



SYNOPSIS

House Bills and Joint Resolutions
2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

February 5, 2026
Schedule 15

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 FEBRUARY 5, 2026

HB 900 Delegate Taylor, et al

LEGISLATIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS – ELIGIBILITY AND USE –
REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL PROGRAM

Exempting an applicant for a senatorial scholarship from certain examination requirements if the applicant is registered for or is planning to complete the Real Property Appraiser Qualification Criteria of the Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal Program; and authorizing the use of senatorial and Delegate scholarships for applicants who plan to complete the Real Property Appraiser Qualification Criteria of the Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal Program for expenses to register for the Program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 18-402, 18-405, 18-501, 18-503, and 18-506 - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

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 901 Delegate Roberts, et al**EDUCATION – PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS – RECOGNITION OF EXTERNAL DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM**

Requiring a school to recognize a student’s external diagnosis of autism from certain professionals until the school completes an initial evaluation; requiring a school to initiate an evaluation of a student within 30 days of receiving an external diagnosis of autism and written consent from the student’s parent; requiring a school to provide certain supports to a student during the evaluation; and requiring a school to continue to provide supports to a student until the evaluation is complete and a certain determination is made.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 8-404(e) - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 902 Delegate Roberts, et al**RETIRE IN MARYLAND TAX RELIEF ACT**

Authorizing a credit against the State income tax for certain taxpayers who are at least 77 years old and have a federal adjusted gross income not exceeding \$175,000 for a single taxpayer, or \$250,000 for spouses filing jointly, or for a certain surviving spouse; and applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-754.1 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 903 Delegate D. Jones, et al**INCOME TAX – SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION – DONATIONS TO FOOD BANKS AND OTHER CHARITABLE ENTITIES**

Allowing a subtraction under the Maryland income tax of up to \$1,000 for donations of certain food and monetary gifts made by a taxpayer during the taxable year to certain charitable entities that provide food at no cost to individuals in need; and requiring the Comptroller to report to the General Assembly by January 1, 2029, on whether the subtraction modification in the Act contributed to any increase in donations to charities providing food at no charge to certain individuals.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-208(dd) - added and § 10-308(b) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 904 Delegate Moon, et al**LAW ENFORCEMENT – PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR – REQUIREMENTS AND REPORTING**

Providing that a law enforcement agency may not assign a law enforcement officer to duties other than administrative duties unless the officer is issued protective body armor; requiring a law enforcement agency to issue only protective body armor that meets certain standards; requiring a law enforcement agency to replace protective body armor before a certain date; requiring a law enforcement agency to notify the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission under certain circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PS, § 3-535 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 905 Delegate Roberts, et al**RECIPIENTS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING – REPORTING (BUY MARYLAND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS)**

Requiring a unit of State and local government and a person that receives funding from the State operating or capital budget to report on or before October 15 each year to the Comptroller certain information regarding the use of the funds; requiring a certain individual or corporation that receives payments from a unit of State and local government for providing goods or services to the unit to include certain information on the individual's or corporation's income tax return or declaration; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SF, § 7-407 and TG, § 10-826 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 906 Delegates Moon and Barnes**CIVIL ACTIONS – PUNITIVE DAMAGE AWARDS – SURCHARGE**

Providing that punitive damages may be awarded in a civil action only if the plaintiff proves by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant acted with gross negligence; requiring the State Court Administrator to assess a certain surcharge on a defendant against whom a judgment for punitive damages is entered; requiring the Administrator to deposit money collected from the surcharge into the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 11-113 - added and ED, § 5-206(f) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 907 Delegates Moon and Cardin**CRIMINAL LAW – THIRD-DEGREE ASSAULT**

Establishing that it is a misdemeanor to intentionally cause offensive contact, engage in conduct tending to put another in fear of offensive contact, or attempt to cause offensive contact; and altering a certain list of convictions that are eligible for expungement under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, § 3-203.1 - added and CR, §§ 3-206 and 3-209, CJ, §§ 4-301(b) and 4-302(d), and CP, § 10-110(a)(1)(vii) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 908 Delegate Schmidt**CIVIL ACTIONS – FAILURE TO RESTRICT DISTRIBUTION OF SEXUAL MATERIAL HARMFUL TO MINORS**

Establishing that a commercial entity that distributes certain sexual material harmful to minors on the Internet and that fails to perform certain age verification methods is liable for certain damages under certain circumstances; 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 909 Delegate Schmidt**SALES AND USE TAX – CUT FLOWERS – EXEMPTION**

Providing an exemption from the sales and use tax for the sale of cut flowers by a farmer.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 11-201(b) - amended and § 11-201(c) - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 910 Delegate McCaskill**CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – PRIORITY FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**

Requiring the State Department of Education, for applications received after July 1, 2026, to establish a framework to prioritize the children of individuals who provide care for children in licensed child care centers, registered family child care homes, and registered large family child care homes for scholarships under the Child Care Scholarship Program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 9.5-113(c)(1) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 911 Delegate McCaskill**HORSE RACING – LAUREL PARK – ARABIAN BREED RACING AUTHORIZATION**

Authorizing a licensee at Laurel Park to conduct live racing of Arabian breed horses under certain circumstances; etc.

EMERGENCY BILL

BR, § 11-522 - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 912 Delegate Guyton, et al**LOCAL GOVERNMENT – TRAP–NEUTER–RETURN POLICIES FOR COMMUNITY CATS – REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS (ASH’S LAW)**

Establishing that the prohibition against abandoning an animal does not apply to a person who is providing care to a community cat under a certain trap–neuter–return policy; establishing that a local law that establishes a trap–neuter–return policy is subject to certain requirements and restrictions; and providing that the Act supersedes and preempts any law, ordinance, policy, or regulation of any local government body and any policy or rule of any person or corporation that prohibits or restricts the practice of trap–neuter–return.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, § 10-612 - amended and LG, § 1-1321 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 913 Charles County Delegation**CHARLES COUNTY – GOVERNING BODIES OF COMMON OWNERSHIP COMMUNITIES – MEMBER TRAINING**

Requiring each member of a board of directors or officer of a council of unit owners of a condominium in Charles County and each member of a governing body of a homeowners association in Charles County to successfully complete a certain training curriculum on the responsibilities of a member of the governing body, subject to certain requirements.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

RP, §§ 11-109 and 11B-106.1(g) - amended and § 11B-106.1(g) - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 914 Delegates Hartman and Anderson**WORCESTER COUNTY – BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS – MEMBERSHIP**

Increasing from three to five the number of members on the Board of License Commissioners for Worcester County.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

ABC, § 33-202 - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 915 Delegate Hill, et al**WORKGROUP ON AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE**

Establishing the Workgroup on Aging Out of Foster Care to identify the types of resources available for youth who have aged out of foster care to help them achieve self-sufficiency, determine the effectiveness of currently available resources and identify the challenges with current services and programs offered before a youth ages out of the system; and requiring the Workgroup to submit a report of its findings and recommendations by July 1, 2027, to the General Assembly.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

Assigned to: Health

HB 916 Delegate Spiegel, et al

TRANSPORTATION – REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITIES

Establishing the Baltimore region, capital region, and Southern Maryland region transportation authorities to develop and implement certain transportation plans; establishing the Baltimore region, capital region, and Southern Maryland region transportation funds as special, nonlapsing funds; imposing certain transportation authority sales tax surcharges, hotel surcharges, and transfer tax surcharges; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, §§ 10.5-101 thru 10.5-413 - added and SF, TG, and TP, Various Sections - added and amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 917 Delegate Hill, et al

HEALTH INSURANCE – RETROACTIVE DENIAL OF REIMBURSEMENT

Altering the circumstances under which a carrier may retroactively deny reimbursement; altering the information a carrier is required to provide to a health care provider if the carrier retroactively denies reimbursement; prohibiting a carrier from retroactively denying reimbursement under certain circumstances; and requiring certain carriers that retroactively deny reimbursement to develop a certain training plan for health care providers.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

IN, § 15-1008(c) - amended

Assigned to: Health

HB 918 Delegate Young, et al

BALTIMORE CITY – CIGARETTES, OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS, AND ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES – LOCAL LAWS AUTHORIZATION

Authorizing Baltimore City to enact and enforce local laws regulating the sale and distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices, subject to certain exceptions.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BR, §§ 16-308.4, 16.5-104, and 16.7-103 - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 919 Delegate Taylor, et al**MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION – PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL (PAREA) GRANT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHED**

Establishing the Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal Grant Program to provide grants to certain individuals with the goal of becoming a real estate appraiser in certain communities; providing the purpose of the Program is to assist in closing appraisal gaps that occur in historically redlined neighborhoods and underrepresented communities; and requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to administer the Program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 18-4201 and 18-4202 - added

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 920 Delegate Taylor, et al**REAL PROPERTY – NEW HOME SALES – ENTRY OF FINAL SALE PRICE IN MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE**

Requiring a developer, builder, broker, or real estate agent to enter the final sale price of a new home into a multiple listing service or similarly accessible database within 30 days after the sale.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

RP, § 10-804 - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 921 Delegate Moreno**JUVENILE LAW – CONFINEMENT AND RESTRICTIVE HOUSING – LIMITATIONS**

Limiting the circumstances under which an incarcerated minor may be involuntarily placed in restrictive housing; establishing that a minor may not be placed in restrictive housing solely for the purposes of discipline, punishment, administrative convenience, retaliation, or staff shortages; authorizing the Department of Juvenile Services to place a minor in restrictive housing at the minor's request; and specifying certain protocols for minors placed in restrictive housing.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CS, § 9-614.3 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 922 Delegates Hutchinson and Adams**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM RELOCATION – REGULATIONS**

Requiring the Behavioral Health Administration to adopt regulations authorizing a behavioral health program to relocate to another site; and requiring the regulations to address an expedited approval process, the use of documentation previously submitted, providing authorization for temporary approvals for a relocation, and authorization to consider the program's regulatory record as a basis for expediting the process.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 7.5-402(a) - amended

Assigned to: Health

HB 923 Delegate Moreno**FAMILY LAW – EQUITY COURTS – CARE AND CUSTODY OF CHILDREN (UNIFORM NONDISCRIMINATION IN TREATMENT AND EVIDENCE (UNITE) ACT)**

Stating a certain intent of the General Assembly regarding matters involving the care and custody of children; and requiring an equity court to apply the same standards and procedures in a proceeding for custody or guardianship of an immigrant child that are applied in a proceeding for custody or guardianship of a child who is a United States citizen.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

FL, § 1-201.1 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 924 Delegate Nkongolo, et al**CHILD EXPLOITATION MATERIAL – CIVIL AND CRIMINAL ACTIONS (SAFE KIDS ACT)**

Prohibiting certain conduct relating to child exploitation material; establishing a civil action for a certain violation of the Act; authorizing the Attorney General to enforce certain provisions of the Act; defining “computer-generated image” in certain provisions relating to crimes involving child pornography to include an image created through the use of artificial intelligence software; and increasing from 16 to 18 the requisite age of a child considered to be a victim of certain child pornography crimes.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, §§ 3-2701 through 3-2708 - added and CR, § 11-208 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 925 Delegate Stein**SEWAGE SLUDGE – PER– AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES
– REGULATION**

Establishing restrictions on the land application, on or after October 1, 2027, of sewage sludge or products containing sewage sludge with total concentrations of certain regulated per– and polyfluoroalkyl substances equal to or greater than certain levels; authorizing, on or before September 30, 2029, a person to blend sewage sludge from multiple sources for a certain purpose and subject to certain regulations and requirements; establishing certain monitoring protocols; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EN, § 9-201(k) - amended and § 9-250 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Health

HB 926 Delegate Ruth, et al**INCOME TAX – INDIVIDUAL ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS –
ALTERATIONS**

Requiring, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024, but before January 1, 2030, that certain individuals reduce their federal itemized deduction for purposes of determining their Maryland itemized deductions by the amount claimed as taxes paid on real property.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-218 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 927 Carroll County Delegation**CARROLL COUNTY – PUBLIC FACILITIES BOND**

Authorizing and empowering the County Commissioners of Carroll County to borrow not more than \$27,000,000 in order to finance the construction, improvement, or development of certain public facilities in Carroll County and to effect such borrowing by the issuance and sale at public or private sale of its general obligation bonds; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 928 Delegate Embry, et al**CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY – TRANSMISSION LINES – APPLICABILITY AND WAIVERS**

Expanding the application of certain requirements for the construction of certain overhead transmission lines to include certain other transmission lines; requiring the Public Service Commission to consider certain effects when determining whether to waive, for good cause, the requirement to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity in certain circumstances; and repealing a requirement that the Commission waive the requirement to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PU, § 7-207(b)(3) and (4), (c) through (f), and (h) - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 929 Carroll County Delegation**CARROLL COUNTY – OFFICE OF PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS – DENIAL OF COMMERCIAL PERMIT OR LICENSE FOR UNPAID PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES**

Prohibiting the Carroll County Office of Permits and Inspections from issuing or renewing a commercial license or permit in the county if the applicant has unpaid personal property taxes except under certain circumstances; and authorizing the Carroll County Office of Permits and Inspections to issue or renew a commercial license or permit if the applicant submits certain evidence that the applicant has paid any previously unpaid personal property taxes.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

LG, § 12-906 - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters and Ways and Means

HB 930 Delegate Forbes, et al**INCOME TAX – DECOUPLING FROM FEDERAL CHANGES – EDUCATION EXPENSES**

Prohibiting the Governor from electing to participate in a certain tax credit program for certain elementary and secondary education scholarships; providing an addition modification under the Maryland income tax for the amount paid by an employer on behalf of an employee as a contribution to a certain account and the amount of any distribution under certain prepaid contracts or investment accounts that is not used for qualified education expenses; applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SG, § 3-309 and TG, § 10-204(m) - added and TG, §§ 10-205(h) and 10-208(o) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 931 Delegate Hill, et al**HEALTH CARE FACILITIES – NURSING HOMES – MEDICAL DIRECTOR REQUIREMENTS**

Requiring a physician, in order to be designated as a medical director of a nursing home, to hold a certain medical director certification or be making active progress toward obtaining the certification; prohibiting a physician from being a designated medical director at more than two licensed nursing homes; and requiring the Maryland Department of Health to establish and maintain an online directory of nursing home medical directors.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG § 19-1411 - amended

Assigned to: Health

HB 932 Delegate Lewis, et al**MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION – FIFTH BUS DIVISION FACILITY – CONSTRUCTION**

Requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to complete construction of the Administration's fifth bus division facility on or before June 30, 2032; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TR, § 7-720 - added

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 933 Delegate Wilkins**SALES AND USE TAX – CERTIFICATES INDICATING MULTIPLE POINTS OF USE – ALTERATIONS**

Providing that, for purposes of certain laws governing the sales and use tax, a certain certificate indicating multiple points of use of certain digital codes, digital products, and taxable services shall be deemed fully completed under certain circumstances; providing that a buyer is not required to obtain prior approval from the Comptroller in order to present a certificate indicating multiple points of use to a vendor; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 11-403(e) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 934 Washington County Delegation**WASHINGTON COUNTY SALARY STUDY COMMISSION – MEMBERSHIP – ALTERATIONS**

Altering the membership of the Washington County Salary Study Commission to substitute one member from the Cumberland Valley Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. with one member from the Washington County Home Builders Association, Inc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

LG, § 28-203 - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 935 Delegate Crutchfield, et al**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 certain 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

HB 936 **Montgomery County Delegation****MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS – LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT MC 7–26**

Requiring the Montgomery County public school system to identify and publish certain data on food procured from certified local farms and certified Chesapeake invasive species providers during the 2026–2027 school year; requiring the Montgomery County public school system to set certain targets for the 2028–2029, 2030–2031, 2031–2032, 2033–2034, and 2036–2037 school years; requiring the Montgomery County public school system, in coordination with the Office of Food Systems Resilience and public input, to establish a certain plan; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 4-148 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 937 **Delegate Lehman, et al****WORKGROUP TO STUDY YOUTH CAMP AND RV PARK EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS – ESTABLISHED**

Establishing the Workgroup to Study Youth Camp and RV Park Emergency Preparedness; requiring the Workgroup to study model local emergency preparedness policies in the State for youth camps and RV parks; and requiring the Workgroup to make recommendations regarding potential legislation to address statewide emergency preparedness policies for youth camps and RV parks and report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2027.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 938 Delegates Behler and D. Jones**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY AND THE CITY OF ANNAPOLIS –
CROSSWALK MONITORING SYSTEMS – AUTHORIZATION**

Authorizing the use of crosswalk monitoring systems in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis, if authorized by local law; providing that the owner or driver of a motor vehicle recorded failing to yield to a pedestrian crossing a roadway in a crosswalk is subject to a citation and a certain civil penalty under certain circumstances; establishing certain defenses to a charge of an alleged violation recorded by a crosswalk monitoring system; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

CJ, §§ 4-401(13), 7-302(e)(1) through (3) and (4)(i), and 10-311 -amended and TR, § 21-502.2 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 939 Delegate Rosenberg**CERTIFICATES OF BIRTH – FILING – TIME PERIOD**

Altering, from 5 days to 12 days, the period of time within which a certificate of birth is to be completed and filed with the Maryland Department of Health following a birth.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 4-208(b)(1) and (2), (c)(1), and (d) - amended

Assigned to: Health

HB 940 Delegate Charkoudian**LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS – ELECTRIC SYSTEM
INTERCONNECTION AND DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAM**

Exempting certain large load customers from requirements to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity; requiring the Public Service Commission to establish a certain process for large load customers to interconnect to the electric system; establishing requirements for a large load customer to interconnect to the electric system and contract for service; authorizing certain large load customers to receive certain prioritization; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PU, §§ 7-219.1 and 7-1008 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 941 Delegate Hill, et al

PUBLIC HEALTH – PUBLIC BUILDINGS – HYGIENE PRODUCTS

Requiring public restrooms in public buildings to provide an adequate supply of hygiene products.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SF, §§ 2-1001 and 2-1002 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 942 Delegate S. Johnson

CRIMINAL LAW – INTERFERENCE OF CUSTODY ORDERS – PENALTIES

Prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully interfering with a custody order over which a court of the State has jurisdiction by enticing or persuading a minor away or withholding a minor from a lawful custodian, a court-appointed guardian, or a person lawfully standing in loco parentis; and requiring a written warning for a violation of the Act to include certain information and a notice of the potential penalties that may be imposed for subsequent violations.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, § 3-504 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 943 Delegate Forbes

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – FINANCIAL LITERACY – GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Requiring the State Board of Education to establish a certain graduation requirement in financial literacy; requiring students, beginning with the 2030 graduating class, to successfully complete a certain personal financial literacy course; and requiring county boards, upon successful completion of the course, to award certain credit to students and to allow students to fulfill certain remaining credit requirements through certain existing courses.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-213 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 944 Delegate Cullison**MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION – CERTIFICATES OF NEED AND MATERIAL CHANGE TRANSACTIONS**

Repealing the exemption from the certificate of need requirement for certain mergers; requiring certain health care entities to provide certain notice of a material change transaction to the Maryland Health Care Commission and the public; establishing a public interest review process for material change transactions, including criteria for determining whether a material change transaction is subject to a public interest review; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, §§ 19-114 and 19-120(a)(2), (h)(2)(iii), (j)(2), and (k)(6)(v) - amended and § 19-120.3 - added

Assigned to: Health

HB 945 Delegate Sample–Hughes**NURSING HOMES – COMPLAINTS – NOTIFICATION AND CONSULTATION**

Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to notify and consult with the local health department for the county in which a nursing home is located if the Department initiates an investigation of a nursing home complaint alleging actual harm.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 19-1408 - amended

Assigned to: Health

HB 946 Delegate Wu**STATE GOVERNMENT – GOVERNOR’S APPOINTMENTS OFFICE – JUDICIAL SELECTION – REPORTING**

Requiring the Governor’s Appointments Office to report to the General Assembly beginning December 1, 2026, and each December 1 thereafter, certain demographic information regarding applicants and nominees for judicial office.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

SG, § 8-3A-01(a)(1) - amended and § 8-3A-03 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 947 Delegate Sample–Hughes, et al

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES – COMMERCIAL BLUE AND FLATHEAD CATFISH FINFISH TROTLINE LICENSE – ALTERATIONS

Altering the commercial blue and flathead catfish finfish trotline license to allow a person to catch blue catfish with a gill net with a mesh size of not more than 7 inches.

EMERGENCY BILL

NR, § 4-701.2 - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 948 Delegate Hutchinson

EDUCATION – PUBLIC SCHOOLS – GRADING RUBRICS

Prohibiting a public school from utilizing a grading rubric in which 50 represents the lowest score possible for certain students; and authorizing a public school to utilize a grading rubric in which 50 represents the lowest score possible for students who require special education services.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-213 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 949 Talbot County Delegation

AGRICULTURE – NOXIOUS WEEDS – PALMER AMARANTH

Requiring the Department of Agriculture, based on a finding of Palmer amaranth on land, to issue an order to an owner of the land to eradicate the Palmer amaranth within 2 weeks after the order was issued and requiring the Department to inspect the land every 2 weeks until the Department determines that the Palmer amaranth has been eradicated.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

AG, §§ 9-404 and 9-406 - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 950 Delegates Behler and Kaufman

PUBLIC UTILITIES – STREET LIGHTING EQUIPMENT – ACQUISITIONS AND REPORTING (COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL STREET LIGHTING INVESTMENT ACT)

Finding that local governments pay electric companies large sums to light streets and are limited in how this public safety resource can be managed, the Act authorizes certain counties or municipalities to acquire certain street lighting equipment by purchase or condemnation, convert its street lighting service to a customer-owned street lighting tariff, enter into an agreement to purchase electricity, and contract with an electric company for the maintenance of the street lighting equipment; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

LG, § 1-1309 - amended and PU, § 4-215 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 951 Delegate Holmes

REAL PROPERTY – RECORDATION AND LAND RECORDS – REVISIONS

Repealing a requirement that a printed deed or other instrument offered for recordation include certain margins; and requiring the clerk of the circuit court of a county to date each change or correction made to information in the general alphabetical index on the horizontal line on which the change or correction was made.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

RP, §§ 3-104(e) and 3-302 - amended

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 952 Delegate Buckel**CONSUMER PROTECTION – COMPANION CHATBOTS –
REGULATION**

Requiring certain operators of companion chatbots to establish, maintain, and publish certain protocols and provide certain information to users of the companion chatbot; requiring operators to establish enhanced measures for minor users of companion chatbots; requiring the Office of Suicide Prevention in the Maryland Department of Health to annually publish certain data compiled from operators; and establishing that a violation of the Act is an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CL, § 13-301(14)(xlvii) - amended and §§ 13-301(14)(xlix) and 14-1330 - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 953 Delegates Buckel and Hinebaugh**REVENUE STABILIZATION ACCOUNT – TRANSFER OF FUNDS –
STATE DISASTER RECOVERY FUND**

Authorizing the Governor, unless the transfer would result in an Account balance below 5% of the General Fund revenues for the fiscal year and subject to the approval of the Board of Public Works, to transfer funds from the Revenue Stabilization Account to the State Disaster Recovery Fund.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

PS, § 14-110.5(f) and SF, § 7-311(g) - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 954 Delegate Adams, et al**STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT – RETENTION PROCEEDS**

Requiring that undisputed retention proceeds retained by a unit or a certain contractor under a State procurement contract be paid within 90 days after the date of substantial completion.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SF, § 13-225 - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 955 Delegate Holmes**REAL PROPERTY – CONDOMINIUMS AND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS – ELECTIONS**

Establishing that certain provisions of law requiring that certain elections in condominiums and homeowners associations be conducted by an independent party apply only when the number of candidates exceeds the number of contested seats.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

RP, § 11-109(c)(17) and 11B-118(a) - amended

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 956 Delegate Rosenberg**CONDOMINIUMS – BUILDINGS MORE THAN 40 YEARS OLD – STUDY**

Requiring the Department of Housing and Community and Development to conduct a study on buildings in the State that are more than 40 years old and contain a condominium; and requiring the Department to report its findings to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 957 Delegate Wu, et al**CYBERSECURITY – STANDARDS AND COMPLIANCE – ALTERATIONS**

Requiring each local school system to designate a local point of contact for certain communications, to comply with, and certify compliance with, the State minimum cybersecurity standards, and to conduct a cybersecurity maturity assessment every 2 years; repealing the requirement that county boards of education prioritize the purchase of digital devices with certain funds; requiring the Office of Security Management within the Department of Information Technology to annually update the State minimum cybersecurity standards; etc. Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 4-148 - added and ED, § 5-212 and SF, §§ 3.5-101, 3.5-2A-04(b), and 3.5-406 - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 958 Delegate Buckel, et al

NATURAL GAS – CONNECTION AND LINE EXTENSION –
DISCOUNTS AND PAYMENT PLANS

Prohibiting the Public Service Commission from adopting or enforcing a regulation or order that prohibits a public service company from offering a discount or payment plan for the connection or extension of a natural gas line to a customer's property.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PU, § 7-321 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation