



SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions
2025 Maryland General Assembly Session

January 13, 2025
Schedule 4

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 13, 2025

SB 300 Senator Salling, et al

CRIMINAL LAW – THEFT OF A HANDGUN

Establishing the felony of theft of a handgun; establishing a penalty for theft of a handgun of, for a first conviction, imprisonment of up to 5 years or a fine of up to \$1,000 or both and, for a second or subsequent conviction, imprisonment of up to 10 years or a fine of up to \$2,500 or both; and requiring that a sentence imposed under the Act be separate from and consecutive to a sentence for any other offense.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, § 7-104 - 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 301 **Senator Salling****NATURAL RESOURCES – REMOVAL AND STORAGE OF ABANDONED OR SUNKEN VESSELS – FUNDING**

Authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to use funds budgeted for the Natural Resources Police to remove or store certain abandoned or sunken vessels.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

NR, § 8-721(j) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 302 **Senator Lam****MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER INCENTIVE PROGRAM – ALTERATIONS**

Repealing certain provisions of law specifying certain limitations on awards or investments provided to certain small businesses under the Maryland Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer Incentive Program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

EC, § 10-476 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 303 **Senator Lam****PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGERS – DEFINITION OF PURCHASER AND ALTERATION OF APPLICATION OF LAW**

Altering the definition of “purchaser” for the purpose of certain provisions of State insurance law governing pharmacy benefits managers to exclude certain nonprofit health maintenance organizations; and repealing certain provisions that restrict applicability of certain provisions of law to pharmacy benefits managers that provide pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of a carrier.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

IN, §§ 15-1601, 15-1611, 15-1611.1, 15-1612, 15-1622, 15-1629, and 15-1630 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 304 Senator McCray**BALTIMORE CITY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – 45TH ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DISTRICT – LICENSES**

Authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Baltimore City to issue a Class C beer, wine, and liquor license in a certain area of the 45th alcoholic beverages district in Baltimore City under certain circumstances; and altering a geographic boundary in the 45th district within which the holder of a Class A or Class B–D–7 beer, wine, and liquor license must operate in accordance with specified hours.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

AB, §§ 12-1603(c)(2), (17), and (18), 12-2004(a) and (c), and 12-2005(c) - amended and § 12-1603(c)(19) - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 305 Senators Beidle and Hettleman**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES – VIRTUAL CURRENCY KIOSKS – REGISTRATION AND REGULATION**

Establishing registration and operating requirements for a virtual currency kiosk operator to operate a virtual currency kiosk in the State; authorizing the Commissioner of Financial Regulation to investigate and enforce the Act in a certain manner; and authorizing the Commissioner to assess against a virtual currency kiosk operator a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each knowing and willful violation of the Act.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

FI, §§ 12-1201 through 12-1207 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 306 Senator Beidle**WORKERS' COMPENSATION – PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES – REIMBURSEMENTS**

Requiring the State Workers' Compensation Commission to regulate fees and other charges for the reimbursements of prescription drugs and pharmaceutical services; and limiting covered reimbursements to a cost index or indexes.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

LE, § 9-663 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 307 **Senator Simonaire**

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION – STUDENT MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP – INCREASE

Increasing the scholarship award for a student member of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education who completes a full term on the county board from \$8,000 to \$15,000.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

ED, § 3-2A-07 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 308 **Senator Simonaire**

ELECTION LAW – CHIEF ELECTION JUDGES – PARTY AFFILIATION

Requiring the election director of a local board of elections to designate chief election judges from certain political parties to each polling place except under certain circumstances; and requiring an election director who is unable to designate chief judges for a polling place at least 45 days before the start of early voting to make a certain designation in a certain manner.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

EL, § 10-201 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 309 **Senator Simonaire**

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES – ONLINE REGISTRY

Requiring the Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program in the Department of Veterans and Military Families to establish and maintain by December 31, 2025, an online registry to provide veterans, military families, and interested individuals with certain information; and requiring the Secretary of Veterans and Military Families to include certain information regarding the number of individuals on the registry, those added to registry, their status, and those unsubscribed from the registry in a certain annual report.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

SG, §§ 9-901 and 9-946(7) and (8) - amended and §§ 9-945 and 9-946(8) - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 310 **Senator Simonaire****EDUCATION – YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION SCHOOL PROGRAM – REVISIONS**

Altering the requirements of the Youth Suicide Prevention School Program to increase pupil awareness of the relationship between gambling and youth suicide.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, §§ 7-501 and 7-504 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 311 **Senator Simonaire****GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS’ FAMILY PROTECTION ACT OF 2025**

Prohibiting a person from making a threat to take the life of, kidnap, or cause physical injury to an immediate family member of a State or local official, a deputy State’s Attorney, an assistant State’s Attorney, or an assistant Public Defender.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, § 3-708 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 312 **Senator Simonaire****NATURAL RESOURCES – STATE PARKS – MARYLAND GOLDEN AGE PASS**

Establishing that the holder of a Maryland Golden Age Pass is entitled to free day–use entry at certain State parks and is authorized to launch a boat at any State park without paying a boat launch fee; and establishing that the free day–use entry applies to everyone in the vehicle with the holder of a Maryland Golden Age Pass under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

NR, § 5-1009 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 313 Senator M. Washington**ELECTION LAW – POSTELECTION TABULATION AUDITS – RISK–LIMITING AUDITS**

Requiring the State Board of Elections, in collaboration with the local boards of elections, to conduct a risk–limiting audit after each statewide election; authorizing the State Board, in collaboration with the local boards, to conduct a risk–limiting audit after a special general election; authorizing, rather than requiring, the State Board, in collaboration with the local boards, to conduct an automated software audit after a statewide election; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

EL, § 11-309 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 314 Senators Lam and Waldstreicher**CERTIFICATES OF BIRTH, LICENSES, AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS – SEX DESIGNATION (BIRTH CERTIFICATE MODERNIZATION ACT)**

Altering the circumstances under which the Secretary of Health is required to make a new certificate of birth due to the change of a sex designation of an individual; establishing requirements and a prohibition related to the making of new certificates of birth; and altering the options for indicating an individual's sex designation on a license, identification card, or moped operator's permit issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HG, § 4-211 and TR, § 12-305(a) and (b) - amended

Assigned to: Finance and Judicial Proceedings

SB 315 Senators Brooks and Kagan**MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE – MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ALTERATIONS**

Altering the composition of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Environmental Service by replacing the State Treasurer with the Secretary of Planning or the Secretary's designee; and providing that certain provisions of law relating to terms of members of the Board do not apply to the Secretary of Planning and the Executive Director.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

NR, § 3-103(b) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 316 Senator Brooks**ABUNDANT AFFORDABLE CLEAN ENERGY (AACE ACT) –
PROCUREMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

Requiring each electric company in the State to submit to the Public Service Commission by certain dates plans for the construction or procurement of distribution-connected energy storage devices and to construct or procure the devices in accordance with the plan; providing for the creation of zero-emission credits by beneficial nuclear facilities; requiring the Commission to pursue certain coordinated approaches to offshore wind energy transmission development; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

PU, SF, and TG, Various Sections - added and amended, SG, § 9-20B-05(g-1) and (i) - repealed, and SG, § 9-20B-05(e) and (i-1) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 317 Senators Lewis Young and Love**NATURAL RESOURCES – FOOD FORESTS AND FORAGING
PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing a Food Forests and Foraging Program on areas owned or managed by the Department of Natural Resources; defining “foraging” as harvesting plant materials, including seeds, nuts, mushrooms, roots, tubers, and berries for noncommercial personal consumption; requiring individuals who forage in a food forest to obtain a permit; requiring the Department to charge a permit application fee and establish a fee waiver process for individuals who demonstrate financial need; establishing the Food Forests and Foraging Fund; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

NR, §§ 5-2101 through 5-2104 and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(ii) 206. - added and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(ii) 204. and 205. - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED January 13, 2025**SJ 2** **Senator Lewis Young, et al**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

Urging the U.S. Congress to pass H.R. 4052 to establish a national infrastructure bank to finance urgently needed infrastructure projects.

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SENATE BILL REASSIGNED January 10, 2025**SB 119** **Senator Salling**

MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY – FRANCIS SCOTT KEY MEMORIAL BRIDGE – NAMING

Requiring that, on completion of a new bridge to replace the collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge, the Maryland Transportation Authority shall name the new bridge the Francis Scott Key Memorial Bridge.

CONTINGENT – EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

TR, § 4-408 - added and §§ 4-101(h)(1) and 6-209(c)(2) - amended

Reassigned to: Finance