



SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions
2025 Maryland General Assembly Session

January 10, 2025
Schedule 3

PLEASE NOTE: January 17 – Bill request deadline.
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 10, 2025

SB 275 Senator Simonaire, et al

MODERNIZATION OF MILITARY LAWS ACT

Establishing rules of interpretation related to the uniformed services; altering the rule of interpretation for “veteran”; requiring the Secretary of Veterans and Military Families to develop certain policies related to life transitions of veterans, service members, and military families; and altering the application of certain provisions of law related to veterans, the uniformed services, and the filing of certificates of candidacy, the powers of the Governor, State veterans’ cemeteries, and housing and employment discrimination.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

EL, GP, SG, and PU, Various Sections - amended and added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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 276 **Senator Simonaire, et al**

EDUCATIONAL EQUALITY FOR SERVICE MEMBERS ACT

Establishing rules of interpretation related to the uniformed services; altering the rule of interpretation for “veteran”; and altering the application of certain provisions of law governing education to apply to all uniformed services, rather than only the armed forces.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, GP, and SG, Various Sections - amended and ED and GP, Various Sections - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 277 **Senator Simonaire, et al**

HEALTH EQUALITY FOR SERVICE MEMBERS ACT

Establishing rules of interpretation related to the uniformed services; altering the rule of interpretation for “veteran”; and altering the application of certain provisions of law governing public health, the regulation of health occupations, and housing vouchers and assistance to apply to all uniformed services, rather than only the armed forces.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

GP, HG, HO, and HS, Various Sections - added and amended, HG, § 24-2101(d) - repealed, and SG, § 9-901 - amended

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

SB 278 **Senator Simonaire, et al**

TAX RELIEF AND PENSIONS EQUALITY FOR SERVICE MEMBERS ACT

Establishing rules of interpretation related to the uniformed services; altering the rule of interpretation for “veteran”; and altering the application of certain provisions of law governing personnel, pensions, and taxation to apply to all uniformed services, rather than only the armed forces.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

GP, LG, SP, TG, and TP, Various Sections - added and amended

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

SB 279 **Senator Simonaire, et al**

EMPLOYMENT AND INSURANCE EQUALITY FOR SERVICE MEMBERS ACT

Establishing rules of interpretation related to the uniformed services; altering the rule of interpretation for “veteran”; and altering the application of certain provisions of law governing the regulation of business, economic development, insurance, and labor and employment to apply to all uniformed services, rather than only the armed forces.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

BOP, BR, CL, EC, FI, GP, IN, LE, SF, and SG, Various Sections - added, amended, and repealed

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

SB 280 **Senator Simonaire, et al**

JUDICIAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY FOR SERVICE MEMBERS ACT

Establishing rules of interpretation related to the uniformed services; altering the rule of interpretation for “veteran”; and altering the application of certain provisions of judicial proceedings, corrections, criminal, family, public safety, and real property laws to apply to all uniformed services, rather than only the armed forces.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CJ, CR, FL, GP, and PS, Various Sections - amended and added and CS, RP, and SG, Various Sections - amended

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

SB 281 **Senator Simonaire, et al**

TRANSPORTATION EQUALITY FOR SERVICE MEMBERS ACT

Establishing rules of interpretation related to the uniformed services; altering the rule of interpretation for “veteran”; and altering the application of certain provisions of law governing transportation to apply to all uniformed services, rather than only certain uniformed services.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SG, § 9-901 - amended, GP, Various Sections - amended and added, and TR, Various Sections - renumbered, amended, and added

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

SB 282 **Senator Simonaire, et al****RECREATIONAL EQUALITY FOR SERVICE MEMBERS ACT**

Establishing rules of interpretation related to the uniformed services; altering the rule of interpretation for “veteran”; altering the application of certain provisions of law governing public health and the regulation of health occupations to apply to all uniformed services, rather than only the armed forces; altering the circumstances under which licenses for fishing in tidal waters do not lapse; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

GP, NR, and SG, Various Sections - added and amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 283 **Senator McCray****STUDENTS WITH FINANCIAL NEED – COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAMS – EXAM FEE PROHIBITION**

Prohibiting a county board of education, beginning in the 2025–2026 school year, from charging students with financial need exam fees related to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, the Cambridge AICE Diploma Program, or a program consisting of certain Advanced Placement courses.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 7-205.1(g) - amended and § 7-213 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 284 **Senator McCray****BALTIMORE CITY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – HOURS OF OPERATION VIOLATIONS – CIVIL PENALTIES**

Establishing for a first offense by a holder of an alcoholic beverages license in Baltimore City of operating the licensed premises outside specified hours of operation without obtaining a certain exemption a fine of not less than \$1,000 or suspension of the license or both, and for a second or subsequent offense a fine of not less than \$2,000 and not more than \$20,000 or suspension of the license or both.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

AB, § 12-2802(f) - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 285 Chair, Finance Committee (By Request – Office of the Attorney General)**ATTORNEY GENERAL – COLLAPSE OF FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE – REPORTING**

Altering from each month to every 6 months the frequency with which the Attorney General is required to report to the General Assembly on options for recovering economic damages arising from the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2024, § 2(g) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 286 Senator West**DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP AND MARRIAGE – REQUIRED INFORMATION**

Clarifying required information for registering a domestic partnership or obtaining a marriage license; and requiring a declaration of domestic partnership filed with the register of wills to include the Social Security number of each domestic partner who has a Social Security number.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

ET, § 2-214(a) and (d) and FL, § 2-402 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 287 Senator West**CRIMINAL LAW – INTERFERENCE WITH ACCESS TO OR EGRESS FROM A RELIGIOUS FACILITY – PROHIBITION**

Prohibiting a person, acting alone or with others, from preventing another from entering or exiting a religious facility; and providing that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment of up to 90 days or a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or both.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, § 10-204.1 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 288 **Senator McCray****ARBITRATION REFORM FOR STATE EMPLOYEES ACT OF 2025**

Altering the collective bargaining process for State employees, including by requiring the selection of a neutral arbitrator to oversee all aspects of collective bargaining, establishing a process of arbitration in the event of impasse, and providing that certain decisions of a neutral arbitrator are advisory; requiring that each budget bill contain the appropriations necessary to implement all terms and conditions of employment in certain memoranda of understanding for the next ensuing fiscal year; etc.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – CONTINGENT – VARIOUS EFFECTIVE DATES

SF, § 7-108, SP, §§ 3-103, 3-501, 3-502, and 3-603, and Maryland Constitution, Art. III, § 52 - amended and SP, § 3-503 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation and Finance

SB 289 **Senator McCray****BALTIMORE CITY – REMOVAL OF DEBT BALLOT QUESTIONS**

Removing the requirement that certain debt created by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore be approved by the legal voters of the City of Baltimore through a majority vote at a certain election; and providing that the proposed amendment to the Maryland Constitution be submitted to the qualified voters of the State for adoption or rejection at the next general election to be held in November 2026.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – CONTINGENT

Maryland Constitution, Art. XI, § 7 and Charter of Baltimore City and PLL of Baltimore City, Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 290 **Senator Love****NATURAL RESOURCES – ROADSIDE TREE REMOVAL PERMIT NOTIFICATION ACT**

Requiring an applicant for a roadside tree removal permit to provide a certain notice in a certain manner to all owners of property abutting and adjacent to the property subject to the tree removal and to the governing body of any common ownership community that has control over the land on which the tree to be removed is located.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

NR, § 5-406 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 291 **Senator Sydnor****CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – PETITION TO REDUCE SENTENCE
(MARYLAND SECOND LOOK ACT)**

Authorizing an individual who is serving a term of confinement to petition a court to reduce the sentence or sentences under certain circumstances; and establishing procedures for a proceeding under the Act.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CP, § 8-501 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 292 **Senator Sydnor****MOTOR VEHICLES – SECONDARY ENFORCEMENT AND
ADMISSIBILITY OF EVIDENCE**

Requiring a police officer to document all reasons for a traffic stop or other stop on a citation or police report resulting from the stop; establishing that certain evidence obtained during a traffic stop or other stop in violation of certain provisions may be or is inadmissible in certain proceedings; authorizing a police officer to enforce certain provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law only as a secondary action; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CP, § 2-109 and TR, Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 293 **Senator Feldman****COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION – ANTIBIAS TRAINING FOR
MEMBERS – REQUIREMENT (COUNTY BOARD MEMBER ANTIBIAS
TRAINING ACT)**

Requiring each member of a county board of education to complete certain antibias training at least once during the member's term.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 6-129 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 294 **Senator Feldman**

MARYLAND CYBERSECURITY COUNCIL – MEMBERSHIP – ALTERATIONS

Altering the selection of the membership and chair of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SG, § 9-2901(c) and (f) - amended and § 9-2901(g) - repealed and added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 295 **Senator McCray**

INCOME TAX – INCOME TAX RECONCILIATION PROGRAM – ESTABLISHED (MARYLAND FAIR TAXATION FOR JUSTICE– INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS ACT)

Establishing the Income Tax Reconciliation Program in the State to allow certain justice–involved individuals to establish installment payment plans and receive a waiver of any interest and penalties that accrue for unpaid income tax due for a taxable year beginning after December 31, 2024, but before January 1, 2030; requiring the Comptroller to administer the Program; requiring the Comptroller, in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, to develop an awareness campaign about the Program; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

CP, § 6-237 and TG, § 2-120 - added and TG, §§ 13-606 and 13-714 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 296 **Senator Augustine**

PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT – PUBLIC ACCESS OMBUDSMAN – DELEGATION OF POWERS

Authorizing the Public Access Ombudsman to delegate to a staff member of the Office of Public Access Ombudsman any of the powers and duties granted to the Ombudsman.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

GP, § 4-1B-03 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 297 Senator King**SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS – LICENSING REQUIREMENT**

Altering from January 1, 2025, to July 1, 2026, the date by which an individual must be licensed by the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters before providing certain sign language interpretation services or making certain representations.

EMERGENCY BILL

SG, § 9-2418(a) and Chapters 269 and 270 of the Acts of 2023, §§ 4(a) and 5 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 298 Senator Waldstreicher**CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – OUT OF COURT STATEMENTS – VULNERABLE ADULT VICTIMS AND WITNESSES**

Authorizing the court to admit into evidence in certain criminal proceedings certain out of court statements made by a vulnerable adult victim or witness under certain circumstances and subject to certain requirements.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CP, § 11-305 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 299 Senators Carozza and Feldman**CANNABIS AGENTS – REGISTRATION – SECURITY GUARDS**

Providing that a cannabis agent who is employed to provide security services for a cannabis licensee or cannabis registrant as a security guard or by a security guard agency is not required to obtain a State or national criminal history records check if the cannabis agent is authorized to provide security guard services in accordance with certain provisions of law.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

AB, § 36-501 - amended

Assigned to: Finance