and §§ 17-1001 through 17-1005 - added and § 11-203(c), (e)(5), (g), (i), (j), and (k) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

Department of Legislative Services

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SB 495 **Senator Ellis****OPIOID RESTITUTION FUND – AUTHORIZED USES**

Altering the allowable uses of the Opioid Restitution Fund to provide funds for the operating expenses and personnel costs for investigations, enforcement actions, and other activities conducted by the Opioids Enforcement Unit within the Office of the Attorney General that are related to the recovery of funds from opioid-related judgments or settlements.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SF, § 7-331(f) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 496 **Senator Ellis****DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – COMPLAINT PORTAL AND ANNUAL REPORT**

Requiring the Department of Commerce to create and maintain a complaint portal for reporting when a governmental unit takes longer than 60 days to process an application for a license, form, certificate, certification, permit, or registration for a business or nonprofit organization; and requiring the Department, by September 15, 2025, and each September 15 thereafter, to submit an annual report to certain committees of the General Assembly on the complaints filed through the portal.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

EC, § 2.5-110 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 497 **Senator Ellis****DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – MARYLAND ONESTOP – REQUIRED STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL INFORMATION**

Requiring the Department of Information Technology by December 1, 2025, and periodically thereafter, to update certain information available on the Maryland OneStop portal, the internet-based statewide licensing portal managed by the Department; requiring, beginning on July 1, 2026, each county and municipal corporation, in coordination with the Department, to make certain information available on the portal; and requiring each county and municipal corporation to periodically update certain information.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SF, § 3.5-319 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 498 **Senator Ellis****MOTOR VEHICLES – SCHOOL BUSES – SEAT BELTS**

Requiring the public school safety education program to include student instruction concerning school bus safety and the proper use of seat belts on school buses; requiring that school buses purchased after July 1, 2027, and registered in the State be equipped with, for every seat on the school bus, 3–point seat belts that are accessible to passengers; and prohibiting a civil action for damages based on the failure of a school bus operator to ensure that an occupant of a school bus was wearing a seat belt.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

ED, § 7-410 and TR, §§ 21-1118, 22-412, and 22-412.3 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 499 **Senator McCray (By Request – Baltimore City Administration)****BALTIMORE CITY – HIGHWAY USER REVENUES CAPITAL GRANTS
– CALCULATION**

Increasing, beginning in fiscal year 2028, the percentage, from 9.5% to 12.2%, used to calculate a capital grant based on highway user revenues that is required to be appropriated to Baltimore City.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

TR, § 8-403(b)(5) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 500 **Senator McCray (By Request – Baltimore City Administration)****BALTIMORE CITY – SPEED MONITORING SYSTEMS – INTERSTATE
83**

Increasing from two to four the number of speed monitoring systems that may be placed on Interstate 83 in Baltimore City; and making permanent the authorization to place speed monitoring systems on Interstate 83 in Baltimore City.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

TR, § 21-809(b)(1)(vii)2. and Chapter 628 of the Acts of 2021, § 2 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 501 Senator McCray (By Request – Baltimore City Administration)**BALTIMORE CITY – SPEED MONITORING SYSTEM CITATIONS – LATE FEES**

Requiring that a citation generated by a speed monitoring system located in Baltimore City include certain information regarding late fees; and authorizing the Baltimore Police Department to charge a late fee for the failure to pay a civil penalty or contest liability within a certain time frame for a citation generated by a speed monitoring system located in Baltimore City.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

TR, § 21-809(d)(1) and (6) - amended and § 21-809(d)(6) - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 502 Senator Corderman, 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

TP, § 9-210 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 503 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

AB, § 31-202 - amended

Assigned to: Finance and Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 504 **Washington County Senators****HAGERSTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE POLICE FORCE – JURISDICTION**

Authorizing a Hagerstown Community College police officer to exercise powers granted to a peace and police officer within Washington County under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 16-407.1 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 505 **Senator Zucker****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: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 506 **Senator Henson****MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – USE OF REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS BY SCHOOLS**

Requiring elementary schools, secondary schools, and county school systems to use certain funds received for services provided under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program or the Maryland Children’s Health Insurance Program to provide additional positions for providers, paid internships for students seeking to become providers, stipends designed to address problems in provider recruitment and retention, and stipends for providers working in low-performing schools designed to encourage provider recruitment and retention.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

ED, § 5-244 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment and Finance

SB 507 Senator Henson**CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – DIAGNOSIS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY – EVIDENCE**

Providing that certain evidence of certain diagnoses is admissible in a criminal proceeding if the evidence tends to show that the defendant, at the time of the alleged offense, did or did not have the mental state required for the offense charged and is otherwise admissible; and requiring a judge or a District Court commissioner to consider any diagnosis for the defendant of a certain developmental disability or intellectual disability when making a pretrial release determination.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CJ, § 10-926 and CP, § 5-216 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 508 Senator Henson**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND HEALTH INSURANCE – REQUIRED COVERAGE FOR AESTHETIC SERVICES AND RESTORATIVE CARE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (HEALING OUR SCARS ACT)**

Requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, health maintenance organizations, and managed care organizations to provide coverage to victims of domestic violence for aesthetic services and restorative care determined to be medically necessary for the treatment of physical injuries caused by domestic violence.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

HG, §§ 15-102.3(m) and 15-103(a)(2)(xxv) and IN, § 15-861 - added and HG, § 15-103(a)(2)(xxiii) and (xxiv) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 509 Senator Henson**PROHIBITED POSSESSION OF FIREARMS – ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT RESPONDENTS**

Prohibiting a person from possessing a regulated firearm, rifle, or shotgun if the person is currently a respondent subject to a court order to comply with certain assisted outpatient treatment; and requiring a court to promptly report certain information through a certain data portal if the court orders a person to comply with certain assisted outpatient treatment.

CONTINGENT – EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HG, § 10-6A-02(b) and PS, §§ 5-133(b), 5-133.2, and 5-205(b) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 510 **Senator Henson****EXCESS OWNERSHIP OF SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCES EXCISE TAX (END HEDGE FUND CONTROL OF MARYLAND HOMES ACT OF 2025)**

Imposing an excise tax on the acquisition and excess ownership of certain single-family residences in the State by certain entities; providing for the calculation, collection, and distribution of the excise tax; establishing the Down Payment and Settlement Expense Loan Program Fund which may be used only to provide financing for down payment and settlement expenses to enable eligible homebuyers to purchase homes; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HS, § 4-310 - added and TG, Various Sections - added and amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 511 **Senator Henson****PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS – PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS – PLAN REQUIREMENTS (PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENT SUPPORT ACT)**

Requiring certain public senior higher education institutions to adopt a plan regarding pregnant and parenting students to include referral to on-campus or off-campus services to assist regarding the availability of or eligibility for certain government assistance programs and any other programs, scholarships, or subsidies that may be available for pregnant and parenting students; and requiring each public senior higher education institution to post the plan on the institution's website on or before August 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 15-140 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 512 **Senator Henson****CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION OF MINORS – ADMISSIBILITY OF STATEMENTS**

Establishing a certain rebuttable presumption that a statement made by a minor during a custodial interrogation is involuntary and is inadmissible in a juvenile or criminal proceeding against the minor if the law enforcement officer intentionally used information known by the officer to be false in order to elicit the statement.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CJ, § 10-926 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 513 **Senator Henson**

REAL PROPERTY – UNLAWFULLY RESTRICTIVE COVENANT MODIFICATIONS – COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Altering notice requirements relating to the recordation of a restrictive covenant modification to an unlawfully restrictive covenant by authorizing a county or municipality to provide notice by publication in a certain newspaper once per week for 4 successive weeks, or by posting at a courthouse in a certain manner, or on the official website of a county or municipality.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

RP, § 3-112(c) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 514 **Senator Henson**

LANDLORD AND TENANT – RESIDENTIAL LEASES – PROSPECTIVE TENANT CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK (MARYLAND FAIR CHANCE HOUSING ACT)

Prohibiting a landlord from requiring or requesting from a prospective tenant certain information relating to criminal history and prohibiting a landlord from considering certain information when evaluating the prospective tenant; permitting a landlord to consider certain criminal history information prior to extending a conditional offer to a prospective tenant and requiring the landlord to consider certain information provided by a prospective tenant relating to a criminal history records check; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CL, § 13-301(14)(xlii) and RP, § 8-218(b) - amended and CL, § 13-301(14)(xliv) and RP, §§ 8-2A-01 through 8-2A-11 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 515 **Senator King**

