



SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions
2025 Maryland General Assembly Session

January 17, 2025
Schedule 8

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 17, 2025

SB 360 Senators Hester and Smith

REVENGE PORN – CIVIL ACTION AND CRIMINAL OFFENSE

Authorizing a person to bring and maintain a civil action for defamation against another who distributes a computer-generated visual representation that is indistinguishable from an actual visual representation of the person and is of a sexual or intimate nature; and prohibiting a person from knowingly distributing a certain computer-generated visual representation of another under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

CJ, § 3-505 - added and CR, § 3-809 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 361 **Senator Hester****ELECTION LAW – INFLUENCE ON A VOTER’S VOTING DECISION BY USE OF FRAUD – PROHIBITION**

Prohibiting a person from using fraud to influence or attempt to influence a voter’s voting decision; and providing that fraud includes the use of synthetic media.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

EL, § 16-201 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 362 **Senators Hester and Hettleman****FORGED DIGITAL LIKENESSES – DISTRIBUTION – PROHIBITION**

Providing that the distribution of a certain forged digital likeness to another constitutes a statement or communication for the purpose of an action for defamation; prohibiting a person from knowingly distributing a certain forged digital likeness under certain circumstances; and providing that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a term of imprisonment of up to 3 years or a fine of up to \$1,000 or both.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CJ, § 3-505 and CR, § 8-906 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 363 **Senator Bailey****MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE–BASED INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – OYSTER SHUCKING HOUSE LOAN PROGRAM**

Altering a certain loan program to authorize the Maryland Agricultural and Resource–Based Industry Development Corporation to provide loans in an amount up to \$25,000 for certain seasonal full–time jobs; and reducing, from 5 years to 3 years, the number of years that a person must have been a licensed seafood dealer in order to be eligible to receive financing under the loan program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

EC, § 10-519.1 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 364 **Senator Bailey**

CRIMINAL LAW – MANSLAUGHTER BY VEHICLE OR VESSEL – INCREASED PENALTIES (JAMARI’S LAW)

Increasing the maximum period of imprisonment for a first conviction for manslaughter by vehicle or vessel from 10 years to 20 years and for a second or subsequent conviction, or having been previously convicted for certain other crimes, from 15 years to 30 years.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, § 2-209 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 365 **Senator Kagan, et al**

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS NAVIGATOR – ESTABLISHED

Establishing a nonprofit organizations navigator within the Department of Commerce to provide certain technical assistance to nonprofit organizations, to work with nonprofits and units of State government to resolve complexities and delays in State grant-making processes, collect and share certain information, and represent nonprofits interest and concerns as a member of the Maryland Efficient Grant Application Council; and altering the composition and duties of the Maryland Efficient Grant Application Council.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

EC, § 2.5-110 - added and amended, SF, §§ 2-209 and 2-210 - amended, and Chapters 28 and 29 of the Acts of 2024, § 2 - repealed

Assigned to: Finance

SB 366 **Senator Ellis**

CAMPAIGN FINANCE – CIVIL PENALTIES – PROCESS

Requiring the State Board of Elections to issue a certain notice to persons the State Board believes are committing or have committed certain campaign finance violations; requiring the State Board to adopt comprehensive regulations establishing an appeal process for persons issued the notice; altering the circumstances under which the State Board is authorized to issue a citation to persons the State Board believes are committing or have committed certain campaign finance violations; etc.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

EL, § 13-604.1 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 367 **Senator Ellis****MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES**

Requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, beginning July 1, 2026, to provide supportive housing and health services to certain Program recipients; establishing requirements for professionals seeking certification as a certified supportive housing and health services professional and entities that employ or contract with supportive housing and health services professionals; requiring, by January 1, 2026, the Department to approve at least one accredited training and certification program; etc.

CONTINGENT – EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

HG, § 15-103(a)(2)(xxiii) and (xxiv) - amended and §§ 15-103(a)(2)(xxv) and 15-141.6 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 368 **Senator Watson****COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION – STUDENT CELLULAR PHONE USE POLICY – ESTABLISHMENT (MARYLAND PHONE-FREE SCHOOLS ACT)**

Requiring each county board of education to develop and implement, not later than the 2026–2027 school year, a policy limiting the use of a cellular phone by a student during the school day; and prohibiting the policy from restricting a student’s use of a cellular phone for any purpose documented in the student’s individualized education program to monitor or address a student’s documented health issue during an emergency event or when directed by an educator or administrator for educational purposes.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 7-136 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 369 Senator Watson**PUBLIC LIBRARIES – AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR PROGRAM (RAYMONO A. RUSSELL ACT)**

Requiring operators of certain libraries, beginning January 1, 2026, to place an automated external defibrillator in a certain area, maintain the functionality of the automated external defibrillator, and ensure a trained individual is present under certain circumstances; granting certain immunities to libraries and individuals for certain acts or omissions under certain circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

ED, § 13-517(a) - amended and § 23-102.2 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 370 Senator McCray (By Request – Baltimore City Administration)**DRUG PARAPHERNALIA FOR ADMINISTRATION – DECRIMINALIZATION**

Repealing the prohibition against a person using or possessing with intent to use, delivering or selling under certain circumstances, or manufacturing or possessing with intent to deliver or sell under certain circumstances drug paraphernalia to inject, ingest, inhale, or otherwise introduce into the human body a controlled dangerous substance; altering a prohibition against a person possessing or distributing controlled paraphernalia under certain circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, §§ 5-101(h), 5-619(c) and (d), and 5-620(a), (b), and (d) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 371 Senator Beidle**STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY – RENEWAL NOTICES – ELECTRONIC MEANS**

Requiring the State Board of Pharmacy to send renewal notices to licensees, permit holders, and registrants by electronic means, rather than by first-class mail, unless the licensee, permit holder, or registrant requests to receive the renewal notice by first-class mail.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HO, §§ 12-308(b), 12-407(b), 12-6B-07(b), 12-6C-06(b)(1) through (3), and 12-6D-09 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 372 **Senator Beidle, et al****PRESERVE TELEHEALTH ACCESS ACT OF 2025**

Repealing the limitation on the period during which the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations are required to provide reimbursement for certain health care services provided through telehealth on a certain basis and at a certain rate; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

HG, § 15-141.2(a)(7) and (g) and IN, § 15-139(a) and (d) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 373 **Senator Beidle****STATE PERSONNEL – BWI AIRPORT FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND ARBITRATION PROCESSES**

Altering the collective bargaining process between the State and uniformed fire employees of the BWI Airport Fire and Rescue Department by requiring the parties to reach a collective bargaining agreement on or before September 30 of the year in which the collective bargaining agreement will expire; and establishing a process of binding arbitration in the event of an impasse.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SP, §§ 3-501 and 3-603 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 374 **Senator Beidle, et al****HEALTH INSURANCE – CANCER SCREENING FOR PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS – REQUIRED COVERAGE (JAMES “JIMMY” MALONE ACT)**

Requiring certain health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage without the requirement for copayment, coinsurance, or deductible to professional firefighters for cancer screening in accordance with certain guidelines; and requiring the Secretary of Budget and Management and certain counties and municipalities to ensure that certain employee health benefit plans comply with coverage requirements for professional firefighters.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

IN, § 15-861 and LG, § 1-207 - added and SP, § 2-503(a) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 375 **Senator Kramer**

AGRICULTURE – ROOSTERS – RESTRICTIONS

Prohibiting, unless authorized by the Department of Agriculture, a certain person from keeping a certain number of roosters on certain property beginning January 1, 2027, subject to certain exceptions; and authorizing the Department to work in cooperation with a local animal control or law enforcement officer to enforce the Act.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

AG, § 3-105.2 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 376 **Senator Kramer**

HEALTH FACILITIES – DELEGATION OF INSPECTION AUTHORITY – NURSING HOMES

Requiring the Secretary of Health, on request of a county, to delegate to the county the authority to conduct site visits and full surveys of nursing homes; and requiring that the Maryland Department of Health and counties equally share the costs of conducting surveys delegated by the Secretary of Health.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HG, § 19-1408 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 377 **Senator A. Washington**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – BUSINESS RESOURCE INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL GROWTH AND EMPOWERMENT (BRIDGE) PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT

Establishing the Business Resource Initiative for Developmental Growth and Empowerment (BRIDGE) Program and Fund in the Department of Commerce to provide grants to certain business entities to establish certain business incubators.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

EC, §§ 5-2701 through 5-2706 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 378 **Senator A. Washington****STATE LIBRARY AGENCY – FAMILY LITERACY PILOT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Family Literacy Pilot Program administered by the State Library Agency in consultation with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Correctional Education Council to enable certain incarcerated individuals to read aloud to their children by preparing a recording; and requiring the State Library Agency to submit a certain report on or before December 1, 2028.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

ED, § 23-112 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 379 **Senator M. Washington, et al****STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS – MEMBERSHIP AND EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS**

Repealing the examination requirements for bachelor and master social worker licenses; and altering the number of consumer members on the State Board of Social Work Examiners.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

HO, §§ 19-202(a)(1) and (2) and 19-302(a), (d), and (e) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 380 **Senator Love****MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD – BREEDING STABLES AND HORSE ESTABLISHMENTS – DEFINITIONS**

Defining the term “breeding stable” as it relates to licensure, inspection, and regulation by the Maryland Horse Industry Board; and altering the definition of “horse establishment” to include a breeding stable.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

AG, § 2-701 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 381 **Senator Love****MOTOR VEHICLES – AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS –
PRIVACY PROTECTIONS**

Requiring a custodian of recorded images produced by certain automated enforcement systems to deny inspection of the images, subject to certain exceptions; prohibiting certain State and local agencies from using a recorded image or associated data from an automated enforcement system without a warrant, subpoena, or court order unless the use is for an appropriate traffic enforcement purpose; and establishing certain requirements and authorizations for the removal and destruction of recorded images.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

GP, § 4-321 and TR, Various Sections - amended and TR, § 12-113.1 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 382 **Senator Kagan, et al****CONSUMER PROTECTION – RIGHT TO REPAIR – POWERED
WHEELCHAIRS**

Requiring, in order to make repairs to powered wheelchairs, that a certain manufacturer make available certain documentation, parts, embedded software, firmware, and tools to a certain independent repair provider or owner of a powered wheelchair; providing that a violation of the Act constitutes an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice subject to certain enforcement and penalty provisions; and applying the Act prospectively.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CL, § 13-301(14)(xliv) - amended and §§ 13-301(14)(xlvi) and 14-5001 through 14-5004 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 383 **Senator Kagan****ELECTIONS – RANKED-CHOICE VOTING IN CONTESTS FOR PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION AND CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION-SUPPORTING TECHNOLOGY**

Authorizing the State Board of Elections, beginning with the 2028 statewide primary election, to use ranked-choice voting to conduct a contest for the nomination by a political party of a candidate for the office of President of the United States; requiring the State Board to adopt regulations for the review, certification, and decertification of election-supporting technology and to periodically review and evaluate election-supporting technology; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

EL, §§ 8-206 and 9-107 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 384 **Senator Augustine****METRO FUNDING MODIFICATION ACT OF 2025**

Altering the calculation of the amount that the Governor is required to include in the annual State budget each year to provide grants to the Washington Suburban Transit District to pay the capital costs of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; making the Act contingent on enactment of certain legislation by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia; etc.

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

CONTINGENT – EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025

TR, § 10-205(f) and (g) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 385 **Senators Love and Gile****VEHICLE LAWS – INJURY OR DEATH OF VULNERABLE INDIVIDUAL – PENALTIES**

Altering the penalties for causing the serious physical injury or death of a vulnerable individual as the result of an individual operating a motor vehicle in violation of certain provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law; and providing that an individual convicted of a certain violation is subject to not just a fine of \$2,000 but also imprisonment of up to 2 months or both.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

TR, § 21-901.3 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 386 Senator Folden**PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION – DEFINITION AND NOTIFICATION OF REPORTABLE OFFENSE – ALTERATIONS**

Altering the definition of “reportable offense” to remove the requirement that the offense occurred off school premises and did not occur at an event sponsored by the school; and requiring the Department of Juvenile Services to report to the local superintendent of schools and school principal for certain decisions made during a certain inquiry of a juvenile offender for certain offenses.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

ED, § 7-303 - amended

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

SB 387 Senator Folden**CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – TRANSFERS TO FEDERAL AUTHORITIES – UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS (PROTECTING MARYLANDERS FROM VIOLENT OFFENDERS ACT OF 2025)**

Requiring a State or local correctional facility with custody of an undocumented immigrant who is serving a sentence in the facility for conviction of a crime, on request of the United States Department of Homeland Security, to transfer the undocumented immigrant to the United States Department of Homeland Security under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CS, § 9-309 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 388 Senator Folden**STATE RETIREMENT AND PENSION SYSTEM – FORFEITURE OF BENEFITS**

Establishing that a public employee is subject to forfeiture of benefits from the State Retirement and Pension System when a public employee is found guilty of, pleads guilty to, or enters a plea of nolo contendere to a qualifying crime that is committed in the course of the performance of the public employee’s duties; providing for the processes and procedures to implement a forfeiture of benefits; and providing for the processes and procedures to reverse a forfeiture of benefits.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

SP, § 21-502(a)(3) - amended and §§ 21-801 through 21-809 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 389 **Senator Folden****MINORS CONVICTED AS ADULTS – SENTENCING – TRANSFER TO JUVENILE COURT**

Establishing a presumption that the sentencing of a minor convicted as an adult should be transferred to the juvenile court, under certain circumstances, and authorizing the court to do so; and requiring the juvenile court to make a juvenile determination under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CP, § 6-235 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 390 **Senator Smith****MOTOR VEHICLES – SPEED MONITORING SYSTEMS – STATEMENTS AND CERTIFICATES OF VIOLATIONS**

Authorizing technicians, employed by or under contract with a certain agency, to swear to and affirm, based on inspection of recorded images, the occurrence of violations recorded by speed monitoring systems; and requiring law enforcement officers and technicians to complete a reasonable training specific to the speed monitoring system before certifying any certificates of violation.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

TR, § 21-809(d)(1)(viii) and (e)(1) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 391 **Senator Smith****MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION – REVIEW OF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Requiring the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to annually review a certain report published by the Independent Investigations Division of the Office of the Attorney General; and requiring the Commission to make any recommendations that the Commission determines are appropriate based on its review of the report.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

PS, § 3-207(o) - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 392 **Senator Waldstreicher****BICYCLES, PLAY VEHICLES, AND UNICYCLES – AUTHORIZATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

Authorizing a person to ride a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area unless prohibited by local ordinance; and requiring a person riding a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area or in or through a crosswalk to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian or a person using an electric personal assistive mobility device.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

TR, §§ 21-1103(b) and 21-1202(b) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 393 **Senator Lam****HEALTH INSURANCE – PRESCRIPTION DRUG FORMULARIES AND COVERAGE FOR GENERIC DRUGS AND BIOSIMILARS**

Requiring certain carriers to post updated, accurate, and complete prescription drug formularies and changes to the formularies in a certain manner on a carrier's website; and requiring certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to make certain generic drugs and biosimilars available on a formulary with certain cost sharing.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

IN, §§ 15-147 and 15-861 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 394 **Senator Bailey****CRIMINAL LAW – CONCEALMENT OF DEATH AND DISTURBING AND DISMEMBERING HUMAN REMAINS**

Prohibiting a person, with the intent to conceal the death of another, from failing to notify emergency medical services or law enforcement regarding the death, knowingly and willfully dismembering, destroying, removing, or otherwise obliterating by any means any portion of human remains, or burying or otherwise disposing of a dead body; prohibiting a person from aiding or abetting another in committing a violation of the Act; and establishing that a violation of the Act is a felony with a penalty of imprisonment not exceeding 10 years.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

CR, § 10-405 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 395 **Senators Hettleman and Gile**

TRANSPORTATION – MAJOR HIGHWAY CAPACITY EXPANSION PROJECTS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE ALIGNMENT ACT OF 2025)

Requiring the Department of Transportation, as part of the planning and implementation of certain major highway expansion projects to develop and implement a corresponding multimodal transportation program; requiring the Department beginning with a certain Consolidated Transportation Program to evaluate certain major capital projects for their impact on greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled; requiring the Secretary of Transportation to perform certain capacity expansion impact assessments; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

TR, §§ 2-901 through 2-905 - added and § 8-102 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation