



# SYNOPSIS

House Bills and Joint Resolutions  
2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

**February 2, 2026**  
**Schedule 12**

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**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.

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## **HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

### **HB 667 Delegate Ruff**

#### **CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATIVE PRERELEASE SERVICES – FEMALE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS**

Altering the required specifications for a certain prerelease facility for female incarcerated individuals; requiring the Department of General Services to direct the procurement processes for the construction of a certain prerelease facility for female incarcerated individuals; requiring the Commissioner of Correction to make gender-responsive services available to certain female incarcerated individuals; requiring the implementation of comprehensive prerelease services for certain individuals by September 1, 2026; etc.

#### **EMERGENCY BILL**

CS, §§ 3-301 and 3-303 - amended and § 3-301.1 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

#### **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 668 St. Mary's County Delegation****ST. MARY'S COUNTY – PROHIBITION ON STANDING IN INHERENTLY DANGEROUS HIGHWAY**

Prohibiting a person in St. Mary's County from standing in a roadway, a shoulder, a median divide, or an 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 OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, § 21-507.1 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

**HB 669 Delegate Pruski****POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS – THIRD-PARTY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS – SATISFACTORY COMPLETION**

Prohibiting a political subdivision from issuing a use and occupancy permit to the nongovernment holder of a permit to complete certain improvements on State roads that carry 25,000 vehicles per day until the improvement is completed to the satisfaction of the State Highway Administration and the political subdivision; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, § 8-646(b) - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

**HB 670 Delegate Moreno, et al****CRIMINAL LAW – CHILD PORNOGRAPHY – PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES**

Prohibiting a person from possessing more than 100 images of certain child pornography or possessing or viewing images of certain child pornography depicting a minor or an individual indistinguishable from an actual and identifiable child under the age of 13 years; providing that a violation of the Act is a felony and on conviction a violator is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 10 years; and providing that a sentence under the Act may be separate from and consecutive to or concurrent with a sentence imposed for certain other crimes.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, § 11-208.2 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

**HB 671 Delegates Shetty and Lopez****NURSING FACILITIES – MEDICAID QUALITY ASSESSMENT – FUNDING OF OFFICE OF THE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN**

Requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill at least 3% of the special funds collected from the Medicaid quality assessment imposed on certain nursing facilities to fund the operations of the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

HG, § 19-310.1 - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

**HB 672 Delegates Shetty and Rosenberg****PUBLIC HEALTH – MARYLAND PEDIATRIC CANCER FUND – ENTITIES ELIGIBLE FOR GRANTS**

Altering which entities are eligible to receive grants from the Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund to exclude certain physicians, laboratories, and persons, and include certain nonprofit institutions.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 20-120 - amended

Assigned to: Health

**HB 673 Delegate Arikan, et al****CONSUMER GOODS – RESTRICTIONS BASED ON ENERGY SOURCE – PROHIBITION (ENERGY EQUALITY ACT OF 2026)**

Prohibiting a local government or unit of State government from restricting the sale, purchase, or use of a certain consumer good solely on the basis of the energy source used to power the consumer good; repealing provisions of law requiring the Department of the Environment to establish and maintain a certain low emissions vehicle program; repealing provisions of law requiring the Department to establish requirements for the sale of new zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles; and applying the Act retroactively.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CL, § 11-906 - added, EN, §§ 2-1101 thru 2-1103, 2-1103.1, and 2-1104 thru 2-1106 - repealed, and TR, §§ 13-110(5) and 13-406(9) - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

**HB 674 Delegates T. Morgan and Boyce****PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION – FULL COSTS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS OF SOURCES OF ELECTRICITY GENERATION**

Requiring the Public Service Commission to conduct an analysis of the full costs and benefits of sources of electricity generation in the State; and requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the House Environment and Transportation Committee by December 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

**HB 675 Delegate Arikan, et al****PUBLIC SAFETY – IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT – IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENTS**

Requiring local law enforcement agencies in the State that operate a correctional facility to enter into an immigration enforcement agreement by January 1, 2027; and establishing penalties for local law enforcement agencies that fail to comply with the requirements of this Act.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PS, § 5-535 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

**HB 676 Delegate Spiegel, et al****MARYLAND FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER NETWORK PILOT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Maryland Financial Empowerment Center Network Pilot Program within the Office of the Comptroller to establish a statewide network of financial empowerment centers in different regions of the State; requiring each center to provide one-on-one financial counseling and coaching services free of charge; and requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill for fiscal years 2028 and 2029 an appropriation to the Comptroller sufficient to cover the costs of the Pilot Program.

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

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TG, §§ 1-501 through 1-505 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

**HB 677 Delegate Nkongolo, et al****REDUCTION FACILITIES AND VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS – HYDROLYZED AND SOIL REMAINS – IMMUNITY**

Providing that a registered reduction operator is not civilly liable for transferring and a veterans service organization is not civilly liable for receiving unclaimed hydrolyzed or soil remains of a veteran or an eligible dependent of a veteran for the purposes of disposition if acting in good faith.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 5-642 - amended

Assigned to: Health

**HB 678 Delegate Forbes (Chair, Joint Committee on Pensions)****CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM – MEMBERSHIP – CLARIFICATIONS**

Clarifying the membership in the Correctional Officers' Retirement System for certain employees of certain Maryland Department of Health facilities; and clarifying that certain participating employees who are appointed, promoted, or transferred are members of the Correctional Officers' Retirement System as a condition of employment.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SP, §§ 20-206(g), 25-201, and 25-401 - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

**HB 679 Delegate Arikan, et al****HEALTH OCCUPATIONS – CROSS-SEX HORMONE THERAPY FOR MINORS**

Prohibiting a licensed health care practitioner from prescribing, dispensing, or administering a cross-sex hormone or otherwise providing cross-sex hormone therapy for the treatment of a mental health diagnoses associated with gender nonconformity, including gender dysphoria, to an individual who is a minor.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HO, § 1-212.2 - added

Assigned to: Health

**HB 680 Delegate Shetty, et al****CHILDREN'S CABINET FUND – RENAMING AND FUNDING FOR GRANTS TO LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS**

Renaming the Children's Cabinet Fund to be the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund; and requiring the Governor, for fiscal years 2028 through 2031, to include an appropriation in the annual budget bill to the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund to be used for grants to the local management boards. This bill requires a mandated appropriation in the annual budget bill.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 8-417(b)(1), HG, § 15-139(c)(1), and HU, §§ 8-501 through 8-503 - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

**HB 681 Delegate Lewis (By Request – Baltimore City Administration), et al****BALTIMORE CITY – ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT – AMOUNT OF FINES AND PENALTIES**

Increasing from \$1,000 to \$5,000 the maximum amount that Baltimore City is authorized to establish for civil and criminal fines and penalties for violating certain ordinances, rules, or regulations.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

The Charter of Baltimore City, Art. II, § (48) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

**HB 682 Delegate Pruski****ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – GOLF COURSE LICENSE AND SPORTS ACTIVITY VENUE LICENSES**

Establishing in Anne Arundel County a Class C (golf course) license that authorizes the holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption at a golf course with at least 9 holes; and establishing in Anne Arundel County sports activity venue licenses that authorize the holder to sell beer and wine or beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption at a certain sports activity venue.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, § 11-1006.2 - renumbered and §§ 11-1006.2 and 11-1008.2 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

**HB 683 Delegate Wims****REAL PROPERTY – IMPLIED WARRANTIES – MISSING OR INCOMPLETE IMPROVEMENTS**

Providing that certain provisions of law pertaining to implied warranties do not apply to an improvement that was incomplete or missing at the time of the delivery of the deed.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

RP, § 10-203 - amended

Assigned to: Economic Matters

**HB 684 Chair, Health Committee (By Request – Departmental – Maryland Insurance Administration)****HEALTH INSURANCE – MATERIAL CHANGES TO PROVIDER NETWORKS – NOTIFICATION AND SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD**

Requiring certain health systems to comply with certain insurance provisions regarding notice of termination of contracts; altering the notification requirements a carrier is required to provide an enrollee regarding changes to the carrier's provider panel; altering the notice requirements a carrier is required to provide to the Insurance Commissioner for certain material changes to the carrier's provider panel; requiring certain notice if a carrier and health system intend to terminate certain contracts; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 19-310.7 and IN, § 15-112(b)(4) and (y) - added and IN, §§ 15-112(b)(1)(ii)2., (c)(2), and 15-1316 - amended

Assigned to: Health

**HB 685 Delegate Rogers, et al****ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – COUNTY EMPLOYEES**

Authorizing the governing body of Anne Arundel County or of a municipal corporation in Anne Arundel County to grant, by law, a property tax credit against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on certain dwellings that are owned by Anne Arundel County employees; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TP, § 9-303(e) - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

**HB 686 Delegate Williams, et al**

## VEHICLE LAWS – ELUDING POLICE – PENALTIES (ZOEY’S LAW)

Altering penalties for attempting to elude a police officer when that attempt results in the death of another person by classifying a violation of the Act as a felony and, for a first offense, providing a term of imprisonment of up 5 rather than 10 years and a fine or both and, for a second or subsequent offense, imprisonment of up to 10 years or a fine not to exceed \$5,000 or both.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, § 21-904 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

**HB 687 Delegate Amprey, et al**

## CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – EVIDENCE – PROTECTING ARTISTS’ CREATIVE EXPRESSION (PACE ACT)

Providing that the creative expression of a criminal defendant or juvenile respondent is not admissible against the defendant or respondent unless the court makes certain findings, subject to a certain exception; and providing that the Act does not preclude the admission of creative expression in juvenile cases for the purposes of evaluating, recommending, or ordering referral to mental health services or diversion programs.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 10-926 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

**HB 688 Delegate Simpson**

## INTERCEPTED COMMUNICATIONS – PENALTY

Reclassifying, as a misdemeanor instead of a felony, a certain offense relating to the prohibition against intercepting and disclosing any wire, oral, or electronic communications.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 10-402(b) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

**HB 689 Delegates Fair and Wells**

CANDIDATES FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS – CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY FILING DEADLINE FOR THE 2026 ELECTION – ALTERATION

Altering the deadline for a candidate for Representative in Congress to file a certificate of candidacy for the statewide election held in 2026 from the last Tuesday in February to 9 p.m. on March 20, 2026.

EMERGENCY BILL

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

**HB 690 Delegate Hartman, et al**

CORPORATE INCOME TAX – RATE REDUCTION (ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2026)

Decreasing, over 4 taxable years, the State corporate income tax rate from 8.25% to 6.25%.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-105(b) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

**HB 691 Delegate Lopez, et al**

STATE GOVERNMENT – PROCEDURES – PERMITTING EFFICIENCY FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Requiring each unit in the Executive Branch of State government responsible for issuing a permit related to housing construction to adopt procedures to streamline certain permitting processes for housing projects; requiring the State Housing Ombudsman, to the extent feasible, to ensure consistency between certain permitting processes developed by different units; and authorizing the delegation of certain tasks related to the review or approval of permits related to housing construction to certain local governmental units.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, §§ 10-1701 and 10-1702 - renumbered and §§ 10-1701 through 10-1703 - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

**HB 692 Delegate Toles, et al****CRIMINAL LAW – MAIL AND PACKAGE THEFT (PORCH PIRACY ACT)**

Altering the prohibition against taking and breaking open a letter; prohibiting the theft of mail under certain circumstances; prohibiting a person from possessing an arrow key under certain circumstances; and providing for concurrent jurisdiction in the District Court and circuit court to try a violation of the Act.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, §§ 4-301 and 4-302 - amended, CR, § 3-905 - repealed, and CR, §§ 3-905 and 3-905.1 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

**HB 693 Delegate Grammer, et al****CIVIL ACTIONS – DISTRIBUTION OF OBSCENE MATERIAL TO MINORS**

Establishing that a commercial entity that distributes obscene material to minors on the Internet from certain websites is liable for certain damages; and prohibiting a commercial entity or third party that performs a certain age verification of an individual from retaining any identifying information of an individual under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, §§ 3-2701 and 3-2702 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

**HB 694 Delegate Bhandari****INCOME TAX – ADDITION MODIFICATION FOR FEDERAL TAX-EXEMPT INCOME – ALTERATIONS**

Providing that an addition modification under the Maryland income tax for certain income exempt from federal tax by federal law or treaty but not State tax does not apply to certain foreign earned income; and applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-204(c)(1) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

**HB 695 Delegate A. Johnson, et al****GREEN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR NONPROFITS (GREEN) LOAN PROGRAM AND FUND – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Green and Renewable Energy Efficiency for Nonprofits Loan Program in the Maryland Clean Energy Center to provide financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans to nonprofit organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of qualifying energy systems and for actions that improve energy efficiency; establishing the Green and Renewable Energy Efficiency for Nonprofits Loan Fund; authorizing the Governor to include \$5,000,000 in the fiscal year 2028 budget for the Fund; etc.

**VARIOUS EFFECTIVE DATES**

EC, SF, and SG, Various Sections - added, amended, and renumbered

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Appropriations

**HB 696 Delegate Grammer, et al****STATE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS – RETIREES**

Authorizing certain retirees who began State service before July 1, 2011, to be eligible for prescription drug benefits in the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program; specifying that prescription drug benefits shall be discontinued for certain Medicare-eligible retirees who began State service on or after July 1, 2011, and their Medicare-eligible spouses and dependent children; repealing three Maryland State Retiree Prescription Drug programs that provide coverage and assistance to certain retirees; etc.

**EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026**

SP, § 2-509.1 - amended and Chapter 767 of the Acts of 2019, §§ 2, 4, and 5 - repealed

Assigned to: Appropriations

**HB 697 Delegate Grammer, et al****CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – DIMINUTION OF A TERM OF CONFINEMENT**

Prohibiting the earning of diminution credits to reduce the term of confinement of an incarcerated individual who is serving a sentence in a State or local correctional facility for murder in the first degree that occurred on or after October 1, 2026.

**EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026**

CS, §§ 3-702 and 11-502 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

**HB 698 Delegate Bhandari, et al****STATE BOARD OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS –  
BOARD OPERATIONS AND REGULATION OF CREMATORIES AND  
REDUCTION FACILITIES**

Transferring the authority to regulate certain crematories and reduction facilities from the Office of Cemetery Oversight to the State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors; renaming the Board to be the State Board of Morticians, Funeral Directors, and Crematories; altering the circumstances under which the Governor may remove an appointed member of the Board; altering the quorum of the Board; and specifying that the Board may take action with a simple majority vote of the quorum.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BR, Various Sections - amended and § 5-803 - repealed and HO, Various Sections - amended and added

Assigned to: Health

**HB 699 Delegate Acevero, et al****MARYLAND USE OF FORCE STATUTE – FAILURE TO PREVENT  
EXCESSIVE FORCE OR RENDER FIRST AID – MISDEMEANOR**

Prohibiting a police officer from intentionally violating the requirement that a police officer intervene to prevent or terminate the use of certain force by another police officer; prohibiting a police officer from intentionally violating the requirement to render certain first aid to a person injured as a result of police action and request certain assistance at a certain time; and classifying a violation of the Act by an officer as a misdemeanor and providing, on conviction, a term of imprisonment of up to 5 years.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PS, § 3-524 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

**HB 700 Delegate Ivey****HIGHER EDUCATION – PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS – DIRECT ADMISSION PROGRAM**

Establishing a direct admission program at participating public senior higher education institutions for certain eligible high school students beginning in the 2027–2028 academic year; requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to administer the direct admission program through a certain financial aid system and the Common Application; requiring a student to have completed all prerequisite courses, met the College and Career Readiness standard, and applied to an institution by the established deadline; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 15-101.1 - added

Assigned to: Appropriations

**HB 701 Delegate Hill, et al****DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT – WATER RESOURCES – PROTECTION OF VERNAL POOLS (VERNAL POOL WETLANDS PROTECTION ACT OF 2026)**

Requiring the Department of the Environment to adopt regulations in a certain manner to identify and protect qualified vernal pools and buffer areas in the State; and requiring the Department, when issuing a permit for certain regulated activities, to protect qualified vernal pools that are listed by the Department in accordance with certain provisions under the Act and located within the geographic area covered by the permit.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EN, § 5-205 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

**HB 702 Delegate Korman, et al****MARYLAND STRATEGIC ENERGY INVESTMENT FUND – USES – COOPERATIVE HOUSING CORPORATIONS AND CONDOMINIUMS (CO-OP AND CONDO ENERGY REFUND EQUITY ACT)**

Altering the authorized uses of certain compliance fee revenue paid into the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund; and requiring certain funds in the Fund be used as refunds or credits to residential customers in fiscal year 2027.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SG, § 9-20B-05(i)(4) - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

**HB 703    Dorchester County Delegation****DORCHESTER COUNTY – COUNTY PROPERTY LEASES – NOTICE EXEMPTIONS**

Exempting a lease of county property for a term of 5 years or less and with an annual rent of not greater than \$750 made by Dorchester County from certain notice requirements.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

LG, § 10-312(f) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

**HB 704    Delegate Palakovich Carr, et al****COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION EXPANSION PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Community Eligibility Provision Expansion Program in the State Department of Education to provide funding to eligible schools that participate in the federal community eligibility provision of the child nutrition programs; requiring schools that opt out of the Community Eligibility Provision of the Child Nutrition Program to include certain information in a certain report; and requiring the Governor in fiscal year 2028 and succeeding years to include \$10,000,000 in the annual budget bill for the Program.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-606 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Appropriations

**HB 705    Delegate Ivey****STATE GOVERNMENT – ATTORNEY GENERAL – OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ENFORCEMENT RECOVERY FUND – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Office of the Attorney General Enforcement Recovery Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; requiring that the Fund be used only to support the consumer protection, antitrust, and securities enforcement activities of the Office; and requiring certain money to be deposited into the Fund.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SG, § 6-112 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

**HB 706 Delegate Moon, et al**

## STATE FINANCE – DELINQUENT FEDERAL FUNDS (FEDERAL OBLIGATIONS ENFORCEMENT ACT)

Reserving jurisdiction with respect to certain federal land in the State under certain conditions; authorizing the Central Collection Unit of the Department of Budget and Management to collect a certain amount of delinquent federal funds; authorizing the Central Collection Unit, under a certain circumstance, to collect certain federal funds owed to the State, place liens on federal property in the State, and direct the Comptroller to withhold certain payments to the federal government; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

GP, § 6-202 and SF, §§ 3-302(a)(1) and 3-304(a) - amended and GP, § 6-204, SF, §§ 3-302(d) and 10-208, and SG, § 4-115 - added

Assigned to: Appropriations

**HB 707 Delegate Grammer, et al**

## INCOME TAX – SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION – RETIREMENT INCOME

Including income from certain retirement plans within a certain subtraction modification allowed under the Maryland income tax for certain individuals who are at least 65 years old or who are disabled or whose spouse is disabled; altering the maximum amount of the subtraction modification for certain taxable years; repealing a limitation on the maximum amount of the subtraction modification; applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-209 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

**HB 708 Delegate Grammer, et al**

## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS – VOTER REGISTRATION – LIST AND QUALIFICATIONS

Requiring each municipality to require voter registration for its elections; and prohibiting an individual from becoming registered to vote in a municipal election if the individual is not a citizen of the United States.

EMERGENCY BILL

EL, § 3-402 - amended and LG, § 4-108.6 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

- HB 709**    **Delegate Lewis (By Request – Baltimore City Administration), et al**  
MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION – ACCESS TO DIGITAL RECORDS – BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
Authorizing the Motor Vehicle Administration to make a digital photographic image or signature available to the Special Investigations Unit of the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development or its successor.  
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026  
TR, § 12-111 - amended  
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation
- HB 710**    **Delegate Grammer, et al**  
CRIMINAL LAW – DISPLAY OF OBSCENE MATERIAL TO MINORS  
Altering the definition of “item” relating to the prohibition against displaying or distributing obscene material to minors to include a drawing or illustration; and prohibiting certain public schools from displaying certain obscene material under certain circumstances.  
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026  
CR, § 11-203 - amended  
Assigned to: Judiciary
- HB 711**    **Delegate Charkoudian, et al**  
DATA PRIVACY – CONSUMER DATA, PUBLIC RECORDS, AND MESSAGE SWITCHING SYSTEM (DATA PRIVACY ACT)  
Prohibiting a certain controller from selling the personal data of a consumer to a purchaser who seeks to use the data for immigration enforcement; requiring a custodian of a public record to take reasonable steps to determine whether a public record is accessed for enforcing immigration law; requiring an entity that operates a certain message switching system to take certain actions regarding system access; requiring certain procedures of certain governmental entities to account for data containing sensitive attributes; etc.  
Preliminary analysis: local government mandate  
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026  
CL, Various Sections - amended and added, GP, Various Sections, PS, § 3-529, and SG, § 10-1702 - amended  
Assigned to: Economic Matters

**HB 712 Delegate Grammer****CIVIL ACTIONS – PRODUCT LIABILITY – ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS**

Establishing a cause of action against a developer of a certain artificial intelligence system for defective design, failure to provide adequate instruction or warning, and breach of express warranty; establishing that a deployer of a certain artificial intelligence system may be sued in lieu of a developer under certain circumstances; authorizing the Attorney General to bring an action against a developer or a deployer for harm caused by a certain dangerous or defective product; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, §§ 3-2701 through 3-2706 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

**HB 713 Cecil County Delegation****CECIL COUNTY – ORPHANS’ COURT JUDGES – COMPENSATION**

Increasing the salary of a judge of the Orphans’ Court for Cecil County to be an amount determined by the County Council of Cecil County, but not less than \$11,000; establishing that the Chief Judge shall receive certain additional compensation annually as determined by the County Council of Cecil County, but not less than \$1,500; and specifying the annual allowance for travel expenses to be as determined by the County Council of Cecil County but not less than \$1,500.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ET, § 2-108(i) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

**HB 714 Delegate Grammer, et al****HEALTH – ABORTION DATA – SUBMISSION TO THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to submit to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention any data regarding abortion requested by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, unless submitting the data would violate federal or State law.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 20-217 - added

Assigned to: Health

**HB 715 Delegate Rosenberg****ALGORITHMIC ADDICTION FUND – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Algorithmic Addiction Fund to be administered by the Maryland Department of Health; providing the Fund consists of all civil penalties received by the State from any source resulting, directly or indirectly, from a judgment against or settlement relating to claims concerning harm to children from the use of social media and the improper use of algorithms; requiring the Secretary to make a report to the General Assembly by November 1 each year concerning the provision of algorithmic addiction intervention services; etc.

CONTINGENT – EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

CP, FL, and SF, Various Sections - amended and SF, § 3-308 - added

Assigned to: Appropriations and Economic Matters

**HB 716 Delegate Pippy, et al****LAND SURVEYORS AND PROPERTY LINE SURVEYORS – PRIVATE PROPERTY ACCESS – PROHIBITION**

Prohibiting a land surveyor or a property line surveyor from conducting a survey on private property during deer firearms hunting season without written permission from the property owner.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BOP, § 15-610 - added and amended

Assigned to: Economic Matters

**HB 717 Delegate Edelson****BALTIMORE CITY – RAFFLES – ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL AND FOOTBALL TEAMS**

Authorizing specified organizations that are affiliated with a professional National Football League team that plays its home games in Baltimore City to conduct raffles, subject to certain limitations; and repealing a certain termination date of certain provisions of law authorizing certain organizations that are affiliated with a professional Major League Baseball team that plays its home games in Baltimore City to conduct certain raffles.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

CR, §13-505.1 and Chapter 372 of the Acts of 2025, §2 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

**HB 718 Delegate Stewart****INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – STATE AND HIGHER EDUCATION  
E–MAIL – REQUIREMENTS**

Establishing that certain provisions of law governing information technology plans apply to certain public institutions of higher education; establishing a policy of the State that State and higher education employee e–mail systems and resources are intended to support State business and may not serve as a public forum; requiring certain policies, plans, and standards to include provisions to implement systems that automatically filter spam e–mail from certain email accounts; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SF, §§ 3.5-302(c) and 3.5-305 - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

**HB 719 Delegate Arikan, et al****PUBLIC SAFETY – IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT – PROHIBITION  
AGAINST SANCTUARY POLICIES**

Prohibiting the State, a unit of local government, a county sheriff, or an agency, an officer, an employee, or an agent of the State or a unit of local government from adopting or having in effect a certain sanctuary policy; and repealing certain provisions of law that are inconsistent with the Act.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CP, §§ 2-104.2 and 5-104, GP, § 4-320.1, and PS, § 3-529 - repealed and PS, §§ 1-701 and 1-702 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

**HB 720 Delegate Patterson, et al****HIGHER EDUCATION – DOUGLAS J. J. PETERS VETERANS OF THE  
AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ CONFLICTS SCHOLARSHIP – REPEAL OF  
TERMINATION DATE**

Repealing the prohibition on awarding the Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship after June 30, 2030; and repealing the limitation on renewing the Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship if the scholarship recipient received an initial scholarship before June 30, 2030.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 18-604 - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

**HB 721 Delegate Patterson, et al****UNIFORMED SERVICES SPOUSES ACT**

Applying certain provisions of law regarding priority registration at public institutions of higher education, resources and support at community colleges, senatorial and Delegate scholarships, and preferences in hiring by the Public Service Commission to the spouses of active service members and veterans; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

ED, Various Sections, LE, § 3-714(a) and (b), PU, § 18-111(a) and (b), and SP, § 7-207(c)(1)(iii) - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

**HB 722 Delegate Embry, et al****CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIMS – DOCTRINE OF CHARITABLE IMMUNITY – ABROGATION**

Abrogating the doctrine of charitable immunity as a defense to an action for damages arising out of a claim of child sexual abuse; and applying the Act retroactively.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 5-117 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

**HB 723 Delegate Qi, et al****ELECTRIC COMPANIES – COST CONTAINMENT PLANS – REQUIREMENT (SECURING AFFORDABLE, VALUABLE INVESTMENTS IN NEXT GENERATION GRID SOLUTIONS (SAVINGS) ACT)**

Requiring electric companies to submit to the Public Service Commission cost containment plans for electric distribution and transmission system planning on or before January 1, 2027, and every 3 years thereafter; requiring the plans to combine to reduce peak electric system loads in a certain manner; and requiring electric companies to submit certain progress reports on the implementation of the plan.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PU, § 7-805 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

**HB 724 Delegate Lopez****EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION – CAREGIVER STATUS**

Prohibiting employment discrimination based on an individual's caregiver status.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, § 20-601(b) through (k) - renumbered, § 20-601(b) - added, and §§20-601(i), 20-602, 20-606, and 20-610(b) and (c) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

**HB 725 Delegate Arikan, et al****CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT – REQUIRED NOTICE AND TRANSFER**

Requiring an employee or agent of a State or local correctional facility, if requested by federal immigration authorities, to provide notice of the release of an individual at least 48 hours prior to the release and to transfer the individual to federal immigration authorities.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CS, § 9-309 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

**HB 726 Delegate R. Long, et al****MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY – FRANCIS SCOTT KEY MEMORIAL BRIDGE – NAMING**

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

CONTINGENT – EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

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

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

**HB 727 Delegate Rogers, et al**

## ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – CLASS C (VETERANS’ ORGANIZATION) LICENSES – MEMBERSHIP

Altering membership criteria for a Class C (veterans’ organization) alcoholic beverages license in Anne Arundel County by including certain members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Public Health Service, and repealing a requirement that members of the veterans’ organization served in a war; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, § 11-1009(b) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

**HB 728 Delegate Behler, et al**

## STATE PROCUREMENT – EXCEPTIONS – HISTORIC PRESERVATION SERVICES

Establishing certain exceptions to State procurement requirements for certain contracts with nonprofit entities related to historic preservation, archaeology, and conservation service opportunities; and requiring certain contracts to include certain clauses.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SF, § 11-203(a)(1)(xviii) and (xix) - amended and §§ 11-203(a)(1)(xx) and (b)(5) and 13-218(f) - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

**HB 729 Delegate Grammer, et al**

## SALES AND USE TAX – PRECIOUS METAL BULLION OR COINS – EXEMPTION

Altering the definition of “precious metal bullion or coins” for purposes of eligibility for an exemption from the sales and use tax for the sale of precious metal bullion or coins; and expanding the exemption by repealing requirements that the sale price exceed \$1,000 and the sale occur at the Baltimore Convention Center.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 11-214.1 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

**HB 730 Delegate Korman****BUSINESS REGULATION – MARYLAND FRANCHISE REGISTRATION AND DISCLOSURE LAW – ALTERATIONS (FRANCHISE REFORM ACT)**

Altering the period of time within which the Securities Commissioner in the Office of the Attorney General may exercise a power under certain provisions of law governing the sale of franchises; requiring the Securities Commissioner to require that a certain franchise registration exemption be indexed to inflation or deflation based on a certain index; altering the period of time within which an action for liability under a certain provision of law pertaining to franchise offers for sale must be brought; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BR, §§ 14-210, 14-214, 14-227, and 14-233 - amended and §§ 14-219.1 and 14-233 - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

**HB 731 Delegate Ebersole****FANTASY COMPETITIONS – ALTERATIONS AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION REQUIREMENTS**

Altering the definition of “fantasy competition” for purposes of provisions of law governing fantasy competitions to include certain competitions; requiring, rather than authorizing, the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to impose a certain annual fee for the registration of a fantasy competition operator; requiring the Commission to establish a certain voluntary exclusion program; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, §§ 9-1D-01(d), 9-1D-02, 9-1D-03, 9-1D-05, and 9-1E-01(i) and (j) - amended and § 9-1D-05 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

**HB 732 Delegate Ebersole****BALTIMORE COUNTY CODE OF PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS – 2025 EDITION – LEGALIZATION**

Legalizing the 2025 Edition of the Baltimore County Code of Public Local Laws and any supplement to the extent to which that code or supplement contains laws enacted by the General Assembly.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

**HB 733 Delegate Guyton****MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION – FIXED–ROUTE TRANSIT SERVICES – ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to provide real–time audible and text–based announcements that announce all stops and other critical information on all fixed–route transit services.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, § 7-720 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

**HB 734 Delegate Roberson****PROPERTY TAX – AGRICULTURAL USE ASSESSMENT – COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEMS**

Altering the date from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2030, by which certain community solar energy generating systems must be approved by the Public Service Commission in order for land that is used by the community solar energy generating systems to qualify for the agricultural use assessment.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TP, § 8-209(e) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

**HB 735 Delegate Palakovich Carr****EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT – ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION DELAY AND STUDY**

Delaying the implementation of the Earned Income Tax Credit Assistance Program until taxable year 2030; requiring the Comptroller’s Office, on or before December 1, 2026, to study and make recommendations regarding outreach efforts to encourage eligible taxpayers to claim the State earned income tax credit; and requiring the Department of Service and Civic Innovation to make certain recommendations concerning methods to assist low–income Marylanders with claiming certain credits and obtaining certain assistance.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 2-116 and Chapters 110 and 111 of the Acts of 2022, § 2 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

**HB 736** Delegate Ebersole**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE TAX – READY–TO–DRINK COCKTAILS**

Establishing the alcoholic beverage tax rates for ready–to–drink cocktails at 60 cents for each gallon or 15.85 cents for each liter; and defining “ready–to–drink cocktail” as a beverage that contains distilled spirits mixed with nonalcoholic beverages and may contain wine, is 12% or less alcohol by volume, and is contained in original packaging consisting of a container that is not more than 16 ounces.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 5-101(k) - added and §§ 5-101(k) through (n) and 5-105 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 2, 2026****HJ 7** Delegate Williams, et al**ANTI–NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION RESOLUTION (BACK FROM THE BRINK ACT)**

Stating that the General Assembly joins seven other state legislative bodies and over 75 counties and municipalities in passing a Back from the Brink resolution on reducing the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons; urging members of the State’s Congressional Delegation to cosponsor a certain federal resolution related to the use of nuclear weapons; and urging the U.S. President and the U.S. Senate to endorse the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

**HOUSE BILLS REASSIGNED JANUARY 30, 2026****HB 490 The Speaker (By Request – Accountability and Implementation Board)****EDUCATION – THE BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND’S FUTURE – REVISIONS**

Repealing a requirement that county boards of education submit a certain technology report each year; extending the time period during which a certain method is used to calculate compensatory education enrollment through fiscal year 2027; repealing a termination date for the use of funds under the Concentration of Poverty Grant Program for the purpose of providing certain programs; altering the qualifications for an initial teacher certificate; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, Various Sections - amended, added, and repealed

Reassigned to: Appropriations and Ways and Means

**HB 506 Delegate Qi, et al****ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECT FINANCING PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Transformational Project Financing Program in the Maryland Economic Development Corporation to designate certain development districts as State-supported development districts; authorizing a governing body of a political subdivision to apply to the Corporation for approval as a State-supported development district; requiring the Corporation to publish at least annually a summary of approved State-supported development districts; providing for the eligibility for and calculation of certain State revenue; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EC, § 12-203(a) and The Charter of Baltimore City, Art. II, § 62(d) - amended and EC, §§ 12-203(d) and 12-2A-01 through 12-2A-08 - added

Reassigned to: Economic Matters and Ways and Means

**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

Reassigned to: Appropriations