PUBLIC LIBRARIES – STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER – FUNDING

Altering the calculation of certain funding for the State Library Resource Center for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 23-205(c) and (d) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 516 **Senator King****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.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

TP, §§ 7-227, 9-213, and 9-214 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 517 **Senator King****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: Education, Energy, and the Environment and Budget and Taxation

SB 518 **Senator Charles****HEALTH INSURANCE – SCREENING FOR OVARIAN CANCER – REQUIRED COVERAGE AND PROHIBITED COST SHARING**

Requiring certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide individuals over at least 45 years of age with coverage for certain preventive screenings for ovarian cancer, including MRI and CT scans; and prohibiting the insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations from imposing a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible requirement on coverage for the preventive screenings.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

IN, § 15-861 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 519 **Senator Charles****PROSTATE CANCER CARE ACCESS GRANT PROGRAM AND FUND – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Prostate Cancer Care Access Grant Program to provide grants to improve awareness of and access to prostate cancer care services for individuals in the State; establishing the Prostate Cancer Care Access Grant Program Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to provide grants under the Program; requiring the Governor in each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028, to include an appropriation of \$100,000 for the program in the annual budget bill; and requiring that the interest earnings of the Fund be credited to the Fund.

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

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HG, §§ 13-5501 through 13-5504 and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(ii)206. - added and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(ii)204. and 205. - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 520 **Senator Charles****MOTOR VEHICLES – SPEED MONITORING SYSTEMS – SAFETY CORRIDORS**

Authorizing the State Highway Administration to use speed monitoring systems in areas determined to be of high risk to vulnerable road users and priority corridors in the Administration’s Pedestrian Safety Action Plan; and defining “vulnerable road users” as individuals not traveling in a motor vehicle, including pedestrians, bicyclists, other cyclists, persons using personal conveyance or a mobility device such as a wheelchair, and persons on foot in a highway work zone.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

TR, §§ 12-118(c), 26-305(a), and 26-401 and CJ, GP, and IN, Various Sections - amended and TR, §§ 12-118(f) and 21-810.1 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 521 **Senator Charles****CHILD CUSTODY – REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION OF JOINT CUSTODY**

Establishing a rebuttable presumption in certain child custody proceedings that joint legal custody and joint physical custody for approximately equal periods of time are in the best interests of a child and establishing factors a court may consider when determining the best interests of the child; authorizing the court to award sole custody based on a preponderance of the evidence that a joint custody arrangement is not in the best interests of the child; requiring the court to enter certain factors on the record; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

FL, § 9-109 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 522 **Senator Charles****HOME BUILDERS – NEW HOME SALES – NOTICE OF APPLIANCE WARRANTY REGISTRATION**

Requiring a person registered to build a new home to include in a contract for the initial sale of a new home certain information about the warranties for appliances registered by the person.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

BR, § 4.5-603 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 523 **Senator Charles****STATE EMPLOYEES – CANCER SCREENING – PAID LEAVE**

Providing that certain State employees are entitled to up to 4 hours of paid cancer screening leave in any 12-month period after obtaining approval from their appointing authorities.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SP, § 9-1110 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 524 **Senator Charles, et al****HIGHER EDUCATION – RELIGIOUS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS –
CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL**

Exempting certain religious educational institutions accredited by certain accrediting bodies from the requirement to obtain a certificate of approval from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to operate in the State.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 11-202.1(b) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 525 **Senator Charles, et al****ILLEGAL DUMPING AND LITTER CONTROL LAW – VIDEO
EVIDENCE AND REWARD PROGRAMS**

Requiring each county to establish a certain 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; and requiring a program established under the Act to allow a member of the public to receive a portion of fines collected in relation to a violation of the Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, § 10-110(i) and (k) - amended and § 10-110(k) - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 526 **Senators Ellis and Lewis Young****COUNTIES – CONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALKS AND CROSSWALKS –
SAFE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Requiring a county board of education each year to prepare and post to the county's website a report that identifies pathways that public school students, who are ineligible for transportation services, may use to travel to school using only safe alternative routes under certain circumstances; requiring the governing body of a county each year to review a certain report and construct any sidewalks and crosswalks necessary to create safe alternative routes for public school students under certain circumstances; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 7-801(e) and LG, § 12-506.1 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 527 **Senators Carozza and Mautz****CITY OF SALISBURY – FIRE AND EXPLOSIVE INVESTIGATOR – AUTHORITY**

Providing that a City of Salisbury fire and explosive investigator has the same authority as the State Fire Marshal under certain circumstances; authorizing the City of Salisbury Fire Chief to limit the authority of a fire and explosive investigator under the Act; and requiring the City of Salisbury Fire Chief to express the limitation in a written policy.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR and PS, Various Sections - amended and added and CP, § 2-208.7 - added
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 528 **Senator Brooks, et al****SALES AND USE TAX – TAX-FREE DAY – VETERANS’ DAY**

Establishing November 11 as a tax-free day each year during which an exemption from the sales and use tax is provided for sales to certain veterans; requiring an individual, in order to qualify for the exemption, to provide the vendor evidence of eligibility for the exemption; and providing that evidence of eligibility may consist of a valid driver’s license or government-issued identification card that includes a notation indicating that the individual is a veteran.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

TG, § 11-246 - added
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 529 **Senator Brooks****BUSINESS OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS – PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS – EXAMINATION**

Requiring an applicant for a license to practice engineering to pass an examination in the fundamentals of engineering given by the State Board for Professional Engineers before passing the required examination in the principles and practice of engineering.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

BOP, § 14-305(d) - amended
Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 530 **Senator Brooks, et al**

VEHICLE LAWS – SPEED MONITORING SYSTEMS – RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

Establishing that certain provisions of law authorizing the use of speed monitoring systems in certain residential districts apply statewide; and requiring all speed limit signs on certain highways in residential districts to include certain signs.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

TR, § 21-809(b)(1)(vi) and (viii) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 531 **Senator Folden, et al**

JUVENILE LAW – CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION (JUVENILE JUSTICE RESTORATION ACT OF 2025)

Altering a certain provision of law authorizing a law enforcement officer to conduct an otherwise lawful custodial interrogation of a child if the child's parent, guardian, or custodian consents to the custodial interrogation of the child without the child's consultation with an attorney.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CJ, § 3-8A-14.2 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 532 **Senator Folden, 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: Judicial Proceedings

SB 533 **Senator Folden, et al****PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY – TIME LIMIT FOR FILING ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES**

Altering the deadline for the completion of the process of review by a certain investigating unit through disposition by an administrative charging committee under certain circumstances; requiring a law enforcement agency to file any administrative charges arising out of an investigation of alleged police officer misconduct that is not required to be reviewed by an administrative charging committee within a certain period of time; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

PS, § 3-113 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 534 **Senators Kagan and Gallion****ELECTION LAW – ELECTION JUDGES – COMPENSATION**

Requiring a local board of elections to pay an election judge compensation for completing a certain course of instruction only after the election judge actually serves an election day or early voting day; and authorizing a public school student in the State to both earn hours toward the service–learning graduation requirement and receive election judge compensation for service as an election judge.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

EL, § 10-205 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 535 **Senator Kramer****RESEARCH FACILITIES AND TESTING FACILITIES THAT USE ANIMALS – LICENSING AND REGULATIONS**

Requiring each research facility and testing facility in the State that uses animals in research, education, or testing to be licensed by the Department of Agriculture; applying certain provisions of law regarding the adoption of dogs and cats used for scientific research purposes to testing facilities; establishing a State Inspector of Animal Welfare in the Department to inspect research facilities and testing facilities; requiring a research facility and a testing facility to notify the State Inspector of certain violations; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

AG, §§ 15-101, 15-102, and 15-104 through 15-108 and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(ii)206. - added and AG and SF, Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 536 **Senator Kramer****RESEARCH FACILITIES AND TESTING FACILITIES THAT USE ANIMALS – REGULATION**

Establishing requirements for the use and treatment of dogs or cats by a research facility or testing facility; prohibiting a research facility and testing facility from using certain dogs and cats for research or testing purposes and performing devocalization procedures on dogs or cats; prohibiting a research facility and testing facility from using traditional animal test methods under certain circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

AG, §§ 15-101 through 15-103 and 15-105 through 15-107 - added and § 15-101 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 537 **Senator Kramer****RESEARCH FACILITIES AND TESTING FACILITIES THAT USE ANIMALS – ADOPTION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Applying certain provisions of law regarding the adoption of dogs and cats used for scientific research purposes to testing facilities; requiring certain research facilities and testing facilities to submit to the Department of Agriculture certain information regarding dogs and cats on or before January 31 each year; and requiring a school or an institution of higher education that uses animals for certain purposes to submit a report on the results of certain inspections to the General Assembly on or before December 31 each year.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

AG, §§ 15-101 and 15-103 through 15-106 - added and § 15-101 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 538 **Senators Kramer and Hershey****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: Finance

SB 539 **Senator Charles, et al****HEALTH OCCUPATIONS – PRESCRIPTIONS FOR CHILDREN
SUBJECT TO SHARED CUSTODY OR VISITATION SCHEDULES**

Requiring health care providers who are authorized to prescribe to issue two prescriptions of each drug prescribed for a child if a parent of the child presents the prescriber with a court-ordered or court-approved shared custody or visitation schedule; and requiring a health care provider authorized to dispense prescription drugs to fill the prescription under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HO, § 1-230 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 540 **Senator Charles, et al****COMMON OWNERSHIP COMMUNITIES – RECREATIONAL COMMON
AREAS – SENSITIVE INFORMATION AS CONDITION FOR ACCESS**

Prohibiting a cooperative housing corporation, condominium association, or homeowners association from requiring certain sensitive information of certain individuals as a condition for access to a recreational common area; and defining “sensitive information” as an individual’s Social Security card or Social Security number, Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, birth certificate, racial or ethnic origin, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, or religious or philosophical beliefs.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CA, § 5-6B-23.2 and RP, §§ 11-108.2 and 11B-111.11 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 541 **Senator Charles, 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 five 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; repealing a requirement that certain veterans’ organizations purchase or lease certain machines; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SG, § 9-112 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 542 **Senator Charles, et al**

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INDUSTRY – STUDY

Requiring the Governor’s Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs to contract with a third party to conduct a study of the structure and composition of the distribution and retail sector of the alcoholic beverages industry in the State and to make recommendations on identifying and eliminating barriers to minority participation in that industry; and requiring the Office to submit its report and recommendations on or before December 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

SB 543 **Senator Kagan**

ELECTION LAW – PROVISIONAL BALLOTS – NONPARTISAN BOARD OF EDUCATION CONTESTS

Providing that a voter is qualified to vote a provisional ballot if the provisional ballot was cast because the voter claimed a different political party affiliation from the political party affiliation on record for the voter and the voter made a selection in a nonpartisan board of education contest; and requiring a local board of canvassers to count only the votes cast in a nonpartisan board of education contest for those provisional ballots.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

EL, § 11-303(d) and (e) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 544 **Senator Bailey**

FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS – PORTABLE CHEMICAL TOILETS

Authorizing food establishments that are businesses that conduct agritourism, Class 4 limited wineries, or Class 8 farm breweries to comply with the requirement to provide a convenient lavatory by providing a portable chemical toilet that is supplied with approved hand drying devices, kept in a sanitary condition, and properly ventilated.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

HG, § 21-325 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 545 **Senator James****CRIMINAL LAW – CHILD PORNOGRAPHY – PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES**

Prohibiting a person from possessing more than 100 images of certain child pornography or possessing or viewing images of certain child pornography depicting a minor or an individual indistinguishable from an actual and identifiable child under the age of 13 years; providing that a violation of the Act is a felony and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 10 years; and providing that a sentence under the Act may be separate from and consecutive to or concurrent with a sentence imposed for certain other crimes.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, § 11-208.2 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 546 **Senator James****MUNICIPAL INCORPORATION – COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OR COUNTY COUNCIL – REQUIRED APPROVAL OF REFERENDUM REQUEST**

Requiring a certain organizing committee to make certain determinations and provide a certain report to the county commissioners or county council of a certain county regarding a proposed municipal incorporation; requiring the county commissioners or county council to approve a certain referendum request in a certain manner if a valid petition to incorporate an area as a municipality is presented by at least 40% of the registered voters who are residents of the area proposed to be incorporated; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

LG, §§ 4-205 through 4-207 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 547 **Senator James****COMMISSION TO STUDY HEALTH INSURANCE POOLING – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Commission to Study Health Insurance Pooling to study the pooling of public employee health insurance purchasing between the State, counties, municipal corporations, and county boards of education in the State to maximize value and efficiency while maintaining a broad package of benefits and reasonable premiums for public employees.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

SB 548 **Senator James****FAMILY LAW – CHILD CUSTODY – DETERMINATIONS**

Authorizing the court, in determining legal and physical custody in certain child custody proceedings, to consider certain factors; and authorizing the court to modify a child custody or visitation order if the court determines that there has been a material change in circumstances since the issuance of the order that related to the needs of the child or the ability of the parents to meet those needs and that modifying the order is in the best interests of the child.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

FL, §§ 9-201 and 9-202 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 549 **Senator Love, et al****CIVIL ACTIONS – IMMUNITY – DISCLOSURE OF ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUALLY ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR (STOP SILENCING SURVIVORS ACT)**

Establishing an immunity from liability for a person who discloses information about allegations of sexually assaultive behavior if the person acts in good faith; establishing a presumption of good faith unless it is shown by clear and convincing evidence that the person acted with actual malice or intentionally or recklessly disclosed false information; providing for the award of attorney's fees and costs in certain circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CJ, § 5-809 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 550 **Senators McCray and Hayes****BALTIMORE CITY – PROPERTY TAX – AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A SUBCLASS AND SPECIAL RATE FOR PROPERTY NO LONGER USED FOR NONPROFIT PURPOSES**

Authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City to establish, by law, a subclass of real property consisting of certain property owned by a nonprofit organization but no longer used for the purpose for which the nonprofit organization was established and to set a special property tax rate for that property.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

TP, § 6-202.2 - added and § 6-302 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 551 **Senator Bailey, et al****PRIVATE PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE – COLLISIONS WITH WILD ANIMALS – PROHIBITED ACTIONS BY INSURERS**

Prohibiting an insurer, with respect to private passenger motor vehicle insurance, from increasing a premium, adding a surcharge, or removing, altering, or refusing to consider a discount based on accidents or losses caused by a collision with a free-roaming wild animal and for which the insured was not at fault for the loss.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

IN, § 27-501(k) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 552 **Senator Augustine****EDUCATION – HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS – FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION**

Requiring each public high school student, beginning in the 2026–2027 school year, to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the U.S. Department of Education or the Maryland State Financial Aid Application (MSFAA) to the Maryland Higher Education Commission, or a certain financial information form to a county board of education as a requirement for graduation.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

ED, § 7-205.1(m) - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 553 **Senator Augustine****VICTIMS AND WITNESSES – U NONIMMIGRANT STATUS – CERTIFICATION OF VICTIM HELPFULNESS**

Altering the criteria for determining whether a certain victim or the victim's parent, guardian, or next friend shall be considered to be helpful, to have been helpful, or likely to be helpful to the detection, investigation, or prosecution of certain criminal activity for a certain purpose; altering the time periods within which a certain certifying entity shall certify or decline a certain form under certain circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CP, § 11-931 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 554 Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request – Office of the Attorney General)

PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT – FRIVOLOUS, VEXATIOUS, OR ABUSIVE REQUESTS – REMEDIES

Authorizing the custodian of a record to file a certain complaint relating to a Public Information Act request or pattern of requests with the Public Information Act Compliance Board or circuit court; authorizing the Compliance Board to issue a certain order or dismiss a complaint under certain circumstances; authorizing a complainant to appeal a certain decision of the Compliance Board; and authorizing the circuit court to issue a certain order under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

GP, §§ 4-1A-04(b), 4-1A-10, and 4-362(a), (b), (c), and (g) - amended and 4-1A-05(c) - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment and Judicial Proceedings

SB 555 Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request – Office of the Attorney General)

PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT – DENIALS – PENDING LITIGATION

Establishing that a custodian may deny inspection of records pertaining to pending or reasonably anticipated litigation to which the State or an officer or employee of the State is or may be a party.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

GP, § 4-357 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 556 Senator Ready

REAL PROPERTY – FRAUDULENT POSSESSION AND UNAUTHORIZED LEASE OR LISTING – PROHIBITION AND REMOVAL

Prohibiting the knowing and willful presentation of certain false documents in order to possess real property; prohibiting a person from leasing to another real property the person does not own or is not authorized to lease and from listing or advertising for sale real property if the person knows the purported seller is not the owner of the property; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, § 8-906 and RP, § 14-132.1 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 557 **Senator Ready, et al**

VEHICLE–MILES–TRAVELED TAX AND ASSOCIATED MANDATED DEVICES – PROHIBITION (TRANSPORTATION FREEDOM ACT OF 2025)

Prohibiting the State or a local jurisdiction from imposing or levying a vehicle–miles–traveled tax or certain other similar fees, tolls, or taxes; prohibiting the State or a local jurisdiction from requiring the installation of a device in or on a privately owned vehicle to facilitate the reporting of vehicle miles traveled; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

TG, § 9-401 and TR, § 22-107 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 558 **Senators Ready and Gallion**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – FISCAL NOTES – FAMILY IMPACT STATEMENT

Requiring the fiscal note for proposed legislation prepared by the Department of Legislative Services to include a family impact statement; and prohibiting a committee from voting on a bill unless a family impact statement is attached to or included in the fiscal note.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SG, §§ 2-1501 and 2-1505(a) and (e) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 559 **Senator Benson**

TRANSPORTATION – STUDY ON SPEED LIMITS – INTERSTATE 495 AND CONNECTED HIGHWAYS

Requiring the Department of Transportation to conduct a study on the implications of requiring the speed limit to deviate by only 5 miles per hour at locations where a highway in the State connects to Interstate 495; and requiring the Department to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

SB 560 **Senators M. Washington and Lam****PUBLIC HEALTH – MARYLAND COMMISSION ON HEALTH EQUITY
– MEMBERSHIP AND PURPOSES**

Altering the membership of the Maryland Commission on Health Equity; and altering the purposes of the Commission to include employing a health equity framework to examine the impact of access to transportation, transit programs, and transit services and proximity to health care facilities and primary care providers on the health of residents of the State.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HG, §§ 13-4303(a) and 13-4305(a) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 561 **Senators Hershey and Mautz****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

CL, § 17-304(g) - amended and CA, § 5-650.1 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 562 **Senator Hershey, et al****STATE DESIGNATIONS – STATE COCKTAIL – ORIGINAL
MARYLAND ORANGE CRUSH**

Designating the original Maryland orange crush as the State cocktail.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

GP, §§ 7-313 through 7-319 - renumbered and § 7-313 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 563 **Senator Hester, et al****MARYLAND FAIR AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROMISE FUND – ESTABLISHMENT (MARYLAND FAIR AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROMISE ACT)**

Establishing the Maryland Fair and Agricultural Education Promise Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to advance agricultural fairs and education in the State; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; requiring \$1,450,000 of proceeds from the State lottery, before being allocated to the General Fund, to be allocated to the Fund; and repealing the requirement that a certain amount of annual proceeds from the State horse racing special fund be used to promote State agricultural fairs and education.

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

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

AG, §§ 10-2201 through 10-2203 - added and BR, SF, and SG, Various Sections - amended and added

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

SB 564 **Senators Hester and Salling****CATASTROPHIC EVENT ACCOUNT – TRANSFER OF FUNDS – STATE DISASTER RECOVERY FUND**

Authorizing the transfer of funds from the Catastrophic Event Account to the State Disaster Recovery Fund if the balance of the Fund has been depleted due to use or transfer or the estimated costs for providing adequate disaster relief for a natural disaster or catastrophic situation are in excess of the Fund's balance; and altering the number of days the Legislative Policy Committee has to review and make comments before the Governor may transfer certain funds from the Account through budget amendment.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

PS, § 14-110.5(f) and SF, § 7-324 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 565 **Senator Charles, et al****MOTOR VEHICLES – ACCIDENTS – REQUIRED TESTING FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING (MATEO'S LAW)**

Requiring any person involved in a motor vehicle accident that results in the death of, or a life threatening injury to, another person to submit to breath and blood testing for impaired driving.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

TR, § 16-205.1(c) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 566 Senator Sydnor**REAL PROPERTY – FILING FEE FOR RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE – INCREASE**

Increasing the filing fee required to accompany an order to docket or a complaint to foreclose a mortgage or deed of trust on residential property from \$300 to \$600.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

RP, § 7-105.1(e) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 567 Senator Sydnor**CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONERS**

Prohibiting a District Court commissioner from issuing an arrest warrant to an individual other than a police officer or a State's Attorney.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CJ, § 2-607(c) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 568 Anne Arundel County Senators**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS – PART-TIME DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR – COMPENSATION**

Increasing the annual salary of a part-time deputy chief inspector employed by the Board of License Commissioners for Anne Arundel County from \$9,000 to \$18,000.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

AB, § 11-206 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 569 Anne Arundel County Senators**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – PUBLIC SCHOOLS – SCHOOL SCHEDULE OPTIONS**

Authorizing the Anne Arundel County Board of Education to operate certain schools within the county using a school scheduling model that eliminates early dismissal days if the minimum 1,080-hour requirement is met.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 7-103(a), (f), and (g) - amended and § 7-103(f) - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 570 Anne Arundel County Senators

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
– CHIEF INSPECTOR – COMPENSATION

Increasing the minimum and maximum salary amounts for the chief inspector employed by the Board of License Commissioners for Anne Arundel County.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

AB, § 11-204(b)(2) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 571 Anne Arundel County Senators

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – CLASS A (OFF-SALE) AND CLASS D
(OFF-SALE) LICENSES – POPULATION RATIO QUOTA

Establishing a population ratio quota for certain Class A (off-sale) and Class D (off-sale) licenses in Anne Arundel County; specifying a certain official map to be used to identify certain tax assessment districts for purposes of the population ratio quota; and prohibiting the Board of License Commissioners for Anne Arundel County from approving the transfer of certain alcoholic beverages licenses under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

AB, § 11-1602 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 572 Anne Arundel County Senators

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES

Repealing certain limitations on the authority of the Anne Arundel County Council to grant exemptions from or credits against development impact fees.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

PLL of Anne Arundel Co, Art. 2, § 17-11-215 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 573 Senator McCray (By Request – Baltimore City Administration)

BALTIMORE CITY – ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT – AMOUNT OF
FINES AND PENALTIES

Increasing the maximum amount that Baltimore City is authorized to establish for civil and criminal fines and penalties for violating certain ordinances, rules, or regulations from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

The Charter of Baltimore City, Art. II, § (48) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 574 Howard County Senators

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION – BOARD MEMBER TERMS AND COMPENSATION COMMISSION HO. CO. 2–25

Altering the terms of the members of the Howard County Board of Education; establishing the Howard County Board of Education Compensation Commission; and requiring the Commission to study the salaries of the Members of the Howard County Board of Education and issue a report to the Howard County Council by September 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

LG, §§ 28-1A-01 through 28-1A-07 - renumbered and §§ 28-1A-01 through 28-1A-08 - added and ED, §§ 3-701(d)(2) and 3-703 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 575 Howard County Senators

HOWARD COUNTY – PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING – BOARD OF EDUCATION HO. CO. 3–25

Authorizing the governing body of Howard County to establish a system of public campaign financing for members of the county board of education.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

EL, § 13-505 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 576 Senator Lam, et al

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – MANDATORY MEETINGS ON RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL MATTERS – EMPLOYEE ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (MARYLAND WORKER FREEDOM ACT)

Prohibiting employers from taking certain adverse actions against an employee or applicant for employment because the employee or applicant declines to attend or participate in employer–sponsored meetings during which the employer communicates the opinion of the employer regarding religious matters or political matters.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

LE, § 3-718 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 577 **Senator Lam****PUBLIC SAFETY – DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE TO PURCHASERS OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION**

Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to prepare certain literature relating to firearms and ammunition and to distribute the literature to all county health departments in the State; requiring each county health department to distribute certain literature to all establishments that sell firearms or ammunition within the county; requiring establishments that sell firearms or ammunition in the State to make certain literature visible and available and to distribute the literature to purchasers of firearms and ammunition; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

PS, §§ 5-901 and 5-902 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 578 **Senator Lam****BUSINESS REGULATION – HOME IMPROVEMENT GUARANTY FUND – ALTERATIONS**

Authorizing the Maryland Home Improvement Commission to award a claimant a certain amount for attorney's fees from the Home Improvement Guaranty Fund; and altering the content in a final court judgment or final award in arbitration that a claimant must provide to the Commission to claim payment from the Fund under a certain provision of law.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

BR, §§ 8-405(e) and 8-409(a) - amended

Assigned to: Finance