



SYNOPSIS

House Bills and Joint Resolutions
2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

January 28, 2026
Schedule 10

PLEASE NOTE: February 13 – Bill introduction deadline.
All bills must be given to the Chief Clerk by 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 12.
As required by House Rule 32(b), bills introduced after this date will be referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee.

HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED JANUARY 28, 2026

HB 556 Delegate J. Long, et al

PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – UTILITY SERVICE EXPENSES FOR DWELLINGS (MARYLAND FAMILY UTILITY TAX RELIEF ACT)

Authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county or municipal corporation to grant, by law, a credit against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on the dwelling of an individual who pays at least 25% of household net income for utility service expenses during the taxable year.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TP, § 9-276 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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

HB 557 Delegate Harrison, et al**OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION – CRIMINAL HISTORY – PREDETERMINATION REVIEW PROCESS**

Providing that “department” does not include the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services for purposes of certain provisions prohibiting a department from refusing to issue an occupational license or certificate based on a certain conviction under certain circumstances; establishing a predetermination review process for occupational licenses and certificates in certain departments of State government; authorizing a department to charge a criminal history review fee of up to \$100; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

CP, § 1-209 - amended

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 558 Prince George’s County Delegation**PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – WINE FESTIVAL LICENSES PG 316–26**

Repealing the restriction on the number of wine festival licenses that the Board of License Commissioners for Prince George’s County may issue annually.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, § 26-1304 - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 559 Delegate Edelson, et al**TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY USER REVENUES CAPITAL GRANTS – CALCULATION**

Altering the amounts of certain capital grants calculated based on highway user revenues that are required to be appropriated to Baltimore City, counties, and municipalities in certain fiscal years; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TR, § 8-403 - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 560 Delegate Palakovich Carr, et al**SALES AND USE TAX AND PROPERTY TAX – EXEMPTIONS FOR DATA CENTERS – REPEAL**

Repealing an exemption from the sales and use tax for certain sales of certain personal property for use at certain qualified data centers under certain circumstances; and repealing the authorization for a governing body of a county or municipal corporation to reduce or eliminate the assessment of certain personal property used in certain qualified data centers.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 11-239 and TP, § 7-248 - repealed

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 561 Delegate Palakovich Carr**MARYLAND CHILD CARE CREDENTIAL PROGRAM – EXTENSION OF FUNDING**

Requiring the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2028, to appropriate each year to the Maryland Child Care Credential Program an amount that is at least equal to the amount appropriated in fiscal year 2024.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 9.5-904 - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 562 Delegate Feldmark, et al**PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION – MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT – INFLATION ADJUSTMENT (MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT MODERNIZATION ACT)**

Altering the method for calculating the maintenance of effort amount county governing bodies are required to appropriate to the school operating budget by requiring an annual inflation adjustment.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 5-235(a) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 563 Delegates Behler and Cardin**CRIMINAL LAW – EMERGENCY RESPONSE ANIMAL – PROHIBITED ACTIONS AGAINST**

Repealing the prohibition against intentionally inflicting bodily harm, permanent disability, or death on an animal owned or used by a law enforcement unit; prohibiting a person from harassing, interfering with, injuring, or killing or causing serious physical injury to an emergency response animal; and establishing that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject certain imprisonment, fines, or both upon conviction.
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, § 10-606 - amended and § 10-606.1 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 564 Delegate Allen, et al**BUSINESS REGULATION – PET CREMATION AND BURIAL SERVICES – REQUIREMENTS (PET CREMATION AND BURIAL SERVICES CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT)**

Establishing certain consumer protection requirements for registered cemeterians, registered cemetery operators, or certain permit holders that sell or offer for sale pet cremation services for pet remains; and establishing the duties of certain persons responsible for returning pet cremains to certain animal owners after cremation.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BR, Various Sections - repealed, amended, and added and CL, Various Sections - amended and added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 565 Delegate J. Long**COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION – ELECTIONS – DISTRICT VOTING (FAIR REPRESENTATION ACT)**

Requiring an election of members of the Calvert County, Cecil County, Garrett County, Montgomery County, Queen Anne’s County, and St. Mary’s County boards of education who represent a specific district to be decided by a plurality of the votes cast within that district.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

ED, §§ 3-301(d), 3-4A-01(b), 3-601(d)(1), 3-901(f)(2), 3-10A-01(b), and 3-1101(e)(2) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 566 Delegate Martinez, et al**CRIMINAL LAW – DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS’ PERSONAL INFORMATION – PROHIBITION**

