



# SYNOPSIS

House Bills and Joint Resolutions  
2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

February 18, 2026  
Schedule 23

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## HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 2026

### **HB 1587 Delegate Patterson**

#### GAMING – ELECTRONIC INSTANT BINGO MACHINES – OPERATION AND MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MACHINES

Altering the definition of “slot machine” to repeal a 54–card limitation on the number of bingo cards certain handheld devices may allow a user to play at the same time; increasing the number of electronic instant bingo machines that certain entities may operate; providing that an electronic instant bingo machine is not required to print a paper ticket for each instant bingo game played unless the player elects to print the ticket; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

CR, §§ 12-301, 12-301.1(e), 12-308, and Chapter 603 of the Acts of 2012, § 3 - amended

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

### **HB 1588 Wicomico County Delegation**

#### WICOMICO COUNTY – ORPHANS’ COURT JUDGE – ANNUAL SALARY

Increasing, from \$11,600 to \$16,000, the annual salary of a judge of the Orphans’ Court in Wicomico County.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ET, § 2-108(v)(1) - amended

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

### **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 1589 Delegate Martinez, et al****CERTIFICATES OF BIRTH, LICENSES, AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS  
– SEX DESIGNATION (BIRTH CERTIFICATE MODERNIZATION ACT)**

Altering the circumstances under which the Secretary of Health is required to make a new certificate of birth due to the change of a sex designation of an individual; establishing requirements and a prohibition related to the making of new certificates of birth; and altering the options for indicating an individual's sex designation on a license, identification card, or moped operator's permit issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 4-211 and TR, § 12-305(a) and (b) - amended

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

**HB 1590 Delegate Ziegler****ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – CLASS 8 FARM BREWERY AND CLASS  
10 FARM DISTILLERY LICENSES**

Establishing a Class 10 farm distillery license that authorizes a license holder to distill, rectify, bottle, and sell at wholesale or retail distilled spirits produced on a licensed farm; requiring that a holder of a Class 8 farm brewery license or a Class 10 farm distillery license engage in certain agritourism activity; establishing and altering certain standards and requirements for food service under a Class 8 farm brewery license or a Class 10 farm distillery license; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, §§ 1-405, 2-210, and 2-212 - amended and § 2-203.1 - added

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

**HB 1591 Delegate Arentz, et al****STATE AND PRIVATE WETLANDS – NONWATER–DEPENDENT  
PROJECT – DEFINITION**

Establishing that a vessel registered under Title 8, Subtitle 7 of the Natural Resources Article is not a nonwater–dependent project for the purpose of certain provisions of law regarding construction on State or private wetlands, regardless of how the vessel is used or operated.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

EN, § 16-101(i) - amended

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

**HB 1592 Delegate Barnes**

## EDUCATION – REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS AND COUNTY LIBRARIES – FUNDING

Altering the calculation of certain funding for certain regional resource centers and each county public library system for certain fiscal years; altering the types of services of which each public library is required to offer at least one service to include programs to increase early childhood literacy and learning, school readiness, literacy proficiency, and student success, an education program to advance information literacy, and an initiative that increases digital equity and access to the Internet; etc.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 23-205(c), 23-410, 23-503 - amended

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

**HB 1593 Delegate Guyton**

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION – SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES MANUAL – PUBLIC COMMENT

Requiring the Deputy Secretary for Developmental Disabilities to provide notice to the public before making changes to the Self-Directed Services Manual; requiring the Deputy Secretary to receive and consider comments on the proposed changes from the public for at least 90 days after the date on which the notice is provided; and prohibiting the Deputy Secretary from adopting the proposed changes until the public comment period has ended.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 7-409.1 - added

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

**HB 1594 Delegate Kipke**

## VETERANS' DISCOUNTS ACT

Authorizing certain governmental entities to waive certain fees imposed by statute for veterans; and requiring certain governmental entities to adopt regulations before waiving certain fees imposed by statute for veterans.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

AG, BOP, BR, EN, FI, NR, PS, and TR, Various Sections - added and amended

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

**HB 1595 Delegates Hornberger and Palakovich Carr**

PROPERTY TAXES – AUTHORITY OF COUNTIES TO ESTABLISH A SUBCLASS AND SET A SPECIAL RATE FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY OF DATA CENTERS

Authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county to establish, by law, a subclass of personal property consisting of all the personal property of certain qualified data centers and set a special personal property tax rate for the subclass; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TP, §§ 6-202.1 and 6-302(b) - amended and § 6-302(e) - added

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

**HB 1596 Delegate Qi**

MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – MARYLAND GROWTH INITIATIVE – ESTABLISHED

Establishing the Maryland Growth Initiative in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation to support the growth of start-up companies; requiring the Initiative to create a certain list of companies in the State that are between certain growth phases according to a certain priority; establishing the Maryland Growth Initiative Fund to be administered by the Corporation as a special, nonlapsing fund; requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the Initiative; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EC, §§ 10-4E-01 through 10-4E-05 and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(iii)214. - added and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(iii)212. and 213. - amended

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

**HOUSE BILLS REASSIGNED FEBRUARY 13, 2026****HB 1228 Delegate Qi**

INSURANCE – PREMIUM RECEIPTS TAX – EXEMPTION FOR CAPTIVE INSURANCE PROCURED BY NONPROFIT HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

Exempting premiums on lawfully procured captive insurance by nonprofit hospitals and health care systems located in the State from the State insurance premium receipts tax imposed on unauthorized insurers and persons insured by unauthorized insurers; and prohibiting the Maryland Insurance Administration from charging or collecting a certain tax or certain fees, penalties, or interest from certain unauthorized insurers and certain insureds.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

IN, §§ 4-209 and 4-211 - amended

Reassigned to: Ways and Means and Health

**HB 1234 Delegate Williams**

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY – MARYLAND STADIUM AUTHORITY – BLUE LINE CORRIDOR FACILITIES

Altering the definition of “Prince George’s County Blue Line Corridor facility” to include a market hall, a sports facility, a mixed–use development, a technology innovation center, and facilities related to commercial development and revitalization.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

EC, § 10-601(nn) - amended

Reassigned to: Appropriations

**HB 1346 Delegate Amprey**

STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION – EXPEDITED DOCUMENT PROCESSING AND FEES

Establishing expedited processing fees for certain documents filed with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation; and requiring the Department to process documents filed at least 1 hour before the Department’s close of business within 1 hour after the documents are received, and documents filed at least 30 minutes before the Department’s close of business within 30 minutes after the documents are received.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CA, §§ 1-203 and 1-203.2 - amended

Reassigned to: Economic Matters

**HB 1371 Delegate Young, et al****MARYLAND–AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Maryland–Africa and the Caribbean Investment and Development Program in the Department of Commerce to study and promote certain trade relations; establishing an Advisory Board to conduct certain studies and make recommendations to the Department; authorizing the Department to issue certain funds to certain businesses for certain purposes; etc.

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

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EC, §§ 5-2701 through 5-2707 - added and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(iii)212. and 213. - amended and § 6-226(a)(2)(iii)214. - added

Reassigned to: Economic Matters and Appropriations

**HOUSE BILLS REASSIGNED FEBRUARY 14, 2026****HB 1205 Delegate Wims, et al****EDUCATION – MINIMUM WAGE FOR EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS**

Establishing a minimum wage rate of at least \$25 per hour to be paid by county boards of education to certain education support professionals beginning on July 1, 2028; and requiring the State Department of Education to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2026, on an estimate of the total cost of implementing a \$25–per–hour minimum wage for education support professionals.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 6-306 - added

Reassigned to: Ways and Means and Appropriations

**HB 1240 Delegates Fair and Buckel****SPORTS WAGERING – WAGERS ON HISTORICAL HORSE RACES – AUTHORIZATION**

Altering the definition of “sporting event” for purposes of provisions of law governing sports wagering to include historical horse races; authorizing certain sports wagering facility licensees to accept wagers on historical horse races that are made by an individual physically present and subject to certain limitations; providing for the distribution of proceeds from sports wagering on historical horse races; submitting the Act to a referendum of the qualified voters of the State; etc.

CONTINGENT – EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

EC, § 5-1501(c)(1) and SG, §§ 9-1A-28(b)(1), 9-1E-01(i), 9-1E-09(a) and (b), and 9-1E-12 - amended and §§ 9-1E-09(f) and 9-1E-09.1 - added

Reassigned to: Ways and Means