



SYNOPSIS

House Bills and Joint Resolutions
2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

January 27, 2026
Schedule 9

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 JANUARY 27, 2026

HB 489 **Delegate Kerr**

ELECTRONIC HEALTH NETWORKS AND ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD VENDORS OF NURSING HOMES – RELEASE OF RECORDS – FEES

Repealing a provision of law prohibiting an electronic health network or electronic medical record vendor from charging a fee for the release of certain patient records or transactions.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 4-302.6 - 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 490 The Speaker (By Request – Accountability and Implementation Board)

EDUCATION – THE BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND’S FUTURE – REVISIONS

Repealing a requirement that county boards of education submit a certain technology report each year; extending the time period during which a certain method is used to calculate compensatory education enrollment through fiscal year 2027; repealing a termination date for the use of funds under the Concentration of Poverty Grant Program for the purpose of providing certain programs; altering the qualifications for an initial teacher certificate; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, Various Sections - amended, added, and repealed

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 491 Delegate Phillips

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – VICTIMS OF SEXUALLY ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR – REQUEST FOR VERBAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Prohibiting a law enforcement agency from making a certain request for verbal acknowledgement in an interaction with a person suspected to have been subjected to sexually assaultive behavior or who claims to have been subjected to sexually assaultive behavior.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CP § 11-929 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 492 Chair, Judiciary Committee (By Request – Maryland Judicial Conference)

COURTROOM SECURITY – MINIMUM ADEQUATE SECURITY STANDARD

Establishing minimum adequate security standards for courtroom security at all courthouse facilities.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 1-206 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 493 Chair, Judiciary Committee (By Request – Maryland Judicial Conference)**JUDGESHIPS – CIRCUIT COURT AND DISTRICT COURT**

Increasing from three to four the number of resident judges of the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County; and increasing from five to six the number of associate judges in the District Court in District 11 by increasing from two to three the number of associate judges appointed from Washington County.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, §§ 1-503(a)(18) and 1-603(b)(11) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 494 Delegate Bagnall**HEALTH INSURANCE – PRIMARY CARE INVESTMENT TARGETS – REIMBURSEMENT AND REPORTING**

Requiring certain entities to provide reimbursement to health care providers in a manner that meets the annual primary care investment targets established by the State on or after February 1, 2026; and requiring certain entities to provide a description of the entity's progress in meeting the annual primary care investment targets to the Maryland Insurance Commissioner when filing a premium rate or premium rate change with the Commissioner.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

IN, § 11-603(c) - amended and § 15-717 - added

Assigned to: Health

HB 495 Delegate Rosenberg**CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – IMMIGRATION ARREST – IMMUNITY IN CONNECTION WITH COURT PROCEEDING**

Providing that a certain individual duly and in good faith attending a certain court proceeding is immune from a certain immigration arrest in connection with attendance at a court proceeding under certain circumstances; and prohibiting a person from making an arrest in violation of the Act.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CP, § 2-104.3 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 496 Delegates Qi and Schmidt**ELECTION LAW – UNAFFILIATED VOTERS – OPEN PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

Authorizing a voter unaffiliated with a political party to vote the ballot for unaffiliated voters or the ballot of the political party of the voter's choice in a primary election; and prohibiting a voter unaffiliated with a political party who votes the ballot of a political party in a primary election from automatically becoming affiliated with the political party whose ballot the voter voted.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EL, §§ 3-202(a)(4), 3-203(c), 8-202, and 9-305(a) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 497 Delegate Simpson**FAMILY LAW – TEMPORARY AND FINAL PROTECTIVE ORDERS – DURATION AND RELIEF**

Extending from 7 to 14 days the time period during which a temporary protective order is effective after service of the order; requiring that a final protective order hearing be held not later than 14 days after the temporary protective order is served on the respondent; and providing that a final protective order may order the respondent to pay to a person eligible for relief from abuse certain losses or expenses incurred as a result of abuse.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

FL, §§ 4-505(c) and 4-506(b)(1) and (d)(13) and (14) - amended and § 4-506(d)(14) - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 498 Delegate Cullison**CERTIFICATE OF NEED – INTERMEDIATE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES**

Repealing the exemption from the certificate of need requirement for a change in bed capacity for intermediate care facilities that offer substance use disorder treatment services; providing a certificate of need is not required for a change in bed capacity at certain facilities offering certain treatment services if a written notice is filed with the Commission 45 days before the facility's establishment, the facility is consistent with the State Health Plan, will result in more efficient service delivery, and is in the public interest; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 19-120(f) and (h) - amended and § 19-120(p) - added

Assigned to: Health

HB 499 Delegate Ruth, et al**ELECTION LAW – REGISTERED VOTER LIST AND PETITIONS
(BALLOT PETITION MODERNIZATION ACT)**

Requiring the State Board of Elections to adopt regulations for the secure storage and use of voter data from the list of registered voters and specifying procedures and requirements relating to electronic signatures; establishing and altering certain provisions governing the petition process, including provisions regarding the collection and invalidation of signatures, the use of electronic signatures, and attestations by petition circulators; etc.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

EL, §§ 3-506(a), 6-103(a), 6-203, 6-204, 6-210(c), (d), and (e), and 16-401 - amended and §§ 6-208.1 and 6-210(c) - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 500 Delegate Hartman, et al**SALES AND USE TAX – PRECIOUS METAL BULLION OR COINS – EXEMPTION**

Altering the definition of “precious metal bullion or coins” for purposes of eligibility for an exemption from the sales and use tax for the sale of precious metal bullion or coins and expanding an exemption by repealing requirements that the sale price exceed \$1,000 and the sale occur at the Baltimore Convention Center.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 11-214.1 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 501 Delegate Bartlett, et al**CRIMINAL LAW – SEXUAL OFFENSE BY A PERSON IN A POSITION OF AUTHORITY**

Altering the penalties for the misdemeanor of sexual offense by a person in a position of authority; prohibiting a certain person in a position of authority from committing a certain violation involving a child at least 6 years younger than the person in a position of authority; prohibiting a person who has been previously convicted of a certain crime from committing a certain violation; adding sexual offense by a person in a position of authority as a predicate crime for sexual solicitation of a minor; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, §§ 3-308 and 3-324 - amended and § 3-308.1 - added and CP, § 11-701(o) and (q) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 502 Delegate Holmes

REAL PROPERTY – GOVERNING BODIES OF COMMON OWNERSHIP COMMUNITIES – MEMBER TRAINING

Requiring certain members of a board of directors or certain officers of a council of unit owners of certain condominiums and certain members of a governing body of a homeowners association to successfully complete a training curriculum on the responsibilities of being a member or an officer in a certain manner and 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 503 Delegate Smith, et al

BALTIMORE CITY SHERIFF'S OFFICE – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING – COMPENSATION

Including salary and wages in the compensation with regard to which full-time sworn law enforcement officers and court security officers in Baltimore City may collectively bargain; altering the person with whom the full-time sworn officers and court security officers are to seek recognition for the purposes of collectively bargaining concerning certain matters; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

CJ, § 2-316(i)(3) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 504 Delegate Martinez, et al

STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR AUDIOLOGISTS, HEARING AID DISPENSERS, SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS, AND MUSIC THERAPISTS – PHYSICIAN MEMBERS – REPEAL

Altering the membership of the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists by removing the physician members.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

HO, § 2-202(a) - amended

Assigned to: Health

HB 505 Delegate Smith, et al**PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS – STUDENT SCHOOL TRANSFERS – ACADEMIC RECORDS DOCUMENTATION**

Requiring a public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school receiving transfer of a student to accept certain unofficial documents to satisfy the academic records requirement from the sending school under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-118 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 506 Delegate Qi, et al**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECT FINANCING PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Transformational Project Financing Program in the Maryland Economic Development Corporation to designate certain development districts as State-supported development districts; authorizing a governing body of a political subdivision to apply to the Corporation for approval as a State-supported development district; requiring the Corporation to publish at least annually a summary of approved State-supported development districts; providing for the eligibility for and calculation of certain State revenue; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EC, § 12-203(a) and The Charter of Baltimore City, Art. II, § 62(d) - amended and EC, §§ 12-203(d) and 12-2A-01 through 12-2A-08 - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 507 Delegate Ruff, et al**QUALIFYING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS – INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING AND REENTRY GRANT FUND – EXTENSION**

Extending the fiscal years through 2029 in which the Governor may include an appropriation of \$1,000,000 in the annual budget bill for certain qualifying nonprofit organizations that provide automotive repair training and reentry assistance to incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals; and extending the termination date for provisions relating to funding for certain services to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

PS, § 4-1013 and Chapter 892 of the Acts of 2024, § 2 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 508 Delegate Hornberger, et al

PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY – INVESTIGATION RECORDS RELATING TO NOT ADMINISTRATIVELY CHARGED, UNFOUNDED, AND EXONERATED COMPLAINTS

Requiring that certain investigation records relating to a complaint of misconduct by a police officer be removed from the police officer's personnel record 3 years after an administrative charging committee issues a determination not to administratively charge the police officer in connection with the complaint or a trial board issues a finding of unfounded or exonerated in connection with the complaint.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PS, § 3-112 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 509 Delegate Vogel, et al

CAMPAIGN FINANCE – CONTRIBUTIONS BY GAS AND ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANIES – PROHIBITION

Prohibiting gas and electric utility companies doing business in the State from making campaign contributions to the campaign finance entity of a candidate for a nonfederal public office in the State or any other campaign finance entity organized in support of a candidate for a nonfederal public office in the State.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

EL, § 13-237.1 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 510 Delegate Cardin, et al

MOTOR VEHICLES – AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT – IMPROPER REGISTRATION

Requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to enter into an agreement or arrangement with Virginia to obtain information regarding motor vehicles owned by Maryland residents and improperly registered in Virginia; requiring the Administration to make the information available to State and local governments for certain automated speed enforcement purposes; increasing the penalties for the owners or drivers of certain improperly registered motor vehicles for violations recorded by automated speed enforcement systems; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, § 12-415 - added and §§ 21-809(c) and (d)(1) and 21-810(c) and (d)(1) - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 511 Delegate Edelson, et al**CATALYTIC REVITALIZATION PROJECT TAX CREDIT – ALTERATIONS**

Altering the definition of “catalytic revitalization project” to include a historic property that is a substantially vacant or functionally obsolescent privately owned commercial property; altering eligibility for and the amount of a certain credit against the State income tax for certain construction and rehabilitation costs for certain catalytic revitalization projects; altering certain limitations on the Secretary of Housing and Community Development to accept certain applications and award certain tax credits; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

HS, §§ 6-901, 6-902(a) and (c), 6-903(a), (b), and (f)(1), and 6-904 - amended and § 6-903(g) - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 512 Delegate Pruski**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS AND PART-TIME INSPECTORS – COMPENSATION**

Increasing the annual salaries and providing for cost-of-living salary increases for the chair, certain part-time inspectors, and other members of the Board of License Commissioners for Anne Arundel County.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, §§ 11-204(a) and 11-206(a) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 513 Delegate Vogel**HATE CRIMES AND HATE BIAS – DEFINITIONS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND HATE BIAS INCIDENT**

Altering the definition of “sexual orientation” applicable to certain hate crime statutes; and defining “hate bias incident” applicable to a certain requirement that the Department of State Police collect, analyze, and report certain information provided by certain law enforcement agencies.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, § 10-301 and PS, § 2-307 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 514 Delegate Rosenberg**CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS – CHARITABLE DONATION AND TAX-EXEMPT STATUS – REVOCATION (KEEPING CHARITIES NONPARTISAN ACT OF 2026)**

Prohibiting certain charitable organizations from participating in or intervening in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate for public office; authorizing the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, acting jointly, to order a 2-year revocation of certain tax-exempt statuses if a certain determination is made; requiring the Comptroller and the Director of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to revoke certain tax-exempt statuses under certain circumstances; etc.

EMERGENCY BILL – CONTINGENT

BR, Various Sections - amended and added and TG, §§ 10-104 and 11-204 and TP, §§ 7-202 and 7-204 - amended

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 515 Delegate Vogel**PUBLIC HEALTH – LOCAL DRUG OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW TEAMS – MEMBERSHIP**

Requiring that the hospital representative on a local drug overdose fatality review team be a vice president, a chief medical officer, or an assistant medical officer at the hospital.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 5-902 - amended

Assigned to: Health

HB 516 Delegate Vogel

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR – INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS – REQUIREMENTS (WORKSITE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2026)

Requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to establish certain procedures for receiving, reviewing, and investigating certain complaints regarding matters under the jurisdiction of the Department; requiring the Department to employ one investigator for each of five regions of the State to investigate complaints; and requiring, beginning fiscal year 2027, the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$500,000 for the hiring of five investigators.

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

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BR, § 2-111 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 517 Delegate Terrasa, et al

EMISSION STANDARDS, AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS, AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT – LOCAL AUTHORITY

Altering provisions of law relating to the authority of a political subdivision to adopt ordinances, rules, or regulations that set emission standards or ambient air quality standards under certain conditions; specifying that the requirement for the Department of the Environment to approve a county water and sewerage plan does not limit certain authority of the county; requiring the Department to publish certain information on its website by October 1, 2026; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

EN, §§ 2-104 and 9-502 - amended and § 9-731 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 518 Delegate Palakovich Carr, et al

GAMING – PROBLEM GAMBLING AND COLLEGE ATHLETE PROTECTIONS

Requiring the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to adopt regulations to reduce or mitigate the effects of problem gambling; requiring the regulations to establish a voluntary exclusion list; requiring the Commission to provide contact information of individuals that request to be placed on the voluntary exclusion list to the Maryland Center for Excellence on Problem Gambling; prohibiting an individual under the age of 21 years from participating in fantasy competitions; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SG, Various Sections - added and amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 519 Delegate Pruski

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – ENTERTAINMENT PERMITS

Altering the titles of certain entertainment permits for certain alcoholic beverages license holders in Anne Arundel County; altering the authorized forms of entertainment that certain entertainment permit holders in the county may provide; and adding a 100-foot zoning distance requirement from any residential property applicable to certain entertainment permit holders in the county.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, § 11-1102(a), (b), (c), and (d) - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 520 Delegate Cullison**STATE BOARD OF PHYSICIANS – NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS – SCOPE OF PRACTICE, RENEWALS, AND PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE**

Altering the drugs that may be prescribed, provided, or administered or for which a starter dose may be dispensed by a naturopathic doctor; altering the methods by which a naturopathic doctor may administer medication; altering the requirements for renewal of a naturopathic doctor license; altering the grounds for discipline of naturopathic doctors; requiring the State Board of Physicians to include certain information regarding professional liability insurance on a naturopathic doctor's licensee profile; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HO, §§ 12-102(f), 14-5F-01, 14-5F-04.1, 14-5F-14, 14-5F-15(c), and 14-5F-18(a)(26) and (27) - amended and Various Sections - added

Assigned to: Health

HB 521 Delegate Chisholm, et al**ELECTRIC COMPANIES AND GAS COMPANIES – CUSTOMER BILL SURCHARGE – REPEAL**

Repealing on electric and gas bills a certain surcharge used to encourage and promote the efficient use and conservation of energy in support of certain greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and targets.

EMERGENCY BILL

PU, § 7-222(d) and SG, § 9-20B-05(f)(4) - amended and PU, § 7-222(e) - repealed

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 522 Delegate Pruski**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSES – CLASS C PER DIEM LICENSE FEES**

Altering the license fee structure for Class C per diem beer, beer and wine, and beer, wine, and liquor licenses issued by the Board of License Commissioners for Anne Arundel County.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, § 11-1311 - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 523 Delegate D. Jones, et al

REAL PROPERTY – RESIDENTIAL FORECLOSURES –
COMMENCEMENT RESTRICTIONS

Establishing certain restrictions for the commencement of a foreclosure and an order to docket or a complaint to foreclose a mortgage or deed of trust on residential property.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

RP, § 7-105.1(e) - amended and § 7-105.1(e-1) - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 524 Delegate Mireku-North, et al

GENERAL PROVISIONS – COMMEMORATIVE MONTHS – AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Requiring the Governor annually to proclaim the month of September as African Heritage Month in recognition of the contributions that African Americans have made to the State; and requiring the proclamation to urge certain organizations to observe the month with certain programs and activities.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

GP, §§ 7-505 through 7-507 - renumbered and § 7-505 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 525 Delegate Boafo, et al

COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION – STUDENT ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE USE POLICY – ESTABLISHMENT (MARYLAND PHONE-FREE SCHOOLS ACT)

Requiring each county board of education to develop and implement, not later than the 2027–2028 school year, a policy limiting the use of certain electronic communication devices by a student during the academic school day; and prohibiting the policy from restricting the use of an electronic communication device for purposes documented in a student’s individual education program, to address a documented health issue, during an emergency event, for certain educational purposes, to access language translation tools, or to meet caregiving duties.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-137 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 526 Delegate Kaufman**CIVIL ACTIONS – SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS – PAYMENT AND RELEASE**

Requiring a settling defendant in a tort action for money damages to provide a proposed release to a plaintiff within 10 days and to pay all sums due to a plaintiff under a settlement agreement within 15 days; providing for the protection by a plaintiff of certain third-party rights of recovery or subrogation; and establishing the accrual of interest on settlement sums under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 5-11A-01 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 527 Delegate R. Long, et al**CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – HOME DETENTION – REMOVAL**

Requiring the Commissioner of Correction or the Commissioner's designee to remove an incarcerated individual from home detention for violating a condition of the incarcerated individual's placement in home detention.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CS, § 3-413 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 528 Delegate Pruski**INCOME TAX – SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION – RETIREMENT INCOME OF FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL – ELIGIBILITY**

Altering a certain subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax to include certain retirement income attributable to a resident's employment with the District of Columbia as a member of a fire, rescue, or emergency services organization; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-207(mm) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 529 The Speaker (By Request – Department of Legislative Services – Code Revision)

CODE REVISION – HEALTH – MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Revising, restating, and recodifying the laws of this State relating to the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, §§ 15-103.1 through 15-103.8 - renumbered, §§ 15-103.1, 15-103.2, and 15-305 through 15-309 - added, and Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Health

HB 530 Delegate Wu, et al

TASK FORCE ON PROACTIVE REVIEW OF AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS ON SPECIAL EDUCATION BUSES

Establishing the Task Force on Proactive Review of Audio and Video Recordings on Special Education Buses to study the use of artificial intelligence to proactively review audio and video recordings from special education buses to ensure the safety and security of student passengers; and requiring the Task Force by December 1 2026, to report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 531 Delegate Wu, et al

PUBLIC SCHOOLS STEM AND ROBOTICS PROGRAM TASK FORCE – ESTABLISHMENT

Establishing the Public Schools STEM and Robotics Program Task Force to collect information on and study existing STEM and robotics programs in public schools in the State and in other states to determine the feasibility of establishing competitive STEM and robotics programs as varsity sports in every public school throughout the State; and requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations, by December 15, 2026, to certain committees of the General Assembly.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 532 Delegate Solomon**EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS – FIREFIGHTERS – PAYMENT OF WAGES AND PAYROLL INFORMATION**

Requiring governmental units that employ firefighters to compute overtime pay for each hour over 168 hours that a firefighter works during a 28-day work period; requiring counties and municipalities to provide certain payroll information to each employed firefighter; authorizing a firefighter or the firefighter's exclusive representative to initiate a certain grievance if a county or municipality does not provide the payroll information as required or wages due; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

LE, § 3-420 - amended and LG, § 1-210 - added

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 533 Delegate Stein**MEL NOLAND WOODLAND INCENTIVES AND FELLOWSHIP FUND – REPORTING**

Requiring the Department of Natural Resources to include in an annual report to certain committees of the General Assembly the amount of proceeds from a certain agricultural land transfer tax that are attributable to the taxation of certain instruments of writing that transfer title to parcels of land that are entirely woodland that were distributed to the Mel Noland Woodland Incentives and Fellowship Fund during the immediately preceding fiscal year; and requiring the Department to report any uncertainties regarding certain amounts.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

NR, § 5-307(j) - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 534 Delegate Smith, et al**NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS – TRANSCRIPTS – PROHIBITION ON PUNITIVE MEASURES RELATED TO STUDENT DEBT**

Prohibiting nonpublic schools that participate in State-funded education programs from refusing to provide a current or former student or the student's parent or guardian with a transcript or taking other punitive measures regarding a student's transcript request because the student owes a debt to the nonpublic school.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-118 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 535 Delegate Arentz, et al

FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS – COTTAGE FOOD BUSINESSES – MAXIMUM ANNUAL REVENUE

Increasing from \$50,000 to \$100,000 the maximum amount of annual revenue a business may generate from the sale of cottage food products to be considered a cottage food business.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 21-301(b-1) - amended

Assigned to: Health

HB 536 Delegate Smith, et al

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION – REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS – DISABILITIES DUE TO CHILDBIRTH, MENOPAUSE, AND RELATED MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Expanding certain protections against employment discrimination to apply to temporary disabilities caused or contributed to by childbirth, menopause, or a related medical condition.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, § 20-609 - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 537 Delegate Holmes

RESIDENTIAL OWNERS IN COMMON OWNERSHIP COMMUNITIES – BILL OF RIGHTS

Establishing a bill of rights for unit owners of a condominium, members of a cooperative housing corporation, and lot owners of a homeowners association.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

RP, § 1-105 - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 538 Delegate Wolek**INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – MANDATORY DISCLOSURES FOR NEW AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS (INFORMED ENROLLMENT ACT)**

Requiring each institution of higher education in the State that admits first-time undergraduate students to prominently display on its publicly accessible prospective student website a link to the U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard website and share related information in a certain manner.

CONTINGENT – EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 15-141 - added

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 539 Delegate Mireku-North, et al**CHILD CARE CENTERS – TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS – ALTERATIONS**

Requiring the State Board of Education to provide a pathway for individuals who are qualified to be child care teachers, but lack proof of necessary educational attainment, to attest to qualifying educational credentials to be a child care teacher teaching in a child care center.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 9.5-404(b)(13) and (c) - amended and § 9.5-404(c) - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 540 Delegate Lehman, et al**INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC, GAS, AND GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANIES – UTILITY RATE CHANGES (PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY TRANSPARENCY ACT)**

Prohibiting certain electric, gas, and gas and electric companies from initiating a proceeding that may lead to a rate change unless the company provides customers with a certain notice; requiring certain electric, gas, and gas and electric companies to include a certain statement in each customer bill and automatic payment e-mail and distribute a certain annual rate report in a certain manner; requiring the Public Service Commission, in consultation with the Office of People's Counsel, to develop a certain report; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PU, § 4-203.1 - added

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 541 Delegate Guzzone, et al

PUBLIC SCHOOLS – RESTOCKING MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS – REQUIREMENT

Requiring each county board of education to ensure that each public school regularly restock dispensers in the women's restrooms at the school with menstrual hygiene products.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-449 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 542 Delegate Wilkins

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT – INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT QUALIFYING CHILDREN – ELIGIBILITY

Expanding eligibility for the Maryland earned income tax credit for individuals without qualifying children by altering the income thresholds at which the credit phases out; providing that, after the 2025 tax year, the income threshold and phase-out amounts are adjusted annually for inflation; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-704 - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 543 Delegate Guyton, et al

REAL PROPERTY – LANDLORD AND TENANT – FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

Authorizing a landlord to impose an increased security deposit if a tenant operates or plans to operate a family child care home on the leased premises; prohibiting a landlord of certain residential rental property from prohibiting or unreasonably limiting the operation of a family child care home on the property; providing that landlords of certain residential rental property are immune from civil liability; authorizing a landlord to require a certain tenant to purchase a liability insurance policy; applying the Act prospectively; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

RP, § 8-203(b) - amended and § 8-222 - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 544 Delegate R. Long, et al

VEHICLE LAWS – CANNABIS USE IN MOTOR VEHICLE WITH MINOR OCCUPANT – PROHIBITION

Prohibiting an individual from smoking, vaping, or consuming cannabis in the passenger area of a motor vehicle in which a minor is an occupant.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, § 21-903.1 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 545 Delegate Qi

REAL ESTATE BROKERS – RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS – TRANSACTION BROKERS

Authorizing a licensed real estate broker, a licensed associate real estate broker, or a licensed real estate salesperson to establish nonagency relationships to act as a real estate transaction broker in a residential real estate transaction under certain circumstances; establishing the duties of a transaction broker in a transaction brokerage; requiring the State Real Estate Commission to develop a certain standard consent form for a transaction brokerage; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BOP, §§ 17-322(b)(30) and 17-532(a) - amended and §§ 17-551 through 17-557 - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 546 Delegate Wolek

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION – EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – COURSE ON WELL-BEING AND FLOURISHING

Requiring the State Department of Education to make available a continuing professional development course on educator well-being and flourishing to school personnel and administrators on or before July 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 6-132 - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 547 Delegate Fair, et al**INCOME TAX – SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION – ENHANCED AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT EQUIPMENT**

Altering a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for enhanced agricultural management equipment to include equipment that the Secretary of Agriculture determines by regulation to qualify as enhanced agricultural management equipment; and applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-208(d) - amended

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 548 Delegate Behler, et al**LAND USE – PERMITTING – DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (MARYLAND HOUSING CERTAINTY ACT)**

Requiring the approval of a housing development project application by a local regulatory authority or the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission to be governed only by certain laws and regulations in effect at the time of submission of a substantially complete application; granting the proponent of an approved housing development project certain vested rights related to use and development for a certain time period; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

LU, §§ 1-401 and 10-103 - amended and LU, §§ 12-101 through 12-301 and LG, § 20-128 - added

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 549 Delegate Palakovich Carr**MARYLAND PUBLIC ETHICS LAW – VIRTUAL CURRENCY AND DOMESTIC PARTNERS**

Altering the contents of a certain financial disclosure statement to include a schedule of certain interests in a virtual currency held by certain officials and candidates for office; and adding domestic partners and registered domestic partners to provisions of law regarding spouses under the Maryland Public Ethics Law.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

GP, Various Sections - renumbered, added, and amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 550 Delegate Martinez

CIVIL ACTIONS – VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS (NO KINGS ACT)

Establishing certain civil liability for a federal law enforcement officer who, under color of law, deprives another of a right, a privilege, or an immunity secured by the U.S. Constitution; and applying the Act retroactively to a cause of action arising on or after March 1, 2025.

EMERGENCY BILL

CJ, §§ 3-2701 and 3-2702 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 551 Delegate Simpson, et al

CRIMINAL LAW – DRUG PARAPHERNALIA AND CONTROLLED PARAPHERNALIA PROHIBITIONS – REPEAL

Repealing prohibitions relating to drug paraphernalia and controlled paraphernalia.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, §§ 5-101(h) and (p), 5-619, and 5-620 - repealed and § 5-101(i) through (o), (p-1), and (q) through (ff) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 552 Delegate J. Long, et al

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE HOUSE OF REFORMATION AND INSTRUCTION FOR COLORED CHILDREN

Establishing the Independent Investigation of the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children; establishing the process for appointing the Principal Independent Investigator and the Deputy Independent Investigators; requiring the Independent Investigation to undertake certain tasks related to the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children and the deaths that occurred there; providing that the Independent Investigation will be funded according to the State budget; etc.

EMERGENCY BILL

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 553 Delegate Ruff, et al

PUBLIC SAFETY – ELEVATOR INSPECTION CERTIFICATES – SEARCHABLE DATABASE

Requiring the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to post a user-friendly, searchable database of active elevator inspection certificates on the Maryland Department of Labor's website; and requiring the database to be searchable by street address, city, and county.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PS, § 12-811 - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 554 The Speaker

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES – RENAMING AND LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Adding the Chair of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to the Legislative Policy Committee; and updating the committees of the General Assembly that receive certain required reports and notices.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

HG, IN, LE, and SG, Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 555 The Speaker (By Request – Department of Legislative Services – Code Revision)

CODE REVISION – HIGHER EDUCATION – JANET L. HOFFMAN LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM

Revising, restating, and recodifying the laws of this State relating to the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 18-1503 through 18-1506 - renumbered and § 18-1502 - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2026**HJ 5 The Speaker (By Request – Governor's Salary Commission)**

GOVERNOR'S SALARY COMMISSION – SALARY
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR

Establishing the salaries to be paid to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, as directed by Article II, Section 21A of the Maryland Constitution, for the 4-year term of office beginning January 20, 2027.

Assigned to: Appropriations

HOUSE BILLS REASSIGNED JANUARY 27, 2026**HB 318 Prince George's County Delegation and Montgomery County Delegation**

MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING
COMMISSION AND WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY
COMMISSION – VENDOR REGISTRATION PG/MC 107-26

Requiring the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to accept as a registered vendor any person that is registered through a vendor registration process as a vendor with Montgomery County or Prince George's County; and authorizing the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to enter into certain memoranda of understanding with Montgomery County and Prince George's County.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

LU, § 15-206 and PU, § 20-401 - added

Reassigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

HB 337 Delegate Moon, et al**SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING – SCHOOL ZONES AND ADEQUATE PUBLIC FACILITIES ORDINANCES**

Requiring each county board of education to submit a student residency and school zones report to the Department of Planning and the Interagency Commission on School Construction on or before July 1 each year, beginning on July 1, 2026; prohibiting certain adequate public facilities ordinances from delaying the processing and completion of subdivision or site development plans; and authorizing certain adequate public facilities ordinances to delay the issuance of final permits.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

ED, § 4-148 and LU, § 7-106 - added

Reassigned to: Appropriations

HB 480 Delegate Fennell, et al**TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES – DEACTIVATION OF OPERATORS**

Altering the definitions of “transportation network company” and “transportation network operator” for purposes of provisions of law regarding transportation network companies; requiring a transportation network company to maintain a deactivation policy that provides the policies and procedures for the deactivation of operators; prohibiting a transportation network company from deactivating an operator unless the deactivation is consistent with the company’s deactivation policy; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PU, §§ 10-101(l) and (m) and 10-401 - amended and § 10-410 - added

Reassigned to: Environment and Transportation