Prohibiting a person from distributing personal identifying information or images of a student enrolled in an institution of secondary education or an institution of postsecondary education with intent or knowledge that the information will be used to harm the student or with reckless disregard for the risk the information will be used to harm the student; and providing that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to imprisonment of up to 1 year or a fine of up to \$5,000 or both.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, § 3-810 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 567 Delegates J. Long and Alston**MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS – REGISTRATION PLATES – SINGLE REGISTRATION PLATE**

Requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue a single registration plate to all classes of vehicles; providing for the method of attachment of the registration plate to the rear of certain vehicles; and requiring the publisher of the Annotated Code of Maryland to make certain corrections.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, §§ 13-410 and 13-411 - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 568 Delegate Behler, et al**PUBLIC FINANCING ACT – STATE SENATE AND HOUSE OF DELEGATES CANDIDATES**

Adding candidates for State Senator and member of the House of Delegates to the candidates authorized to receive public contributions from the Fair Campaign Financing Fund; establishing qualifications that a candidate for State Senator or member of the House of Delegates must meet to qualify as an eligible candidate to receive public contributions from the Fund; etc.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

EL, §§ 13-235, 15-102 through 15-104, 15-106 through 15-109, 15-111, and 15-113(b) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 569 Delegate Arentz, et al**QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY – AUTHORIZED USES OF REVENUES FROM DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES – EXPANSION**

Authorizing the County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County to use revenue from development impact fees to finance the capital costs related to the replacement of public school facilities.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

LG, § 20-706 - renumbered and added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 570 Delegate Grammer**FOSTER CARE – ADJACENT COUNTY APPLICANTS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Authorizing an individual to apply to be approved as a foster parent by the local department of social services for the county where the individual resides or a county adjacent to the county where the individual resides; prohibiting a local department from denying an application to be a foster parent due to the applicant's county of residence if the individual resides in the same county as, or an adjacent county to, the county where the local department is located; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

FL, §§ 5-505.3 and 5-505.4 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 571 Delegate Allen**NONPROFIT HOUSING CORPORATIONS – TAX AND ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENT EXEMPTIONS – ALTERATIONS**

Exempting certain real property owned by certain subsidiary entities of a certain nonprofit housing corporation from taxes and special assessments of the State or a political subdivision; and exempting certain real property of a certain nonprofit housing corporation from certain procedures for enforcement of a judgment against the nonprofit housing corporation.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

HS, § 12-104 - amended

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 572 Delegate Ruth, et al**ATTORNEY GENERAL ACTIONS AND CLIMATE CRIMES ACCOUNTABILITY FUND (CLIMATE CRIMES ACCOUNTABILITY ACT)**

Authorizing the Attorney General to investigate, commence, and prosecute or defend any suit or action that holds certain entities accountable for tortious or otherwise unlawful conduct that has contributed to climate change; authorizing the Attorney General to hire outside counsel to assist with an action under the Act if the Attorney General makes a certain determination; establishing the Climate Crimes Accountability Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

EN, § 1-307, PS, §§ 14-1401 and 14-1402, and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(iii)214. - added and SF and SG, Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 573 Delegate Taveras, et al**FAIR HOUSING AND HOUSING DISCRIMINATION – REGULATIONS, INTENT, AND DISCRIMINATORY EFFECT**

Authorizing the Department of Housing and Community Development to adopt certain regulations related to affirmatively furthering fair housing; providing that certain discriminatory housing practices may be committed without intent; prohibiting a person from acting in a certain manner that has a discriminatory effect; and providing that certain conduct necessary to achieve certain nondiscriminatory interests does not constitute a certain violation.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HS, § 2-402 and SG, §§ 20-702 and 20-705 - amended and SG, § 20-701(b-1) - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 574 Prince George's County Delegation

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY TEEN PREGNANCY SUPPORT PROGRAM AND FEE IN CHILD SUPPORT CASES – ESTABLISHED PG 504–26

Establishing the Prince George's County Teen Pregnancy Support Program to provide certain students attending a public high school in Prince George's County with certain assistance relating to child care and parenting; requiring the Circuit Court for Prince George's County to collect a \$100 fee in certain cases pertaining to child support; and requiring the revenue generated from the fee to be remitted to the Prince George's County Board of Education and used to support the Prince George's County Teen Pregnancy Support Program.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 3-1009 and FL, § 12-103.1 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 575 Delegate Wilkins

PUBLIC SCHOOLS – STUDENT ATTENDANCE – EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Requiring the State Department of Education and each county board of education to adopt an attendance policy to excuse certain absences for civic engagement by public school students, subject to certain policies and procedures.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-301.4 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 576 Delegate Griffith, et al

STATE ARCHIVES – RECORD SERVICES – FEES

Authorizing the State Archives to establish certain fees relating to certain records by regulation.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, §§ 9-1007(c), 9-1009(d), 9-1011(c), and 9-1015(e) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 577 Delegate Williams, et al**CRIMINAL LAW – FIREARM CRIMES – MACHINE GUN CONVERTIBLE PISTOLS**

Prohibiting, on or after January 1, 2027, a person from manufacturing, selling, offering for sale, purchasing, receiving, or transferring a certain machine gun convertible pistol, subject to certain exceptions.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, §§ 4-301(m) and (n) and 4-305.2 - added and §§ 4-301(m) through (o) and 4-302 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 578 Delegate Palakovich Carr, et al**FISH AND WILDLIFE – ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES AND MIGRATORY BIRDS – REGULATIONS, LISTS, PETITIONS, ESSENTIAL HABITATS, AND TAKINGS**

Requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources to review and, if warranted, update certain regulations on or before July 1, 2033, and at least every 10 years thereafter; altering the impacts the Secretary can make reference to when making certain determinations; requiring the Secretary to delist an endangered or threatened species under certain circumstances; requiring a petition to remove a listed species to contain certain information; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

NR, Various Sections - amended and added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 579 Delegate R. Long**BALTIMORE COUNTY – PROPERTY TAX – PARTIAL EXEMPTION AND CREDITS FOR SENIORS**

Exempting the first \$50,000 of the assessment of a dwelling in Baltimore County from the State property tax if the homeowner is at least 65 years old and qualifies for the homestead property tax credit; altering the calculation of the homestead property tax credit for a homeowner in Baltimore County who is at least 65 years old; requiring the governing body of Baltimore County to grant a credit against the county property tax imposed on certain real property if the homeowner is at least 65 and as certain qualifications; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TP, §§ 7-309 and 9-305(j) - added and § 9-105(d)(6)(ii) and (e) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 580 Montgomery County Delegation**MONTGOMERY COUNTY – VOTING METHODS MC 1–26**

Authorizing the Montgomery County Council to adopt, by law, a ranked-choice voting method or an approval voting method for elections for certain local offices.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

EL, §§ 8-101 and 9-204 - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 581 Delegates R. Long and Mangione**BALTIMORE COUNTY – ABSENTEE BALLOTS – SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS**

Prohibiting the Baltimore County Board of Elections from removing an absentee ballot from a return envelope or ballot/return envelope or counting the ballot unless the return envelope or ballot/return envelope is signed by the voter and, except under certain circumstances, a witness and the Board verifies the voter's signature.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EMERGENCY BILL

EL, §§ 9-303 and 9-310(a)(5) and (c) - amended and § 9-310.1 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 582 Prince George's County Delegation**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSES – VOTER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT PG 318–26**

Repealing the requirement that a certain individual be a registered voter to apply for or sign an application on behalf of certain entities for certain alcoholic beverages licenses in Prince George's County.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, §§ 26-1004(b), 26-1005(b), 26-1008(b), 26-1009(b), 26-1019(b), 26-1405(c), and 26-1406(c) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 583 Prince George's County Delegation

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF CLASS C PER DIEM BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR LICENSE PG 319–26

Updating the name of a certain office from the County Department of Environmental Resources to the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement to which the Board of License Commissioners for Prince George's County must provide notice when issuing a Class C per diem beer, wine, and liquor license.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, § 26-1311 - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 584 Delegate Stewart

CLEAN MARYLAND DEMOCRACY AMENDMENT

Guaranteeing equal voting rights for all eligible voters; establishing that the people of Maryland have the right to elections that are free from improper foreign influence, undisclosed funding, and undue domination by large corporate interests; prohibiting the State, counties, and municipal corporations from denying, diluting, or abridging the right to vote based on certain protected classes; requiring the General Assembly to provide by law for a Maryland Voting Rights Act to protect the right to vote; etc.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – CONTINGENT

Maryland Constitution, Declaration of Rights, Arts. 49 and 50 and Maryland Constitution, Art. I, § 7A - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 585 Delegate Chang

TRANSPORTATION – RENTAL CARS – EXCISE TAX EXEMPTION

Providing an exemption for certain rental vehicles from the vehicle excise tax; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TR, §§ 8-402(b), 13-809(c)(1), and 13-810(a)(24) and (25) - amended and § 13-810(a)(26) - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 586 Delegate Behler, et al**COUNTY BOARDS OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES – MEMBERSHIP – STUDENT MEMBER**

Authorizing a county board of library trustees to provide for the selection of a student member of the board; and establishing the qualifications, setting a 1–year term of office, and providing for the voting rights of the student member of a county board of library trustees, if selected.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 23-403 and 23-404 - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 587 Delegate Phillips, et al**PROCUREMENT – DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY CONTRACTS – BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACT AUTHORITY**

Authorizing the Board of Public Works to control certain procurement contracts by the Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transportation Authority valued at or above \$500,000.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SF, §§ 4-415, 10-202, 12-101(a), 12-103, 12-107(a), 12-108, and 12-202(a) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 588 Delegate Hill, et al**MISSING AND MURDERED AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKAN NATIVE WOMEN AND GIRLS – DAY OF AWARENESS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT**

Requiring the Governor to annually proclaim May 5 as Missing and Murdered American Indian and Alaskan Native Women and Girls Awareness Day; and requiring the Department of State Police to report to the General Assembly by December 1, 2026, on whether State and local law enforcement agencies are sufficiently collecting data on violence against American Indian and Alaskan Native individuals in the State and to make policy recommendations on improving data collection and coordination among law enforcement agencies.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

GP, §§ 7-410 through 7-421 - renumbered and § 7-410 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 589 Prince George's County Delegation

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY – VENDOR REGISTRATION PG 503–26

Requiring the Prince George's County Board of Education and the Board of Community College Trustees for Prince George's County to accept as a registered vendor any person that is registered as a vendor with Prince George's County; and authorizing the Prince George's County Board of Education and the Board of Community College Trustees for Prince George's County to enter into a certain memorandum of understanding with Prince George's County.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

ED, §§ 4-148 and 16-414.1 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Appropriations

HB 590 Howard County Delegation

HOWARD COUNTY – TRANSFER TAX – USE OF PROCEEDS HO. CO. 12–26

Altering the name of the Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Fund to be the Howard County Agricultural Preservation and Innovation Fund; and specifying that certain transfer tax proceeds that are distributed to the Fund are to be used to support the Agricultural Land Preservation Program and other programs, services, or initiatives to enhance the commercial viability or environmental sustainability of agriculture in the County.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

PLL of Howard Co., Art. 14, § 20.304 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 591 Delegate Beauchamp, et al

WICOMICO COUNTY – HIGHWAY PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ACT

Prohibiting a person in Wicomico County from standing in a roadway, shoulder, median divide, or intersection determined by the county or a municipal corporation in the county to be inherently dangerous; and prohibiting a police officer from issuing a citation for a violation of the Act unless appropriate signs have been installed.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TR, § 21-507.1 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 592 Delegate Mireku–North, et al**TASK FORCE TO STUDY FORCED INFANT SEPARATION FROM INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS**

Establishing the Task Force to Study Forced Infant Separation From Incarcerated Individuals to study and make recommendations regarding methods to reduce forced infant separation in the State and facilitate bonds between postpartum incarcerated individuals and their children; and requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary and Health

HB 593 Delegate Hill, et al**CRIMINAL LAW – INTERFERENCE WITH CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OR A PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT**

Prohibiting a person from intentionally, willfully, and without authorization committing a certain act with the intent to interrupt or impair the functioning of critical infrastructure; providing that a person convicted of violating the Act is guilty of a felony and is subject to imprisonment of up to 10 years or a fine not to exceed \$50,000, or both; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, § 7-302(a), (c), and (d) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 594 Delegate Lewis (By Request – Baltimore City Administration), et al**SALES AND USE TAX – DISTRIBUTION – CITY OF BALTIMORE**

Altering the distribution of sales and use tax revenues to require the Comptroller to pay to the City of Baltimore one-third of the revenues from sales and use taxes collected and remitted from sales that occur within the City of Baltimore.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 2-1303 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 595 Delegate Lewis, et al**INCOME TAX – CREDIT FOR PHYSICIAN PRECEPTORS IN AREAS WITH HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE SHORTAGES – ALTERATIONS**

Altering eligibility for a credit against the State income tax for physician preceptors by repealing a requirement that a student in a physician preceptorship program be enrolled in a medical school or medical training program in the State and reducing the required number of hours for a preceptor rotation for community-based clinical training; and applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-738 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Health

HB 596 Delegate Nkongolo, et al**ESTATES – MARYLAND UNIFORM SIMULTANEOUS DEATH ACT**

Conforming the Maryland Uniform Simultaneous Death Act to the Uniform Simultaneous Death Act; providing that a surviving individual who does not survive the death of another individual for at least 120 hours is deemed to have predeceased the other individual for purposes relating to the inheritance of property; establishing evidentiary procedures for determining an individual's death or survival in certain circumstances; providing for liability under the Act in connection with the distribution of disputed assets; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, §§ 10-801 through 10-805 - repealed, §§ 10-806 and 10-807 - renumbered, and §§ 1-801 through 10-807 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 597 Montgomery County Delegation**MONTGOMERY COUNTY – COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION
PILOT PROGRAM – ALTERATIONS MC 17–26**

Altering the beginning and ending dates for the Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program, from beginning on April 1, 2024, to April 1, 2026, and from ending 7 years after the beginning date to 9 years after the beginning date; and altering the dates on which the Public Service Commission must submit certain pilot program reports to the Governor and the General Assembly, from the sixth year after the beginning of the pilot program to the seventh year after the beginning of the pilot program and from December 31, 2031, to December 31, 2035.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PU, § 7-510.3(t) and (u) - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 598 Delegate Hill, et al**PHYSICIANS – LICENSING – INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED
PHYSICIANS**

Authorizing the State Board of Physicians, beginning October 1, 2028, to issue a license, not to exceed 3 years, to practice medicine to an internationally trained physician under certain circumstances; requiring the Board to adopt regulations establishing minimum qualifications and application fees and to provide a pathway to full licensure; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HO, § 14-321 - added

Assigned to: Health

HB 599 Delegates Hill and Smith**HEALTH – LICENSURE OF HOSPITALS – OWNERSHIP
REQUIREMENTS**

Requiring that hospitals, to qualify for a license on or after October 1, 2026, qualify as a nonprofit organization under federal law and be registered as a nonprofit organization with the State; requiring hospitals that receive licensure on or after October 1, 2026, to maintain status as a nonprofit organization as a condition of licensure; and providing that, on or after October 1, 2026, the ownership of a licensed hospital may be transferred only to a nonprofit organization.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 19-319(k) - added

Assigned to: Health

HB 600 St. Mary's County Delegation**ST. MARY'S COUNTY – METROPOLITAN COMMISSION**

Increasing the amount of a certain required bond from \$25,000 to \$250,000 that the Treasurer and any Deputy Treasurer gives to the State of Maryland, the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission, and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County; authorizing, instead of requiring, the Metropolitan Commission to conduct certain studies, plans, and estimates and altering the scope of those studies, plans, and estimates; and altering certain civil and criminal penalties for certain violations.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PLL of St. Mary's Co, Art. 19, §§ 113-2E.(2), 113-5A.(1), 113-21A. and B., and C.(1) and (2) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 601 Montgomery County Delegation**MONTGOMERY COUNTY – STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEMS PILOT PROGRAM – GAITHERSBURG AND ROCKVILLE MC 5–26**

Authorizing the use of stop sign monitoring systems in school zones in the City of Gaithersburg and the City of Rockville under the pilot program authorized for Prince George's County, certain school zones in Baltimore City, and the City of Takoma Park if authorized by local law.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TR, § 21-707.1 - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 602 Delegates R. Long and Mangione**BALTIMORE COUNTY – TRANSFER TAX – EXEMPTION FOR FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS**

Exempting instruments of writing that transfer improved residential real property to certain first-time home buyers from the Baltimore County transfer tax.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TP, § 13-601 and 13-602 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 603 Delegates R. Long and Mangione**BALTIMORE COUNTY – HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX CREDIT PERCENTAGE**

Requiring the homestead property tax credit percentage in Baltimore County to be 100%.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TP, § 9-105(e) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 604 Delegate Solomon**ARBITRATION REFORM FOR STATE EMPLOYEES ACT OF 2026**

Altering the collective bargaining process for certain 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

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: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 605 Delegate Addison, et al**PUBLIC SAFETY – GUN VIOLENCE VICTIM RELOCATION PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Gun Violence Victim Relocation Program within the Victim Services Unit of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy to provide certain victims of gun violence certain services and assistance related to relocating for the safety of the victim or the victim's family; establishing the Gun Violence Victim Relocation Program Fund; requiring the Victim Services Unit to establish a certain oversight commission; requiring the Unit to submit a yearly status report on the Program by December 1, beginning in 2028; etc.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

CP, § 11-1102 - amended, PS, §§ 5-901 through 5-907 - added, & SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(iii)212. & 213. - amended & § 6-226(a)(2)(iii)214. - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 606 Delegate Nkongolo, et al**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX
PAYMENT DEFERRALS – ELIGIBILITY**

Expanding eligibility for property tax payment deferrals in Anne Arundel County to include members of certain reserve components and certain members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Public Health Service; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2026.
EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TP, § 10-204.6(b) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 607 The Speaker (By Request – Governor’s Salary Commission)**CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS – SALARIES**

Providing for the annual salaries of the Comptroller, the Treasurer, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, §§ 4-103, 5-104, 6-103, and 7-107 - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 608 The Speaker (By Request – Judicial Compensation Commission)**COURTS – ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES – ANNUAL STIPEND**

Authorizing the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court of Maryland and a judge who serves as an administrative judge for a circuit court or the District Court to receive an annual stipend in addition to the judge’s annual salary.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

CJ, § 1-702 - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 609 Delegate Griffith, et al**STATE TRANSFER TAX – LAND PRESERVATION SPECIAL FUND –
REVENUE ALLOCATION**

Repealing a requirement that for fiscal years 2027, 2028, and 2029 \$25,000,000 of the balance of a special fund dedicated to certain land preservation programs be allocated to the General Fund of the State.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TP, § 13-209(c), (d), and (h) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 610 Delegate T. Morgan**ST. MARY'S COUNTY – GAMING BY QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION – LICENSE REQUIRED**

Requiring a qualified organization to hold a gaming license whenever the qualified organization conducts certain gaming in St. Mary's County; authorizing the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County to adopt certain regulations; and requiring the Board to designate a person to administer the issuance of gaming licenses in the county.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, §§ 13-2101 and 13-2111 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 611 Prince George's County Delegation**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – FEES PG 317–26**

Increasing certain application, license, permit, and license transfer fees related to alcoholic beverages in Prince George's County.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 612 Delegate Pasteur, et al**CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMS – STATE CORRECTIONAL OMBUDSMAN AND CERTIFIED PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST TRAINING PROGRAM FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS**

Requiring the Director of Education and Workforce Skills Training for Correctional Institutions to consult with the State Correctional Ombudsman about the operation of education and workforce skills training programs in adult correctional institutions; establishing the Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Training Program for Incarcerated Individuals in the Maryland Department of Labor; and authorizing the Governor in fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter to provide sufficient funding for the program in the annual budget bill.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

LE, § 11-903 - amended and § 11-903.1 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 613 Delegate T. Morgan, et al**CALVERT AND ST. MARY’S COUNTIES – LIVING SHORELINES AND NONSTRUCTURAL SHORELINE STABILIZATION MEASURES**

Establishing requirements for the use of living shorelines and nonstructural stabilization measures in Calvert County and St. Mary’s County; and exempting property located in Calvert County and St. Mary’s County from certain general requirements regarding the use of nonstructural shoreline stabilization measures.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EN, § 16-201 - amended and NR, § 8-1808.11 - repealed and added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 614 Delegate Wu, et al**EDUCATION – SCHOOL BUILDING ENERGY USAGE – MONTHLY REPORT**

Requiring each county board of education to collect data on energy usage and report the data collected to the Interagency Commission on School Construction; requiring the Commission to adopt regulations specifying the data to be collected and the means and frequency of reporting; and requiring the Commission to analyze the data collected and provide recommendations for improving school building energy efficiency and usage.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 5-331 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED JANUARY 28, 2026**HJ 6 The Speaker (By Request – Judicial Compensation Commission)****JUDICIAL COMPENSATION COMMISSION – RECOMMENDATIONS**

Establishing the compensation of the members of the Judiciary in this State in accordance with Section 1–708 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

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

Assigned to: Appropriations