



SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions
2025 Maryland General Assembly Session

January 15, 2025
Schedule 6

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 15, 2025

SB 319 The President (By Request – Administration)

BUDGET BILL (FISCAL YEAR 2026)

Making the proposed appropriations contained in the State Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, in accordance with Article III, Section 52 of the Maryland Constitution; etc.

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 320 The President (By Request – Administration)

CREATION OF A STATE DEBT – MARYLAND CONSOLIDATED CAPITAL BOND LOAN OF 2025, AND THE MARYLAND CONSOLIDATED CAPITAL BOND LOANS OF 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, AND 2024

Authorizing the creation of a State Debt in the amount of \$1,814,825,000, the proceeds to be used for certain necessary building, construction, demolition, planning, renovation, conversion, replacement, and capital equipment purchases of the State, for acquiring certain real estate in connection therewith, and for grants to certain subdivisions and other organizations for certain development and improvement purposes; etc.

VARIOUS EFFECTIVE DATES

Various Chapters of the Acts of Various Years, Various Sections - amended and repealed

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 321 The President (By Request – Administration)

BUDGET RECONCILIATION AND FINANCING ACT OF 2025

Establishing or altering certain administrative penalties; altering or repealing certain required appropriations; authorizing the use of certain funds for certain purposes; establishing certain funds; authorizing, requiring, or altering the distribution of certain revenue; altering the rates and rate brackets under the State income tax on certain income of individuals; requiring certain groups of corporations to file a combined income tax return reflecting the aggregate income tax liability of all members of the group; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

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

VARIOUS EFFECTIVE DATES

Various Articles - Various Sections - amended, added, and repealed

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 322 Senator Kagan

VEHICLE LAWS – OBSCURED OR MODIFIED REGISTRATION PLATES

Prohibiting a person from obscuring or modifying any vehicle registration plate in a manner that may prevent identification.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

TR, § 21-1112.1 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 323 Senator Kagan**ELECTION LAW – STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION – PREPAID POSTAGE**

Requiring that a statewide voter registration application include a return envelope or envelope template with prepaid postage that an applicant may use to return the application to the State Board of Elections; requiring a statewide voter registration application to be accompanied by certain instructions for postage; and requiring the return envelopes or envelope templates to be preprinted with the address of the State Board for purposes of the returning the statewide voter registration application.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

EL, § 3-202 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 324 Senator McCray**ADMISSIONS AND AMUSEMENT TAX – FOOD AND BEVERAGES**

Authorizing a county or a municipal corporation to impose the admissions and amusement tax on certain gross receipts derived from the sale of food or beverages for consumption on the premises; prohibiting the imposition of the admissions and amusement tax on certain sales of food or beverages; establishing a maximum tax rate of 3% that a county or a municipal corporation may set on the sale of food or beverages; and providing that a certain combined maximum tax rate does not include a tax rate on the sale of food or beverages.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

TG, §§ 4-101, 4-102(b) and (c), 4-103(b), and 4-105(b) - amended and § 4-105(a-2) - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 325 Senator Carozza, et al**INCOME TAX – CREDIT FOR EMPLOYERS OF ELIGIBLE APPRENTICES – ALTERATIONS**

Altering the definition of “eligible apprentice” for purposes of a certain credit against the State income tax for the employment of certain eligible apprentices by repealing a certain wage requirement; extending the termination of the credit until June 30, 2031; and applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

TG, § 10-742 and Chapter 149 of the Acts of 2017, § 9, as amended - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 326 **Senators Waldstreicher and McCray****PUBLIC SAFETY – LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES – PEER SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

Establishing certain confidentiality requirements for peer support counseling programs for law enforcement agencies; prohibiting a peer support specialist from disclosing the contents of any written or oral communication regarding a peer support interaction; and providing certain exceptions.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

PS, § 3-534 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 327 **Senator Hettleman****AFFORDABLE HOUSING PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES EXPANSION ACT**

Authorizing an owner of real property used for rental housing and the governing body of a county to enter into a payment in lieu of taxes agreement for maintaining at least 50% of the rental housing units located at the real property as affordable dwelling units for at least 15 years; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

TP, § 7-522 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 328 **Senator Augustine****MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND HEALTH INSURANCE – ANNUAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WELLNESS VISITS – COVERAGE AND REIMBURSEMENT**

Requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and certain health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations, beginning on July 1, 2026, to provide coverage and certain reimbursement for annual behavioral health wellness visits; and applying the Act to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or after January 1, 2026.

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 329 Senator Jackson**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' PENSION SYSTEM – BENEFITS**

Altering the benefit multiplier from 2.0% to 2.5% for service earned on or after July 1, 2025, by members of the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System; altering the maximum benefit that certain retirees of the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System may receive, from 65% to 70% of the member's average final compensation; clarifying the eligibility requirement of certain Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System members in the Deferred Retirement Option Program; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SP, §§ 26-204(a), 26-401(b), and 26-401.1(a), (c), and (d) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 330 Senator Jackson**PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – DISABLED OR FALLEN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR RESCUE WORKER – ALTERATIONS**

Altering, for purposes of a certain property tax credit for a certain dwelling, the definition of "fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker" to include disabled law enforcement officers or rescue workers who have died regardless of the cause of death; authorizing, under certain circumstances, the amount of the credit for a dwelling owned by a disabled or fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker or the surviving spouse or cohabitant to be in the same proportion as the property tax credit initially granted for the dwelling; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

TP, § 9-210 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 331 Senator Jackson**STATE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM – MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE – REPEAL**

Repealing the requirement that certain members of the State Police Retirement System retire at age 60; clarifying the eligibility requirement of State Police Retirement System members in the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP); and repealing the requirement that certain members of the State Police Retirement System may participate in the DROP up to age 60.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SP, §§ 24-401 and 24-401.1(a), (c), (d), and (g) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 332 **Senator Ready, et al****TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE PREMATURE RETIREMENT OF ELECTRICITY GENERATION FACILITIES**

Establishing the Task Force to Study the Premature Retirement of Electricity Generation Facilities; requiring the Task Force to make recommendations to address challenges and enhance decision making regarding the premature retirement of electricity generation facilities, and that include energy reliability solutions that address the imminent reliability gap and balance the need between economic considerations and cleaner energy goals; and requiring the Task Force to report on or before January 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 333 **Senator West****CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – VICTIMS AND WITNESSES – OUT OF COURT STATEMENT OF CHILD TO FORENSIC INTERVIEWER**

Expanding the evidentiary rule on the admissibility of out of court statements made by child victims or witnesses to make admissible an out of court statement made by a child to a forensic interviewer.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CP, § 11-304 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 334 **Senators Waldstreicher and Smith****CRIMINAL LAW – CRIMES OF MALICIOUS OR FRAUDULENT BURNING – PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES**

Prohibiting a person from committing a certain crime of malicious or fraudulent burning that causes the death of or serious physical injury to a firefighter; and establishing that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not to exceed 10 years.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, § 6-112 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 335 **Senator Bailey****NATURAL RESOURCES – CANADA GEESE – BAG LIMITS**

Requiring, during the migratory Canada goose (Atlantic population) hunting season, the bag limit for all Canada geese in the State, including geese found in the Atlantic Flyway Resident Population Hunt Zone and the Atlantic Population Hunt Zone, to conform to the bag limit for Atlantic population Canada geese adopted annually by the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

NR, § 10-409 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 336 **Senator Ready, et al****GUN THEFT FELONY ACT OF 2025**

Classifying the theft of a firearm as a felony; and establishing a penalties for a first conviction of imprisonment of up to 5 years or a fine of up to \$1,000 or both, and for subsequent convictions, imprisonment not to exceed 10 years or a fine of up to \$2,500 or both, for theft of a firearm.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, § 7-104 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SENATE BILLS REASSIGNED January 13, 2025**SB 114** **Senators Simonaire and Jackson****MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR – LICENSES – NOTATION OF VETERAN STATUS AND ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS**

Authorizing units in the Maryland Department of Labor to establish a certain process to include a notation of veteran status on an occupational license and assist in determining eligibility for State and federal benefits.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

BR, §§ 2.5-103 through 2.5-108 - renumbered and § 2.5-103 - added

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

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
Reassigned to: Budget and Taxation