



# SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions  
2025 Maryland General Assembly Session

**January 30, 2025**  
**Schedule 17**

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**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.

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## **SENATE BILLS INTRODUCED *January 26, 2025***

**SB 666**     **Senator Guzzone**

### MARYLAND COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES – FUNDING

Requiring the Governor to include an appropriation in the annual budget bill to the Department of Housing and Community Development in fiscal years 2027 through 2032 as a grant to community action agencies statewide for measures to combat poverty.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HS, § 8-110 - added

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 667**     **Senator Guzzone****GAMING – SLOT MACHINES – SKILLS–BASED AMUSEMENT DEVICES**

Altering the definition of “slot machine” to provide that certain skills–based amusement devices excluded from the definition may award merchandise, tickets, tokens, or other objects that do not exceed a certain minimal value per play and may be accumulated and exchanged for merchandise or prizes of a certain value.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

CR, § 12-301(3) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 668**     **Senator Guzzone****EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT – INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT QUALIFYING CHILDREN – ELIGIBILITY**

Expanding eligibility for the Maryland earned income tax credit for individuals without qualifying children by altering the income thresholds at which the credit phases out; providing that, after the 2024 tax year, the income threshold and phase–out amounts are adjusted annually for inflation; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

TG, § 10-704 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 669**     **Senator Hettleman, et al****PUBLIC SAFETY – RAPE KIT TESTING GRANT FUND – ALTERATIONS**

Altering the purpose and use of the Rape Kit Testing Grant Fund; expanding the duties of the Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy relating to the Fund; and prohibiting the use of the Fund for the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Tracking System.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

PS, § 4-401 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 670**     **Frederick County Senators****FREDERICK COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – CLASS C (THEATER) BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE**

Establishing a Class C (theater) beer, wine, and liquor license in Frederick County; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Frederick County to issue the license for use by certain theaters; authorizing the license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption, subject to certain limitations; establishing an annual license fee of \$150; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

AB, § 20-1014.1 - renumbered and added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 671**     **Senator M. Washington****OFFICE OF CEMETERY OVERSIGHT – STUDY OF DEATHCARE AND FUNERAL PRACTICES**

Requiring the Office of Cemetery Oversight, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Department of Labor, and the Department of the Environment, to conduct a study of the environmental and public health impacts of deathcare and funeral practices in the State; and requiring the Office to submit an interim report by December 1, 2025, and a final report by July 1, 2026, to the Governor and the General Assembly including any recommended policy changes for sustainable deathcare and funeral practices.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 672**     **Senator M. Washington (By Request – Baltimore City Administration)****ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – BALTIMORE CONVENTION AND TOURISM REDEVELOPMENT AND OPERATING AUTHORITY – ESTABLISHED**

Establishing the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority to govern the renovation, revitalization, and ongoing maintenance and operations of the Baltimore Convention site and the marketing of Baltimore City as a tourist destination in a certain manner; and requiring the Authority, by October 1, 2026, and each October 1 thereafter, to submit a report to the Governor, the Mayor of Baltimore City, and the General Assembly which includes a complete operating and financial statement and a certain summary.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

EC, §§ 12-1201 through 12-1210 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 673**     **Senators Hettleman and Attar****EDUCATION – MARYLAND STEM PROGRAM – ESTABLISHED**

Establishing the Maryland STEM Program in the State Department of Education to provide additional compensation to educators who teach STEM classes at nonpublic schools beginning in the 2025–2026 school year; authorizing nonpublic schools to apply for the Program; requiring local school systems to inform current teachers about the Program; requiring participating nonpublic schools to report certain information to the Department each year; requiring the Governor to include a \$250,000 appropriation in the annual budget bill; etc.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 7-136 - added

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

**SB 674**     **Senator Hettleman****MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR WOMEN – MARYLAND COLLABORATIVE TO ADVANCE IMPLEMENTATION OF COVERAGE OF OVER–THE–COUNTER BIRTH CONTROL**

Requiring the Maryland Commission for Women to establish the Maryland Collaborative to Advance Implementation of Coverage of Over–the–Counter Birth Control to study access to over–the–counter birth control; and requiring the Collaborative to submit an interim report by January 1, 2026, and a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 675**     **Senator Carozza, et al****PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION – FULL COSTS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS OF SOURCES OF ELECTRICITY GENERATION**

Requiring the Public Service Commission to conduct an analysis of the full costs and benefits of sources of electricity generation in the State; requiring the Commission to include recommended policy changes to support the development of energy sources with the lowest costs and greatest benefits to the ratepayers of the State; and requiring the Commission to reports its findings and recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly by December 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 676 Senator Gile****HEALTH CARE FACILITIES – HOSPITALS AND FREESTANDING BIRTHING CENTERS – PERINATAL CARE STANDARDS**

Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to adopt regulations establishing minimum perinatal care standards meet or exceed the Maryland Perinatal System Standards for each hospital that provides obstetrical services; and requiring each hospital that provides obstetrical services and freestanding birthing centers, as a condition of licensure, to comply with certain minimum perinatal care standards.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HG, §§ 19-319(j) and 19-3B-03(a)(1)(ii)9. - added and § 19-3b-03(a)(1)(ii)8. and 9. - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 677 Senator Gile****HUMAN RELATIONS – DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING – INCOME–BASED HOUSING SUBSIDIES**

Providing that a certain landlord may not refuse to rent to a prospective tenant who pays rent with the assistance of an income–based housing subsidy under certain circumstances; providing that a certain landlord may collect financial information from a perspective tenant under certain circumstances; and providing that a violation of the Act is a discriminatory housing practice and is subject to enforcement by the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SG, §§ 20-701(c) and 20-1020(e) - amended and § 20-705.1 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 678 Senator Rosapepe****ELECTRONIC HEALTH NETWORKS AND ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD VENDORS OF NURSING HOMES – RELEASE OF RECORDS – ENFORCEMENT**

Authorizing the Office of the Attorney General to enforce and certain persons to bring a certain civil action regarding a certain provision of law authorizing a nursing home that contracts with or uses an electronic health network or electronic medical record vendor to direct the network or vendor to release electronic medical records or electronic health care transactions to a business associate of the nursing home.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HG, § 4-302.6 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 679**     **Senator Rosapepe**

NURSING HOMES – DIRECT CARE WAGES AND BENEFITS AND COST REPORTS (NURSING HOME CARE CRISIS TRANSPARENCY ACT)

Requiring a nursing home to expend at least 75% of its total nursing and residential care revenue for direct care wages and benefits; and requiring nursing homes by September 1 each year, beginning in 2026, to submit a cost report with documentation of wage disbursement and other appropriate information to the Maryland Department of Health.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

HG, §§ 16-209 and 16-210 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 680**     **Senator Carozza**

REAL ESTATE COMMISSION – CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS – ALTERATIONS

Altering certain requirements for continuing education required for the renewal of a license for real estate brokers, associate real estate brokers, and real estate salespersons, including the number of clock hours, course topics, course instructors, and course application fees.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

BOP, § 17-315 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 681**     **Senator Charles**

HEALTH CARE MALPRACTICE CLAIMS – HEALTH CARE PROVIDER – DEFINITION

Altering the definition of “health care provider” to include an employee, agent, or contractor of a hospital who is licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise authorized to render health care services in Maryland in provisions relating to health care malpractice claims.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CJ, § 3-2A-01(f) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 682 Senator Charles****REAL PROPERTY – RESIDENTIAL FORECLOSURES – MATERIALLY DELINQUENT MORTGAGES**

Altering certain requirements for an order to docket or a complaint to foreclose a mortgage or deed of trust on residential property; requiring a secured party to provide certain loan-related correspondence in order to enforce a materially delinquent mortgage, subject to certain exceptions; and permitting a mortgagor to raise a defense of laches in an action to enforce a materially delinquent mortgage.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

RP, § 7-105.1(e)(1) - amended and § 7-105.19 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 683 Senator Charles, et al****CATASTROPHIC EVENT ACCOUNT AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE LOAN FUND – ALTERATIONS (PROTECT OUR FEDERAL WORKERS ACT)**

Renaming the Federal Government Shutdown Employee Assistance Loan Fund to be the Federal Government Employee Assistance Loan Fund; authorizing funds appropriated to the Catastrophic Event Account to be expended to assist in funding costs in connection with a closure, relocation, or mass layoff of a unit of the federal government, or other similar circumstances; and altering the purpose of the Fund and the eligibility criteria to receive loans from the Fund.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SF, §§ 6-226(a)(2)(ii)118., 7-324, and 7-327 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 684 Senator Augustine****PUBLIC HEALTH – HEALTH EQUITY DASHBOARD**

Requiring the Maryland Department of Health, in collaboration with the Commission on Health Equity, to develop a clear and easy-to-understand graphic data dashboard that includes age-adjusted health disparity data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender; and requiring the Department to update the data dashboard at least every 30 days.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HG, § 13-5501 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 685**     **Senator Augustine****ELECTION LAW – LOCAL BOARDS OF ELECTIONS – LANGUAGE–RELATED ASSISTANCE**

Requiring the State Board of Elections to determine whether there is a significant and substantial need for language–related assistance in certain languages by a local board of elections during an election, based on certain criteria; requiring local boards to provide certain language–related assistance and materials in voting and elections to certain voters in certain languages; and requiring local boards to make reasonable efforts to recruit election judges who are fluent in certain languages.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

EL, §§ 15.5-101 through 15.5-106 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 686**     **Senator Augustine****ENVIRONMENT – EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR BATTERIES AND BATTERY–CONTAINING PRODUCTS (BATTERY STEWARDSHIP ACT)**

Requiring certain producers of batteries and battery–containing products to individually or as part of a battery stewardship organization submit a certain battery stewardship plan to the Department of the Environment for review and approval by July 1, 2026, and every 5 years thereafter, in accordance with certain requirements; requiring a battery stewardship program to be implemented within a certain amount of time after the Department approves a certain battery stewardship plan; etc.

VARIOUS EFFECTIVE DATES

EN, §§ 9-1733 and 9-1738 through 9-1746 - added and Various Sections - renumbered, amended, and repealed

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment



**SB 687**     **Senator Benson****CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – YOUTH TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER PLACEMENT TO SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD PILOT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement to Successful Adulthood Pilot Program in the Child Care Scholarship Program to assist foster youth in applying for and accessing subsidies in the Program; establishing that the duration of the program is from January 1, 2026, until December 31, 2028; and requiring the State Department of Education to report on the status and an evaluation of the Pilot Program's goals to the General Assembly on or before December 1 of each year of the Pilot Program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 9.5-113(c)(1) and (d) - amended and § 9.5-113.2 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 688**     **Senator Benson****PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS – APPRENTICESHIP REQUIREMENTS (MARYLAND WORKFORCE APPRENTICESHIP UTILIZATION ACT)**

Altering certain apprenticeship requirements relating to public works contracts to require certain contractors and subcontractors to employ a certain number of qualified apprentices or journeyworkers necessary to meet a certain applicable percentage for the project; altering which projects are subject to certain apprenticeship requirements; repealing certain provisions of law that authorized contractors and subcontractors to make certain payments to a certain apprenticeship program in lieu of employing certain apprentices; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SF, §§ 11-203(e), 17-601, 17-603, 17-604, and 17-606 - amended and §§ 17-601.1, 17-602.1, 17-604.1, 17-605.1, and 17-607 - added

Assigned to: Finance and Budget and Taxation

**SB 689**     **Senator Gile**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS – CONVENTIONAL HOME MORTGAGE  
LOANS – ASSUMPTION AND REQUIRED DISCLOSURES

Requiring banking institutions, credit unions, mortgage lenders, mortgage lending businesses, and mortgage loan originators to include a certain provision in certain conventional home mortgage loans authorizing a certain borrower to purchase the property interest of a certain borrower in connection with a decree of absolute divorce if the lending entity determines that the assuming borrower qualifies for the loan; applying certain provisions of the Act retroactively; etc.  
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

FI, §§ 5-514, 6-606.1, 11-501(b-1), and 11-522 - added and § 6-606 - amended  
Assigned to: Finance

**SB 690**     **Senators Bailey and Smith**HIGHER EDUCATION – SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CORRECTIONAL  
OFFICERS

Altering the eligibility criteria for the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program to include correctional officers.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, §§ 18-3801 through 18-3804, 18-3806, and 18-3807 - amended  
Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 691**     **Senator Hester**

## CYBERSECURITY – HEALTHCARE ECOSYSTEM

Requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission and the Maryland Insurance Administration to include a cybersecurity expert as staff to perform certain functions and submit to the State Chief Information Security Officer a report on the cybersecurity practices and policies of certain healthcare ecosystem entities on a certain basis; requiring healthcare ecosystem entities to take certain actions related to cybersecurity; etc.

VARIOUS EFFECTIVE DATES

HG, § 19-113, IN, § 2-117, and SF, § 3.5-2A-07 - added

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

**SB 692**     **Senator Jackson (Chair, Joint Committee on Pensions)**

## STATE RETIREMENT AND PENSION SYSTEM – ALTERATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

Altering certain due dates of certain reports from the State Retirement and Pension System; and clarifying the eligibility requirements of State Police Retirement System members to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SP, §§ 21-116(d)(4), 21-123.2(f)(1), and 24-401.1(c) and (d) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 693**     **Senator Jackson (Chair, Joint Committee on Pensions)**

## STATE RETIREMENT AND PENSION SYSTEM – REEMPLOYMENT EARNINGS LIMITATIONS – MAXIMUM AVERAGE FINAL COMPENSATION

Clarifying that the maximum average final compensation that certain retirees of the State Retirement and Pension System is to be based on the minimum annual salary on the standard State pay scale as of January 1 of the preceding calendar year in order to be exempt from a certain reemployment earnings limitation; and adding an average final compensation reemployment exemption for the temporary suspension of a retirement allowance for disability retirees.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SP, §§ 22-406(c)(4)(ii), 23-407(c)(4)(i), 25-403(b)(3)(ii), 29-115(a), and 29-116(a)(2) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 694**     **Senator Love, et al**

## CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – ASSESSMENT OF STATE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM

Requiring the Office of the Correctional Ombudsman to engage an independent consultant to perform a comprehensive assessment of the State's correctional system beginning on or before October 1, 2026; altering the items required to be included in a certain annual report of the Office; and requiring the consultant to complete the assessment and provide the Office with a written report of its findings and recommendations by October 1, 2028.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SG, § 9-4006 - amended and § 9-4009 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 695**     **Senator Beidle**LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – UNINSURED EMPLOYERS’ FUND  
BOARD – MEMBERSHIP AND RESERVES

Altering the membership of the Uninsured Employers’ Fund Board; and requiring, rather than authorizing, the Board to establish reserves to meet potential losses of the Uninsured Employers’ Fund.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

LE, §§ 10-308 and 10-317 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 696**     **Senator Beidle**

## PUBLIC HEALTH – PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL OVERSTAY PATIENTS

Specifying that the scope of the Maryland Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Registry and Referral System includes both private and State inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance use services; requiring the Maryland Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Human Services, to ensure pediatric hospital overstay patients are placed in the least restrictive setting possible; etc.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HG, § 7.5-802(a) and (d) and SG, § 9-2801 - amended and HG, §§ 19-388 through 19-390 and SG § 9-2806 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 697**     **Senator Beidle**MARYLAND AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FUND – PREMIUM  
DISCOUNTS – METHODOLOGY

Requiring that a premium discount provided by the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund to an insured be based on the income of the insured and actuarially justified.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

IN, § 20-507(i) - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 698**     **Senator Corderman**WASHINGTON COUNTY – SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION –  
TARGET REDEVELOPMENT AREA

Providing an exemption from the sales and use tax for certain construction material or warehousing equipment that is purchased for use in the Mount Aetna Technology Park in Washington County.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

TG, § 11-246 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 699**     **Senator Ready**

## FOREST CONSERVATION ACT – LINEAR PROJECTS – ALTERATION

Altering the definition of “linear project” under the Forest Conservation Act to exclude a project for a new transmission line or new distribution line constructed on or after October 1, 2025.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

NR, § 5-1601(u) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 700**     **Senator Ready**

## NOTARIAL ACTS – REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

Requiring a notary public to provide certain reasonable accommodations to individuals with a physical disability that limits the individual’s ability to sign a record without assistance, including specifying that a notary public shall notarize the signature of an individual who is blind after the notary public reads the entire record to that individual and the individual assents to the notarization after the reading.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SG, § 18-106 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 701**     **Senator Ready****PUBLIC HEALTH – COTTAGE FOOD PRODUCTS –  
NONPOTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS FOODS AND REFRIGERATED  
BAKED GOODS**

Altering the definition of “cottage food product” for purposes of provisions of law governing the sale of cottage food products to include nonpotentially hazardous foods, rather than nonhazardous foods, as specified in regulations adopted by the Maryland Department of Health, and refrigerated baked goods.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HG, § 21-301(b-2) and (j-2) - amended and § 21-301(j-2) - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 702**     **Senator Love, et al****CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – RESTRICTIVE HOUSING**

Altering a certain definition of restrictive housing; limiting the amount of time that an individual may be placed in restrictive housing from approximately 22 hours to 17 hours in a 24-hour period; requiring all restrictive housing units to create the least restrictive environment necessary for certain purposes; prohibiting the placement of a certain member of a vulnerable population in restrictive housing for any period of time; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CS, § 9-614(a) - amended and §§ 10-1001 through 10-1003 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings