



# SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions  
2025 Maryland General Assembly Session

**January 27, 2025**  
**Schedule 14**

---

**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 579**     **Senator Corderman**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT TORT CLAIMS ACT – HAGERSTOWN MULTI-USE SPORTS AND EVENTS FACILITY, INC.

Altering the definition of “local government” under the Local Government Tort Claims Act to include the Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Events Facility, Inc., in Washington County.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CJ, § 5-301(d) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

### **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 580**     **Washington County Senators****WASHINGTON COUNTY – PUBLIC SAFETY – BUILDINGS USED FOR AGRITOURISM**

Adding Washington County to the list of counties where an existing agricultural building used for agritourism is not considered a change of occupancy that requires a building permit under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

PS, § 12-508 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 581**     **Senator Henson****CIVIL ACTIONS – TORTIOUS INJURY TO OR DEATH OF PET – COMPENSATORY DAMAGES**

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

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CJ, § 11-110 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 582**     **Senator Henson****SALE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY – TAXES AND OFFERS TO PURCHASE (END HEDGE FUND CONTROL OF MARYLAND HOMES ACT OF 2025)**

Authorizing a person who offers for sale to a third party improved single-family residential real property, for the first 30 days, to accept an offer to purchase the property made only by an individual, a community development organization, a nonprofit organization, or a real estate enterprise that owns an interest in less than 3% of all residential real property in the county; and altering the rate of the State transfer tax payable for an instrument of writing for a sale of certain residential real property under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HS, § 4-310, RP, § 10-804, TG, Various Sections, and TP, § 13-203(c) - added and TG, Various Sections and TP, § 13-203(a) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation and Judicial Proceedings

**SB 583 Senator Henson****LEGISLATIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS – ELIGIBILITY AND USE –  
REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL PROGRAM**

Exempting certain applicants for a senatorial scholarship from certain examination requirements; and authorizing certain uses of senatorial and Delegate scholarships for applicants who plan to complete the Real Property Appraiser Qualification Criteria of the Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal Program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, §§ 18-402, 18-405, 18-501, 18-503, and 18-506 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 584 Senators Waldstreicher and Smith****CIVIL ACTIONS – NONECONOMIC DAMAGES – PERSONAL INJURY  
AND WRONGFUL DEATH**

Repealing certain limitations on noneconomic damages in civil actions for personal injury or wrongful death; and applying the Act prospectively.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CJ, § 11-108 - repealed

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 585 Senators Waldstreicher and Smith****CRIMINAL LAW – EXCEPTION TO ARMED TRESPASS PROHIBITION  
– RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS**

Establishing an exception to the prohibition against entering or trespassing on real property while wearing, carrying, or transporting a firearm for a retired law enforcement official who has retired in good standing from a law enforcement agency of the United States, the State or another state, or a local unit in the State or another state under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, § 6-411 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 586**     **Senator Muse****CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS – METHODIST CHURCH TRUST REQUIREMENT – REPEAL**

Repealing a requirement that the assets of any Methodist Church be held in trust for the United Methodist Church and be subject to the control of the Church; repealing a provision of law providing that the absence of a trust clause in any deed or conveyance executed before June 1, 1953, does not exclude certain local churches from certain provisions of law or responsibilities related to the United Methodist Church; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CA, §§ 5-326 and 5-327 - repealed and § 5-328 - renumbered

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 587**     **Senator Muse****STATE GOVERNMENT – MARYLAND REPARATIONS COMMISSION**

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 588**     **Senator Carozza, et al****EDUCATION – INTERSCHOLASTIC AND INTRAMURAL JUNIOR VARSITY AND VARSITY TEAMS AND SPORTS – DESIGNATION (FAIRNESS IN GIRLS' SPORTS ACT)**

Requiring certain interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams or sports sponsored by certain schools to be expressly designated in a certain manner; prohibiting certain interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams or sports from including certain students; prohibiting certain entities from taking certain adverse actions against a school under certain circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 7-118 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 589**     **Senator Augustine****OPIOID RESTITUTION FUND – INTERACTIVE DASHBOARD**

Requiring the Maryland Office of Overdose Response, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health, to develop and maintain an interactive dashboard on Opioid Restitution Fund spending to share prescription opioid–related settlement information with the public; requiring counties and municipalities receiving settlement funding to provide certain information to the Department to include on the dashboard in a certain manner; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HG, § 7.5-1001 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 590**     **Senator King****MOTOR VEHICLES – RECKLESS, NEGLIGENT, AND AGGRESSIVE DRIVING**

Altering the penalties and points assessments related to the offenses of reckless, negligent, and aggressive driving; and adding certain motor vehicle offenses as elements that may contribute to charges for reckless or aggressive driving.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

TR, Various Sections - repealed, renumbered, added, and amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 591**     **Senator Augustine****ENVIRONMENT – COVERED ELECTRONIC DEVICE RECYCLING PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT (ELECTRONICS RECYCLING HEALTH AND SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT)**

Establishing the Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program in the Department of the Environment; altering the contents and use of the State Recycling Trust Fund; establishing a separate covered electronic device recycling account and a separate covered electronic device manufacturer registration fee account within the Fund; altering certain provisions of law relating to registration fees for certain manufacturers of covered electronic devices; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

EN, Various Sections - amended and §§ 9-1728.3 and 9-1728.4 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 592**     **Senator Augustine****PUBLIC HEALTH – HEALTH CARE QUALITY FUND FOR COMMUNITY–BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Health Care Quality Fund for Community–Based Behavioral Health Programs in the Maryland Department of Health to provide funding for training, grant awards, demonstration projects, or other purposes designed to improve behavioral health care services in the State; requiring the Department to pay to the Comptroller certain civil penalties collected from behavioral health programs and the Comptroller to distribute the penalties into the Fund; and requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HG, § 7.5-405 and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(ii)206. - added and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(ii)204. and 205. - amended

Assigned to: Finance and Budget and Taxation

**SB 593**     **Senator Ellis (By Request – Joint Committee on the Management of Public Funds)****MUNICIPALITIES AND SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS – ANNUAL AUDIT WAIVER – THRESHOLD INCREASE**

Increasing from \$250,000 to \$700,000 the annual revenue threshold at which the Legislative Auditor may alter the frequency that certain municipalities or special taxing districts are required to have audits of their financial records performed.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

LG, § 16-305 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 594**     **Senator Ellis****PUBLIC HEALTH – USE OF OPIOID RESTITUTION FUND AND TRAINING UNDER THE OVERDOSE RESPONSE PROGRAM**

Altering the training that the Maryland Department of Health is authorized to provide under the Overdose Response Program to include emphasis on the restoration of breathing, avoiding withdrawal, and compassionate postoverdose support and care; clarifying that the use of the Opioid Restitution Fund is subject to certain restrictions; and altering the authorized uses of the Opioid Restitution Fund to include addressing racial disparities in access to prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support services.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HG, § 13-3103(b) and SF, § 7-331(f) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 595**     **Senator Rosapepe****STATE LOTTERY FUND – LAUREL RACE COURSE – LOCAL IMPACT AID**

Requiring the Comptroller, beginning in fiscal year 2026, to distribute from the State Lottery Fund \$500,000 of supplemental local impact aid to Anne Arundel County, Howard County, and the City of Laurel from the proceeds of the Racetrax lottery game to be used for certain programs and services in the communities surrounding Laurel Race Course; specifying the purposes for and manner in which the supplemental local impact aid may be utilized; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SG, § 9-120(b)(1)(xiii) and (xiv) - amended and § 9-120(b)(1)(xiv), (3), and (4) - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 596**     **Washington County Senators****WASHINGTON COUNTY – PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

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

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

TP, § 9-323(f) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 597**     **Senators Corderman and McKay****HIGHER EDUCATION – MARYLAND GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS**

Expanding eligibility under the Maryland Graduate and Professional Scholarship Program to include certain students attending the Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 18-2601 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 598**     **Senator Hettleman****PROPERTY TAX – LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT – VALUATION OF PROPERTY**

