



SYNOPSIS

House Bills and Joint Resolutions
2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

January 30, 2026
Schedule 11

PLEASE NOTE: February 9 – Bill introduction deadline.

All bills must be given to the Chief Clerk by 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 8.

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 30, 2026

HB 615 **Delegate Cullison**

HEALTH FACILITIES – CONFIDENTIALITY OF MEDICAL RECORDS –
CRISIS PREGNANCY CLINICS

Applying certain provisions of law governing the confidentiality of medical records to crisis pregnancy clinics.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 4-301(h) - amended

Assigned to: Health

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 616 Delegate Cullison

HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION – HEALTH FACILITIES – JURISDICTION AND RATE SETTING

Altering the jurisdiction of the Health Services Cost Review Commission; and requiring the Commission, in carrying out certain responsibilities relating to evaluating facility resources to meet certain financial requirements and reviewing costs and rates of hospital services, to take into account all costs incurred or expenditures made by a health facility in connection with the operation of the facility.

EMERGENCY BILL

HG, §§ 19-211(a), 19-212, and 19-219(b) - amended

Assigned to: Health

HB 617 Delegate Fair, et al

CITY OF FREDERICK – NOISE ABATEMENT MONITORING SYSTEMS – AUTHORIZATION

Authorizing the use of noise abatement monitoring systems in the City of Frederick to enforce certain motor vehicle noise requirements.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TR, § 22-612 - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 618 Delegate A. Johnson

COMMERCIAL LAW – SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITIES – ALTERATIONS

Prohibiting an occupant from using the occupant's self-service storage facility beyond the term of a rental agreement after delivery of a notice of nonrenewal; requiring an operator to give an occupant at least 30 days after delivery of a notice of nonrenewal to remove the occupant's personal property from the self-service storage facility; requiring an operator to give an occupant notice of intent to dispose of the occupant's personal property at least 10 days before the operator disposes of that personal property; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CL, §§ 18-501 and 18-502 - amended

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 619 Delegate Cullison**INTERSTATE PODIATRIC MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT**

Entering into the Interstate Podiatric Medical Licensure Compact; authorizing a podiatrist to practice in a participating state under certain scope of practice rules; establishing the Interstate Podiatric Medical Licensure Compact Commission to oversee the Compact and its duties and powers; and providing the Act is contingent on the enactment of substantially similar provisions in four other states.

CONTINGENT – EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HO, § 16-3A-01 - added

Assigned to: Health

HB 620 Delegate Moreno, et al**COMMEMORATIVE MONTHS – MARYLAND CLIMATE EDUCATION MONTH**

Requiring the Governor annually to proclaim April as Maryland Climate Education Month; and requiring the proclamation to urge participation in climate activities and initiatives and the taking of certain actions.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

GP, §§ 7-504 through 7-507 - renumbered and § 7-504 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 621 Delegate D. Jones, et al**LOCAL BOARDS OF ELECTIONS – BOARD COUNSEL – QUALIFICATIONS**

Altering the qualifications for counsel to local boards of elections to require that counsel be a registered voter of the State instead of the applicable county.

EMERGENCY BILL

EL, § 2-205(a) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 622 Chair, Economic Matters Committee (By Request – Maryland Cannabis Administration)

CANNABIS – LICENSEES – MICRO DISPENSARY EMPLOYEES AND CANNABIS AGENT TRAINING PROGRAMS

Increasing from 10 to 20 the number of individuals a micro dispensary is permitted to employ; and altering certain provisions relating to training requirements for certain cannabis agents.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, §§ 36-401(c)(2), 36-407(h), 36-501(f), 36-1001, and 36-1002 - amended
Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 623 Delegate Patterson, et al

EDUCATION – PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS PROGRAM AND PURPLE STAR COLLEGES PROGRAM

Altering the definition of “military-connected student” under the Purple Star Schools Program to conform with certain terms defined under State law; and establishing the Purple Star Colleges Program to recognize certain colleges that provide strong services and support for military-connected students.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-129(a) - amended and §§ 11-2001 through 11-2003 - added
Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 624 Delegate White Holland, et al

HOSPITALS – CLINICAL STAFFING COMMITTEES AND PLANS – ESTABLISHMENT (SAFE STAFFING ACT OF 2026)

Requiring certain hospitals licensed in the State to establish and maintain a clinical staffing committee and to implement a clinical staffing plan; requiring each clinical staffing committee to develop a clinical staffing plan; requiring, on or before July 1 each year, each hospital’s clinical staffing committee to conduct a review of the clinical staffing plan for certain purposes; requiring, on or before January 1, 2028, each hospital to implement a clinical staffing plan and assign personnel in accordance with the plan; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, §§ 19-393 through 19-397 - added

Assigned to: Health

HB 625 Delegate Cullison**HUMAN-RELEVANT RESEARCH FUND – COLLECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS – RESPONSIBLE ENTITY**

Requiring research facilities that are located in the State and required to submit an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Form 7023 to pay contributions for the Human-Relevant Research Fund to the Department of Agriculture, rather than the Maryland Department of Health; and establishing that a research facility that fails to pay the contribution required by the Act may be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 per day.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, §§ 24-2301 through 24-2303 - repealed and AG, §§ 2-2501 through 2-2503 - added

Assigned to: Health

HB 626 Delegate Acevero, et al**CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION OF MINORS – ADMISSIBILITY OF STATEMENTS (EXONERATED 5 ACT)**

Establishing a certain rebuttable presumption that a statement made by a minor during a custodial interrogation is involuntary and is inadmissible in a juvenile or criminal proceeding against the minor if the law enforcement officer intentionally used information known by the officer to be false in order to elicit the statement.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 10-926 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 627 Delegate Acevero, et al**COMMISSION ON HISTORY, CULTURE, AND CIVICS IN EDUCATION – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education to make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education to further the discovery, interpretation, and learning of the history, culture, and civics of the United States and Maryland and provide equitable learning outcomes consistent with certain provisions of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-137 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 628 Delegate Acevero, et al**HUMAN SERVICES – UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME FOR TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Universal Basic Income for Transition-Age Youth Program in the Department of Human Services to provide for the economic security of individuals aging out of the out-of-home placement program; providing that payments made under the Program may not be considered income or resources for purposes of determining eligibility for certain benefits; and requiring the Department to report annually by October 1 to the General Assembly including descriptive information and outcome measures of recipients.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HU, §§ 5-5C-01 through 5-5C-04 - added

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 629 Delegate A. Johnson**MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION – STUDY ON LAND-BASED WIND ENERGY**

Requiring the Maryland Energy Administration to conduct a study on the potential for land-based wind energy generation in the State and the siting of land-based wind energy generating systems in the State; authorizing the Administration to use available funds in the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to conduct the study; and requiring by December 1, 2026, the Administration to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 630 Delegate Schindler, et al**CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – IMMIGRATION DETENTION FACILITIES – ORIGINAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**

Prohibiting a person from operating an immigration detention facility at a building, structure, or facility that was not originally designed and constructed for the purpose of housing or detaining individuals.

EMERGENCY BILL

CS, § 1-102 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 631 Delegate Schindler**CRIMINAL LAW – THREATS AGAINST STATE OR LOCAL OFFICIAL – PENALTIES**

Increasing the penalties for a violation of the prohibition against making certain threats against a State official, a local official, a deputy State's Attorney, an assistant State's Attorney, or an assistant Public Defender.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, § 3-708 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 632 Delegate Grammer, et al**CERTIFICATE OF NEED – PSYCHIATRIC HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND PSYCHIATRIC AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – EXEMPTION**

Altering the definition of “medical service” for the purpose of providing an exemption to the certificate of need requirement by removing psychiatry and any subcategory of psychiatry; and providing that a certificate of need is not required to establish or operate a psychiatric health care facility or to offer psychiatric or other mental health services at a health care facility.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 19-120(a) and (j) - amended and § 19-122.1 - added

Assigned to: Health

HB 633 Delegate Hill, et al**HEALTH INSURANCE – OVARIAN CANCER PREVENTION WITH SALPINGECTOMY – REQUIRED COVERAGE AND PROHIBITED COST SHARING**

Requiring certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide individuals with salpingectomy coverage for ovarian cancer prevention; and prohibiting the insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations from imposing a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible requirement on the salpingectomy coverage.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

IN, § 15-864 - added

Assigned to: Health

HB 634 Delegate Kaufman, et al

POLICE TRAINING – AUTISM AND DEMENTIA (LEAD ACT OF 2026)

Requiring the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to require entrance-level and in-service police training to include certain training regarding individuals with dementia and autism.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PS, § 3-207(a)(16) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 635 Delegate Miller, et al

CHILD CARE FACILITIES – CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK – REQUIREMENT

Requiring individuals who will have direct contact with children in certain child care facilities to submit to a criminal history records check; requiring the State Department of Education to establish a centralized unit for the processing and management of information about criminal history records checks; altering the applicability of probationary employment qualifications for first-time child care teachers in child care centers in the State that serve children who are at least 2 years old; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

ED, §§ 2-104(a) and 9.5-404(b)(13) - amended and § 9.5-118 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 636 Delegate Harrison, et al

PUBLIC ETHICS – MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY – STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT EXEMPTION

Exempting a member of the General Assembly, a filed candidate for election to the General Assembly, or a member-elect of the General Assembly from the prohibition against receiving earned income from an executive unit or political subdivision of the State under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

GP, § 5-514(a) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 637 The Speaker (By Request – Administration), et al

PUBLIC HEALTH – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMUNIZATIONS, SCREENINGS, AND PREVENTIVE SERVICES – PHARMACIST ADMINISTRATION AND REQUIRED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE (THE VAX ACT)

Requiring the Secretary of Health to issue recommendations for certain immunizations, screenings, and preventive services based on certain evidence-based scientific and clinical guidance; altering the authority of pharmacists to administer certain vaccinations; altering the health insurance coverage requirements for certain immunizations, screenings, and preventive services; and repealing obsolete language regarding the pertussis vaccine.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

HG, §§ 18-328 through 18-332 - repealed and § 18-112 - added and HO, §12-508 and IN, §§ 15-1A-10 and 15-817 - amended

Assigned to: Health

HB 638 Delegate Cardin

JUDGES – MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE

Proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to raise the mandatory retirement age of all judges in the State from 70 to 73.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – CONTINGENT

Maryland Constitution, Art. IV, §§ 3, 3A, 5A, 18B, and 41D - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 639 Delegate Charkoudian

TRANSPORTATION – AVIATION – PASSENGER HEALTH AND SAFETY (AVIATION HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT)

Requiring the Maryland Aviation Administration to develop certain passenger forms for aircraft traveling with detained individuals; requiring certain flight crews to distribute and collect certain forms; requiring certain aeronautical service providers to confirm that the forms are on board an aircraft before servicing the aircraft; prohibiting the refueling of an aircraft if an individual on board is in any kind of restraint; requiring that certain individuals who are removed from an aircraft be provided certain services; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, §§ 5-107, 5-108, and 5-1010 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 640 Chair, Government, Labor, and Elections Committee (By Request – Departmental – Budget and Management)

MANDATED REPORTS, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS – REVISIONS

Modifying certain reporting requirements, boards, and commissions for practicability and efficiency; repealing certain reporting requirements that are unnecessary, obsolete, or duplicative; repealing as obsolete the Renewable Fuels Incentive Board, Criminal Justice Information Advisory Board, Two-Generation Family Economic Security Commission, and Commission on Trauma-Informed Care; repealing as unnecessary the Partnership for Workforce Quality Advisory Board; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

Various Articles, Various Sections - Various Actions and Chapter 2 of the Acts of the 2007 Special Session, § 13 - repealed

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 641 Delegate Williams, et al

ELECTION LAW – CURBSIDE VOTING – PILOT PROGRAM

Establishing the Curbside Voting Pilot Program to test the viability of curbside voting in the State; establishing requirements governing curbside voting; and requiring the State Board to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Pilot Program by September 1, 2031.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

EL, §§ 1-101(p-1) and 10-316 - added and § 9-102(d)(1) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 642 Delegate J. Long, et al

ELECTRIC COMPANIES – SERVICE OUTAGES AND RATE INCREASES – REPORT ON CUSTOMER IMPACT

Requiring each electric company to report to the Public Service Commission, on or before April 1 each year, geographic and demographic data on all customers impacted by certain service outages and rate increases within the immediately preceding year.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PU, § 7-108.1 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 643 Delegate Valderrama, et al

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS – LICENSURE –
QUALIFICATIONS

Altering certain educational and experiential qualifications for a license to practice certified public accountancy.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BOP, §§ 2-302 and 2-303 - amended

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 644 Delegate D. Jones, et al

PROPERTY TAX – EXEMPTION FOR DWELLINGS OF SURVIVING SPOUSES OF DISABLED VETERANS – APPLICATION

Altering the application requirements for a certain property tax exemption for a dwelling house owned by the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TP, § 7-208 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 645 Delegate Allen

CRIMINAL LAW – FRAUD – ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TREATMENT

Prohibiting a person from intentionally or knowingly providing certain assisted reproductive treatment to another using the person's sperm or ovum without the other's consent to assisted reproductive treatment using the person's sperm or ovum; and establishing a civil cause of action for a violation of the Act.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, § 8-906 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 646 Delegates Guyton and Korman

DRIVER LICENSING – SELF-REPORTING OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Requiring that a medical provider report or physician referral be the primary factor in the Motor Vehicle Administration's decision on whether to issue, refuse, or cancel a driver's license for driver's license holders or applicants who self-report a diagnosis of certain medical conditions, subject to a certain exception; authorizing the Administration in its discretion to require additional testing of a licensee or an applicant who provides notice of a diagnosis; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, 16-119.1 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 647 Delegates Ivey and Fennell

POWER PLANT RESEARCH PROGRAM – STUDY ON NUCLEAR ENERGY

Requiring the Power Plant Research Program to study and make recommendations on nuclear energy and its role as a renewable energy resource that can effectively combat climate change in the State; and requiring, by September 30, 2027, the Program to report its official findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 648 Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request – Departmental – Human Services)

OFFICE OF HOME ENERGY PROGRAMS – UNIFORM REDETERMINATION PROCESS – AGE

Reducing the age at which certain eligible energy customers qualify for a certain redetermination process for enrollment in energy assistance programs from 65 to 60.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

HU, § 5-5A-09(a) - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 649 Chair, Government, Labor, and Elections Committee (By Request – Departmental – Civil Rights Commission)

ADVANCING EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS IN MARYLAND

Authorizing the Commission on Civil Rights to enforce a prohibition against discrimination and retaliation in educational institutions based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or marital status; establishing the powers, duties, and limitations of the authority of the Commission on Civil Rights to enforce the prohibition against educational discrimination; establishing a private right of action; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, § 20-101 and ED, § 26-705 - amended and SG, §§ 20-7A-01 through 20-7A-05 and 20-1013.1 and ED, §§ 11-409, 12-124, and 26-706 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 650 Delegate Rosenberg, et al

CIVIL ACTIONS – MARYLAND UNIFORM PUBLIC EXPRESSION PROTECTION ACT

Repealing a certain provision relating to strategic lawsuits against public participation; authorizing a person served with a pleading asserting a certain cause of action based on the person's communication related to a governmental proceeding or exercise of certain constitutional rights to file a special motion for expedited relief to dismiss the cause of action; and generally relating to civil actions and public expression.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 5-807 - repealed, §§ 5-1301 through 5-1313 - added, and § 5-808 - renumbered

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 651 Delegate R. Long, et al

TAX EXEMPTIONS – INDIVIDUALS DETAINED OR TAKEN HOSTAGE ABROAD

Exempting from taxation the income of a certain individual detained or taken hostage abroad during the taxable year and the spouse of that individual; and exempting from property tax certain property that is owned by an individual detained or taken hostage abroad or the spouse of that individual, subject to certain limitations.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TG, § 10-104 - amended and TG, § 10-110 and TP, § 7-252 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 652 Delegate R. Long, et al

PROPERTY TAX – HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER

Establishing the taxable assessment to be used for the calculation of the homestead property tax credit for first-time homebuyers in the State.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TP, §§ 9-105(a)(7) through (9) and (d)(1), 9-305(e)(1)(iii), and 14-801(c) - amended and § 9-105(a)(7) and (d)(9) - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 653 Delegate Behler, et al

INCOME TAX – SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY RETIREMENT INCOME – AMOUNT

Increasing from \$15,000 to \$20,000 over a period of 5 taxable years the amount allowed as a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for certain retirement income attributable to an individual's employment as a public safety employee.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-207(mm) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 654 Delegates Behler and Hinebaugh

NATURAL RESOURCES – MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS AUTHORITY – FUNDING AND GRANTS

Authorizing the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority to award grants and loans to certain entities for the management of certified heritage areas under certain circumstances; decreasing from 10% to 7% the percentage of Program Open Space funds transferred to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund that may be used for certain operating expenses; repealing a provision of law authorizing the distribution of up to \$300,000 to the Maryland Historical Trust; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

FI, §§ 13-1113 and 13-1114 and NR, § 5-903(a)(1) and (2)(i) and (iv) - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 655 Delegate R. Long, et al

EDUCATION – STUDENT BEHAVIOR – PARENT AND GUARDIAN NOTICE AND REQUIRED COUNSELING (PARENT AND GUARDIAN ACCOUNTABILITY ACT)

Establishing that it is unlawful for a parent or guardian of a student in a public school to fail to seek and participate in counseling with the parent's or guardian's child after receiving a certain notice of violent and disruptive behavior; and requiring a public school principal to provide a certain written notice to the parent or guardian of a student who engages in two or more incidents of violent and disruptive behavior on school premises or during school-related activities during the school year.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

CJ, § 3-8A-30.1 and ED, § 7-304.2 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 656 Delegate R. Long, et al**INCOME, SALES AND USE, AND PROPERTY TAXES – REVOCATION OF EXEMPT STATUS FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUPPORTING TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS**

Requiring, as practicable, the Comptroller and the Director of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to jointly determine on a regular basis whether a certain nonprofit organization in the State has been found to be a certain terrorist–supporting organization; requiring that the Comptroller and the Director revoke a terrorist–supporting organization’s tax–exempt status with respect to certain Maryland income tax, sales and use tax, and property tax exemptions; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TG, § 2-121 and TP, § 7-111 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 657 Delegate Stonko, et al**CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS – LICENSURE – QUALIFICATIONS**

Altering certain educational and experiential qualifications for a license to practice certified public accountancy; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BOP, §§ 2-302 and 2-303 - amended

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 658 Delegate Charkoudian**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – COMMUNITY FORENSIC AFTERCARE PROGRAM – ESTABLISHED**

Establishing the Community Forensic Aftercare Program in the Maryland Department of Health to monitor committed persons on conditional release and individuals with mental illness or intellectual disability who are required to be monitored under certain circumstances; requiring the Program to establish a community monitoring board to make certain recommendations and decisions related to conditional release and out-of-state travel; requiring the Board to maintain a written record of its findings, recommendations, and decisions; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CP, § 3-122(a) - amended and HG, §§ 13-5901 through 13-5904 - added

Assigned to: Health

HB 659 Delegate Guzzone, et al**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – MEMBERSHIP – EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL**

Altering the membership of the State Board of Education to include, as a member, an early childhood development professional with extensive experience in the operations of a child care business and early childhood curriculum and development; and requiring the Governor to appoint the early childhood development member, with the advice and consent of the Senate, from a list of three qualified individuals submitted from the Office of Child Care Advisory Council.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 2-202 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 660 Delegate D. Jones, et al**PUBLIC LIBRARIES – STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER – FUNDING**

Altering the calculation of certain funding for the State Library Resource Center for fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 23-205(c) and (d) - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 661 Delegates Wolek and Solomon**GENERAL PROVISIONS – COMMEMORATIVE MONTHS – MUSLIM AMERICAN HERITAGE AND JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTHS**

Requiring the Governor annually to proclaim the month of January as Muslim American Heritage month and the month of May as Jewish American Heritage month; and requiring the proclamations to urge certain organizations to observe the months with certain programs and activities.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

GP, §§ 7-501 through 7-507 - renumbered and §§ 7-501 and 7-505 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 662 Delegates D. Jones and Chang

ELECTION LAW – ELECTION JUDGES – COMPENSATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

Authorizing a public school student in the State both to earn hours toward the service-learning graduation requirement and to receive election judge compensation for service as an election judge.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EL, § 10-205(d) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 663 Delegate Rosenberg

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT – FEDERAL POLICY ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – REPORTING

Requiring, beginning on or before July 1, 2026, and every 6 months thereafter, the Department of the Environment to report to the General Assembly on any changes in federal policy on greenhouse gas emissions that have been deemed legally valid by a final decision of a federal court and, if there has been a change in federal policy, on the steps the State is taking to respond to that change.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

EN, § 2-1213 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 664 Cecil County Delegation

CECIL COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – ALTERATION OF LICENSE QUOTA

Altering the quota on the number of alcoholic beverages licenses that the Board of License Commissioners for Cecil County may issue to apply only to Class A licenses based on a certain ratio.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, § 17-1601 - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 665 Delegate Cullison**RESEARCH FACILITIES AND TESTING FACILITIES THAT USE ANIMALS – ADOPTION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Applying certain provisions of law regarding the adoption of dogs and cats used for scientific research purposes to testing facilities; requiring certain research facilities and testing facilities to submit to the Department of Agriculture certain information regarding dogs and cats on or before January 31 each year; and requiring a school or an institution of higher education that uses animals for certain purposes to submit a report on the results of certain inspections to the General Assembly on or before December 31 each year.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

AG, §§ 15-101 and 15-103 through 15-106 - added and § 15-101 - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 666 Delegate Cullison**RESEARCH FACILITIES AND TESTING FACILITIES THAT USE ANIMALS – PROHIBITIONS AND ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS (ANIMAL RESEARCH MODERNIZATION AND BEST PRACTICES ACT OF 2026)**

Prohibiting a research facility or a testing facility from using certain dogs and cats for research or testing purposes; prohibiting a research facility or testing facility from performing devocalization procedures on dogs or cats; prohibiting a testing facility from using traditional animal test methods under certain circumstances; applying certain provisions of law regarding the adoption of dogs and cats used for scientific research purposes to testing facilities; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

AG, § 15-101 - amended and §§ 15-101 through 15-103, 15-105, and 15-106 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HOUSE BILL REASSIGNED JANUARY 28, 2026

HB 479 Delegate Patterson, et al

SOUTHERN MARYLAND EARLY COLLEGE TEACHER PATHWAY PROGRAM AND PROGRAM WORKGROUP – ESTABLISHMENT

Establishing the Southern Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway Program; requiring the State Department of Education to administer and implement, in consultation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the Program subject to a certain condition; requiring the University System of Maryland to develop, in consultation with the Department and the Commission, the Program and the teacher preparation pathway; establishing the Southern Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway Program Workgroup; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 7-2201 through 7-2204 and 12-124 - added

Reassigned to: Ways and Means and Appropriations