



SYNOPSIS

House Bills and Joint Resolutions
2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

February 23, 2026
Schedule 26

HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 17, 2026

HB 1608 Delegate Bartlett

PUBLIC SAFETY – FIREARMS – STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

Altering a certain provision of law that prohibits a person from storing or leaving a certain firearm in a location if the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised minor is likely to gain access to the firearm; requiring an authorized individual to store a firearm in a certain secure storage depository at a certain time; prohibiting a certain individual from violating a certain firearm storage requirement; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, § 4-104 and PS, §§ 5-133(b) and 5-306(d) - amended and CR, § 4-112 - added

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

HB 1609 Frederick County Delegation

FREDERICK COUNTY – GAMING – ACCEPTANCE OF CREDIT AS PAYMENT

Authorizing certain fire, rescue, and ambulance organizations conducting certain gaming events in Frederick County to accept credit from a person as payment to play a gaming device at the gaming event.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

CR, § 12-108 - 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 1610 Delegate Kerr

EDUCATION – SCHOOL BUS – FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS

Repealing the requirement that a school bus be constructed with materials that enable it to meet all criteria of the school bus seat upholstery fire block test established by the National School Transportation specifications and procedures adopted by the most recent National Congress on School Transportation.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-808 - amended

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

HB 1611 Delegate Pippy

PROPERTY TAX – CREDIT FOR DWELLING HOUSE OF DISABLED VETERANS AND SURVIVING SPOUSES – INCOME ELIGIBILITY

Repealing a certain income limitation used to establish eligibility for a property tax credit against the county and municipal corporation property tax imposed on the dwelling house of a certain disabled veteran or surviving spouse and instead authorizing the governing body of a county or a municipal corporation to establish eligibility criteria that limits the property tax credit based on a disabled veteran's federal adjusted gross income; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TP, § 9-265 - amended

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

HB 1612 Delegate Ebersole

SPORTS WAGERING – INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF SPORTS WAGERING

Requiring, rather than authorizing, certain sports wagering licensees and sports wagering operators that advertise in the State to contract with certain independent evaluators to evaluate and rate the sports wagering licensee's sports wagering content, sports wagering experts, sports wagering influencers, and content partners; and making the Act contingent on the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission issuing licenses to at least three independent evaluators.

CONTINGENT – EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SG, § 9-1E-17(d) - amended

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations

HB 1613 **Caroline County Delegation**

CAROLINE COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – INSPECTOR

Specifying that the inspector for the Board of License Commissioners for Caroline County is the county codes administrator or an individual the Board appoints as inspector.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, § 15-206 - amended

Assigned to: House Rules and Executive Nominations