Requiring the supervisor of assessments for a county to evaluate a certain net operating income calculation when determining the value of commercial real property that is developed under low-income housing provisions of federal law; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

TP, § 8-105(a) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 599**     **Senators Hettleman and Augustine****BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM – FUNDING**

Requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2029 an appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HG, § 7.5-208(e) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation



**SB 600**     **Senator McCray****BALTIMORE CITY – STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEMS – AUTHORIZATION**

Authorizing the use of stop sign monitoring systems in school zones in Baltimore City, if authorized by local law; providing that the owner or driver of a motor vehicle recorded failing to obey a stop sign is subject to a citation and a certain civil penalty under certain circumstances; establishing certain defenses to a charge of an alleged violation recorded by a stop sign monitoring system; and prohibiting a contractor administering a stop sign monitoring system from being compensated in a certain manner.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

CJ, §§ 4-401(13), 7-302(e)(1) thru (4), and 10-311(f) and (g) - amended and CJ, § 10-311(f) and TR, § 21-707.2 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 601**     **Senator Brooks****EDUCATION – DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF SERVICE MEMBERS – ADVANCE ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES**

Requiring a county superintendent of schools to allow a certain dependent child of a service member to advance enroll in a school in the county in a certain manner; requiring a local school system to coordinate with the parents or guardians of a certain child with a disability and the school district in a certain sending state to prevent a delay in transferring the child; requiring the Secretary of Veterans and Military Families to publish information on the advance enrollment procedures established by the Act; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 7-115.1 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 602**     **Senator Brooks, et al****COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION – SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS – PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT**

Requiring each county board of education to publish on its website a certain list of special education service delivery models provided for parentally-placed private school students; and defining “parentally-placed private school student” as a child with a disability enrolled by the parent or guardian of the child in a private elementary or secondary school or facility, including a religious school or facility.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 8-419 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 603**     **Senator Zucker, et al****UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK CAMPUS – TERPSEXCEED PROGRAM – FUNDING**

Authorizing the Governor to include in the annual budget bill, beginning in fiscal year 2027, an appropriation of \$350,000 to the University of Maryland, College Park Campus TerpsEXCEED (EXperiencing College through Education and Employment Discovery) Program to provide educational and employment opportunities to students with intellectual disabilities.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 13-107 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 604**     **Senators Waldstreicher and Ready****CRIMINAL LAW – DISTRIBUTION OF HEROIN OR FENTANYL CAUSING SERIOUS BODILY INJURY OR DEATH (VICTORIA, SCOTTIE, ASHLEIGH, AND YADER’S LAW)**

Prohibiting an individual from distributing heroin or fentanyl or chemical analogues of heroin or fentanyl, the use of which results in the death or serious bodily injury of another; and providing that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a felony and, in addition to any other penalty imposed for a certain violation, on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 20 years.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, § 5-602.1 and CP, § 4-201(j) - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 605 Senator Zucker****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: Budget and Taxation

**SB 606 Senator West****RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY – TENANTS' RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL**

Clarifying the circumstances under which liability for the failure to comply with certain requirements relating to a tenant's right of first refusal to purchase residential property is restricted to the owner of the property and does not attach to the property.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

RP, § 8-119(h)(1) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 607 Senator West****HUMAN REMAINS – TRANSPORTATION PROTECTION AGREEMENTS**

Excluding transportation protection agreements from the definition of "preneed burial contract" and "pre-need contract" under the Maryland Cemetery Act and the Maryland Morticians and Funeral Directors Act, respectively; and providing that transportation protection agreements are not insurance and are not subject to regulation under certain provisions of law.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

BR, HO, and IN, Various Sections - added and amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 608**     **Senators Augustine and Smith**

**CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – U NONIMMIGRANT STATUS PETITIONS**

Altering the requirements for certification of a U Nonimmigrant Status Petition; altering the individuals eligible to request a certain official to certify victim helpfulness relating to certification of a U Nonimmigrant Status Petition; and authorizing the disclosure of certain information under certain circumstances.

**EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025**

CP, §§ 11-930 and 11-931 - amended and § 11-932 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings