



SYNOPSIS

House Bills and Joint Resolutions
2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

February 10, 2026
Schedule 18

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 10, 2026

HB 1068 Delegate Solomon

HEALTH INSURANCE – SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR
NEWLY HIRED EMPLOYEES OF SMALL BUSINESSES

Requiring certain health insurance carriers to provide certain special enrollment periods, of 60 days beginning on the first day of employment, for individuals who become employed by small employers that do not offer employer-sponsored health plans.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

IN, § 15-1316(c) through (f) - 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 1069 Delegate Fair**ELECTION LAW – CANVASSING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS –
PREEMPTION BY FEDERAL JUDICIAL ACTION**

Requiring the State Administrator of Elections to establish a uniform tabulation policy for absentee ballots with federal contests only if there is an occurrence of federal judicial action regarding the timely receipt of certain absentee ballots that preempts a certain State law and regulation; and requiring the State Administrator to provide certain additional notice to voters regarding absentee ballots under certain circumstances using certain methods.

EMERGENCY BILL

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 1070 Delegate Smith**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY –
WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM AND FUND**

Establishing the Workforce Opportunities Grant Program to provide grants to certain organizations to support the planning and execution of workforce events and job fairs in the State; establishing the Workforce Opportunities Grant Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to support the Program; requiring that interest earnings be credited to the Fund; and requiring, for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2030, the Governor to include in the annual budget an appropriation of at least \$500,000 to the Program.

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

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, §§ 9-4125 thru 9-4129 and SF, 6-226(a)(2)(iii)214. - added and SF, SG, Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 1071 Delegate Foley, et al**ENVIRONMENT – STORMWATER MANAGEMENT – AGRICULTURAL LAND**

Requiring the Department of the Environment to adopt regulations that establish provisions and a model ordinance that require local stormwater management programs to enforce stormwater management regulations on agricultural land with the advice and consent of the local soil conservation district; and requiring the Department, in the Maryland Stormwater Design Manual, to specify certain definitions and provisions related to the enforcement of stormwater management regulations on agricultural land.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EN, § 4-203(b)(2)(v) - amended and § 4-203(b)(5) - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 1072 Delegate R. Long**STATE PROCUREMENT – PREFERENCES – FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION**

Establishing a certain procurement preference in the purchase of supplies or services for State contracts related to the reconstruction of the Francis Scott Key Bridge for vendors from the 6th legislative district.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SF, § 14-419 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 1073 Delegate Lewis**LANDLORD AND TENANT – RESIDENTIAL LEASES – PROSPECTIVE TENANT CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK (MARYLAND FAIR CHANCE HOUSING ACT)**

Prohibiting a landlord from requiring or requesting from a prospective tenant certain information relating to criminal history and prohibiting a landlord from considering certain information when evaluating the prospective tenant; permitting a landlord to consider certain criminal history information prior to extending a conditional offer to a prospective tenant and requiring the landlord to consider certain information provided by a prospective tenant relating to a criminal history records check; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CL, § 13-301(14)(xlvii) and RP, § 8-218(b) - amended and CL, § 13-301(14)(xlix) and RP, §§ 8-2A-01 through 8-2A-11 - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 1074 Delegates Hornberger and Vogel

PUBLIC ETHICS LAW – PARTICIPATION RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOL BOARDS

Altering the definition of “qualifying relative” to include a son-in-law and a daughter-in-law for provisions of law governing prohibitions against government officials or employees participating in matters involving a qualifying relative; requiring that the conflict of interest provisions or regulations adopted by a county, municipal corporation, or school board be equivalent to or exceed certain provisions of State law and authorize removal of a certain official for certain violations; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

GP, §§ 5-101(gg), 5-808, 5-810, 5-811.1, 5-817, and 5-819 and LG, § 12-107 - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 1075 Delegate Smith

HIGHER EDUCATION – MARYLAND GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

Expanding eligibility under the Maryland Graduate and Professional Scholarship Program to include students attending the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and enrolled in certain degree programs.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 18-2601 - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 1076 Delegate Smith

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS – OVER-THE-COUNTER CONTRACEPTION – ACCESS AND REPORTING

Requiring each public senior higher education institution and community college to submit a report on contraception access to the Maryland Higher Education Commission each year; requiring the Commission to submit a report on contraception access to the General Assembly each year beginning October 1, 2026; and requiring each community college to provide students with access to all methods of over-the-counter contraception.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 11-407.2 - added and § 16-111 - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations and Health

HB 1077 Delegate Miller**EDUCATION – CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION –
WORKGROUP TO STUDY TIERED STACKABLE CREDENTIALS
FRAMEWORK**

Requiring the State Department of Education and the Career and Technical Education Committee jointly to convene a workgroup to review certain high school graduation–related requirements to study and make recommendations on developing a tiered system of stackable credential pathways for a certain purpose; and requiring the submission of a joint report on the findings and recommendations of the workgroup, by December 31, 2026, including the need for any statutory or regulatory changes.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 1078 Delegate Edelson**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – MARYLAND STADIUM AUTHORITY –
CARROLL PARK SOCCER STADIUM AND FACILITY**

Authorizing the Maryland Stadium Authority to review certain matters and make certain recommendations relating to the Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility; authorizing the Authority to acquire by certain means a Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility site or an interest in the site; requiring the Authority to transfer certain lease payments to the Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility Fund under certain circumstances; etc.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

EC, SF, and SG, Various Sections - renumbered, added, and amended and Chapter 717 of the Acts of 2024, § 8, as amended - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 1079 Delegate Hutchinson, et al**OFFICE OF REGULATORY MANAGEMENT AND STATE
GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATIONS**

Establishing the Office of Regulatory Management; providing for the Director, staffing, and duties of the Office; requiring certain units of State government to submit certain reports to certain persons at certain times regarding regulatory actions and permits, licenses, certifications, and registrations; requiring certain units to develop a strategy to simplify certain application processes; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SG, §§ 9-4201 through 9-4206 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 1080 Delegate Solomon

INCOME TAX – ADDITION MODIFICATIONS – EXCLUDED OPPORTUNITY FUND GAINS, FOREIGN-DERIVED DEDUCTION ELIGIBLE INCOME, AND INTEREST

Prohibiting the Governor, on or after July 4, 2025, from nominating a census tract for designation as a qualified opportunity zone; providing an addition modification under the Maryland income tax for the capital gains from certain qualified opportunity funds; providing an addition modification under the Maryland corporate income tax for certain foreign-derived deduction eligible income and the amount of interest paid on loans that secure certain rural property; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SG, § 3-309 and TG, §§ 10-204(m) and 10-305(e) and (f) - added and TG, § 10-305(d) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 1081 Delegates Korman and Edelson

MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION REFORM ACT

Establishing the Board of Directors for Baltimore Core Transit Service in the Maryland Transit Administration as a governing body with certain authority over the provision of Baltimore Core Transit Service; establishing the Commuter Services Advisory Board to provide certain oversight over and guidance for certain Administration commuter rail and bus services in the State; repealing the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission as an advisory commission for transit in the Baltimore City region; etc.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – CONTINGENT – VARIOUS EFFECTIVE DATES

Maryland Constitution, Art. III, § 40B - amended and SF and TR, Various Sections - added, amended, and repealed

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 1082 Delegate R. Long**LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS – DATA CENTERS AND RATE SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS**

Applying certain rate schedule requirements for large load customers to certain data centers; and modifying, from September 1, 2026, to January 1, 2027, the date by which certain electric companies must submit to the Public Service Commission for approval certain rate schedules for large load customers.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

PU, § 4-212 - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 1083 Montgomery County Delegation**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS – MEMBERSHIP
MC 6–26**

Altering the membership of the Montgomery County Board of Elections to consist of seven regular members and to no longer include substitute members; altering the number of members on the county board required to be members of the majority party and the principal minority party; and altering the votes required for the county board to appoint an election director.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

EL, §§ 2-201, 2-202(e), and 11-301(f) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 1084 Montgomery County Delegation**MONTGOMERY COUNTY – COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION –
SCHOOL OPERATION REQUIREMENTS MC 14–26**

Authorizing the Montgomery County Board of Education to require public schools within the county to be open for pupil attendance for a minimum number of actual school days or a minimum number of school hours instead of both.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-103(a), (g), and (h) - amended and § 7-103(g) - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 1085 Delegate Miller

MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL – ESTABLISHMENT (MARYLAND GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2026)

Establishing the Maryland Office of the Inspector General; establishing the State Transparency Commission to appoint and provide oversight for the Inspector General of the State; providing for the qualifications, salary, and term of office of the Inspector General; providing for the employment of certain staff by the Inspector General; establishing provisions related to the powers and duties of the Inspector General, the Chief Deputy Inspector General, and the Office; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, §§ 7.5-101 through 7.5-112 - added and SP, §§ 5-305, 5-306, and 5-313 - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 1086 Montgomery County Delegation

MONTGOMERY COUNTY – CROSSWALK MONITORING SYSTEMS – AUTHORIZATION MC 10–26

Authorizing the use of crosswalk monitoring systems in school zones in Montgomery County, 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 1087 Delegate S. Johnson

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES – SURGICAL SMOKE – SMOKE EVACUATION SYSTEMS

Requiring, by January 1, 2028, each health care facility that performs surgical procedures to adopt and implement policies that require the use of a smoke evacuation system during a surgical procedure that may generate surgical smoke.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, §§ 19-1001 and 19-1002 - added

Assigned to: Health

HB 1088 Delegate Spiegel**PROPERTY TAX – PETITION TO REVIEW VALUE OF COMMERCIAL REAL PROPERTY**

Authorizing a county or a municipal corporation to submit a certain petition for review to appeal the value of commercial real property located in the county or municipal corporation that is sold to a new owner if the total sales price of the property is 20% or more than the total sales price when the property was previously sold.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TP, §§ 8-415 and 14-503 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 1089 Delegates Wu and Fair**CONSUMER PROTECTION – DATA BROKER REGISTRY – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing a data broker registry; defining “data broker” as a business that knowingly collects and sells or licenses personal consumer data to third parties with whom the consumer does not have a direct relationship; requiring certain data brokers to register each year with the Office of the Attorney General; requiring a data broker to report certain material changes to the Office of the Attorney General; and requiring the Office of the Attorney General to establish a certain publicly accessible, searchable database.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CL, § 14-1330 - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 1090 Montgomery County Delegation**MONTGOMERY COUNTY – BOARD OF EDUCATION – MANDATORY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS MC 9–26**

Requiring the Montgomery County Board of Education to close public schools in the county to students beginning in the 2027–2028 school year in observance of Yom Kippur and Juneteenth and to observe the first day of Diwali, Eid al–Adha, Eid al–Fitr, Lunar New Year, and Rosh Hashanah.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-103(c) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL REASSIGNED FEBRUARY 9, 2026**HB 976 Delegate Rose, et al**

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION – FUNDING ACCURACY AND FULL–TIME EQUIVALENT ENROLLMENT COUNT – ALTERATIONS AND REPORT (EDUCATION FUNDING ACCURACY ACT)

Altering the definition of “full–time equivalent enrollment” in the calculation for State education aid to include the average number of students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 on September 30 and May 31 of the prior school year; requiring the State Department of Education to publish online and submit a certain report to certain standing committees of the General Assembly; and applying the Act to the calculation of education funding for fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2027.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 5-201(g) - amended and § 5-244 - added

Reassigned to: Appropriations