



SYNOPSIS

House Bills and Joint Resolutions
2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

February 19, 2026
Schedule 24

HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 16, 2026

HB 1597 Delegate Hill

**HEALTH – UNREGULATED SPACE IN HOSPITAL OPERATING SUITES
– PILOT PROJECT**

Establishing an unregulated space in hospital operating suites pilot project; requiring the Health Services Cost Review Commission to administer the pilot project; requiring the Commission to develop certain criteria and standards for the pilot project; requiring the Commission by December 1 annually to submit a certain report to certain committees of the General Assembly; and requiring certain ambulatory surgical centers and freestanding surgical centers to provide the Commission with certain information.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

HG, § 19-209 - added

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

Department of Legislative Services

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HB 1598 Delegates McCaskill and Toles**HORSE RACING – RACETRACK FACILITY RENEWAL ACCOUNT GRANTS – ALTERATIONS**

Authorizing, rather than requiring, a certain racing licensee to receive a grant for a capital construction plan from the Racetrack Facility Renewal Account without providing and expending a matching fund; requiring the racing licensee that receives the grant without providing and expending a matching fund to conduct live racing in the State for at least 10 years after the construction plan is complete; and requiring the State Racing Commission to recapture certain grant funds under certain circumstances and in a certain manner.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SG, § 9-1A-01(w-1) and (w-2) - renumbered, § 9-1A-01(w-1) - added, and Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

HB 1599 Delegate Jacobs, et al**CHESAPEAKE BAY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHED**

Establishing the Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program to provide funding for certain oyster propagation and replenishment projects that mitigate the effects on the State's oyster population of certain transportation projects that maintain or expand the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore; and requiring the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter, to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the Program from the Transportation Trust Fund.

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

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

NR, § 4-1020.1 - added

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

HB 1600 Delegate Fair**HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS – RESERVE FUNDING, MEETING NOTICES, VOTING, AND RECORDS**

Requiring that books and records kept by or on behalf of certain homeowners associations be posted online; clarifying that a governing body of a homeowners association may secure a line of credit or loan to fund reserves; requiring that certain homeowners associations provide notice of a meeting by electronic transmission 14 days prior to the meeting; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

RP, §§ 11B-112(a), 11B-112.3(f), 11B-113.1, 11B-113.2, and 11B-113.6(a) - amended

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

HB 1601 Delegate Griffith**REAL PROPERTY – DEEDS – RECORDATION REQUIREMENTS**

Requiring a deed presented for recording effecting a change in ownership of residential property to contain the name of the title insurer and the policy number if the purchaser or other party has obtained title insurance.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

RP, § 3-104(f)(7) - added

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

HB 1602 Delegate Griffith**COUNTIES – NO-COST PREVENTIVE CANCER SCREENINGS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**

Requiring counties in which a volunteer fire company is located to offer no-cost preventive cancer screenings in accordance with certain guidelines to volunteer firefighters volunteering with the volunteer fire company; authorizing a county to satisfy the requirement by providing a certain annual examination or applying for a certain grant; requiring the volunteer fire companies to maintain and provide to the counties in which the companies are located a certain list of volunteer firefighters; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

LG, § 9-115 - added

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

HB 1603 Delegate S. Johnson

HEALTH INSURANCE – VISION BENEFITS – REGULATION OF INSURERS AND VISION BENEFIT MANAGERS

Establishing requirements for certain vision benefits, vision benefit plans, and vision benefit discount plans; requiring an insurer or a vision benefit manager to disclose certain information on its website and in certain communications and maintain certain methods of communication for use by participating eye care providers; establishing certain requirements and prohibitions for contracts between insurers or vision benefit managers and participating eye care providers; etc.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

IN, § 15-112.2(h) - repealed and §§ 15-2201 through 15-2213 - added

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations