



SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions
2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

January 30, 2026
Schedule 11

PLEASE NOTE: February 9 – Bill introduction deadline.

All bills should be given to the Secretary of the Senate's office by 5:00 P.M. on Monday, February 9.

As required by Senate Rule 32(b), bills introduced after this date will be referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILLS INTRODUCED January 30, 2026

SB 422 Senator Kramer

RESEARCH FACILITIES AND TESTING FACILITIES THAT USE ANIMALS – ADOPTION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Applying certain provisions of law regarding the adoption of dogs and cats used for scientific research purposes to testing facilities; requiring certain research facilities and testing facilities to submit to the Department of Agriculture certain information regarding dogs and cats on or before January 31 each year; and requiring a school or an institution of higher education that uses animals for certain purposes to submit a report on the results of certain inspections to the General Assembly on or before December 31 each year.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

AG, §§ 15-101 and 15-103 through 15-106 - added and § 15-101 - amended
Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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

SB 423 Senator Kramer

RESEARCH FACILITIES AND TESTING FACILITIES THAT USE ANIMALS – PROHIBITIONS AND ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS (ANIMAL RESEARCH MODERNIZATION AND BEST PRACTICES ACT OF 2026)

Prohibiting a research facility or a testing facility from using certain dogs and cats for research or testing purposes; prohibiting a research facility or testing facility from performing devocalization procedures on dogs or cats; prohibiting a testing facility from using traditional animal test methods under certain circumstances; applying certain provisions of law regarding the adoption of dogs and cats used for scientific research purposes to testing facilities; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

AG, § 15-101 - amended and §§ 15-101 through 15-103, 15-105, and 15-106 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 424 Senator Jennings

STATE TRANSFER TAX – LAND PRESERVATION SPECIAL FUND – REVENUE ALLOCATION

Repealing a requirement that for fiscal years 2027, 2028, and 2029 \$25,000,000 of the balance of a special fund dedicated to certain land preservation programs be allocated to the General Fund of the State.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TP, § 13-209(c), (d), and (h) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 425 Senator Jennings

STATE ARCHIVES – RECORD SERVICES – FEES

Authorizing the State Archives to establish by regulation reasonable fees relating to the care and preservation of records and other services provided by the Archives.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, §§ 9-1007(c), 9-1009(d), 9-1011(c), and 9-1015(e) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 426 Senator Sydnor

PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT – DIVORCE RECORDS

Requiring a custodian to deny inspection of certain records pertaining to a divorce proceeding except under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

GP, § 4-305.1 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 427 Senator Lewis Young

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: Budget and Taxation

SB 428 Senator Augustine

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND HEALTH INSURANCE – COLLABORATIVE CARE MODEL – COST SHARING PROHIBITION

Prohibiting the Maryland Department of Health and certain carriers from imposing a copay, coinsurance, or deductible for services provided in accordance with the Collaborative Care Model statewide in primary care settings that provide health care services to Program recipients.

VARIOUS EFFECTIVE DATES

HG, § 15-141.1 - amended and IN, § 15-864 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 429 Senator Brooks**MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION – STUDY ON LAND-BASED WIND ENERGY**

Requiring the Maryland Energy Administration to conduct a study on the potential for land-based wind energy generation in the State and the siting of land-based wind energy generating systems in the State; authorizing the Administration to use available funds in the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to conduct the study; and requiring by December 1, 2026, the Administration to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 430 Senator Brooks**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.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 15-141 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 431 Senator Brooks**FISH AND WILDLIFE – ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES AND MIGRATORY BIRDS – REGULATIONS, LISTS, PETITIONS, ESSENTIAL HABITATS, AND TAKINGS**

Requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources to review and, if warranted, update certain regulations on or before July 1, 2033, and at least every 10 years thereafter; altering the impacts the Secretary can make reference to when making certain determinations; requiring the Secretary to delist an endangered or threatened species under certain circumstances; requiring a petition to remove a listed species to contain certain information; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

NR, Various Sections - amended and added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 432 Senator Love**ATTORNEY GENERAL ACTIONS AND CLIMATE CRIMES ACCOUNTABILITY FUND (CLIMATE CRIMES ACCOUNTABILITY ACT)**

Authorizing the Attorney General to investigate, commence, and prosecute or defend any suit or action that holds certain entities accountable for tortious or otherwise unlawful conduct that has contributed to climate change; authorizing the Attorney General to hire outside counsel to assist with an action under the Act if the Attorney General makes a certain determination; establishing the Climate Crimes Accountability Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

EN, § 1-307, PS, §§ 14-1401 and 14-1402, and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(iii)214. - added and SF and SG, Various Sections - amended
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings and Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 433 Senator Love, et al**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: Judicial Proceedings

SB 434 Senator Love**MARYLAND STRATEGIC ENERGY INVESTMENT FUND – USES – COOPERATIVE HOUSING CORPORATIONS AND CONDOMINIUMS (CO-OP AND CONDO ENERGY REFUND EQUITY ACT)**

Altering the authorized uses of certain compliance fee revenue paid into the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund; and requiring certain funds in the Fund be used as refunds or credits to residential customers for electric service in fiscal year 2027.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SG, § 9-20B-05(i)(4) - amended
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 435 Senator Folden**PUBLIC HEALTH – MEDETOMIDINE AND XYLAZINE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT**

Prohibiting a retailer from distributing, selling, or exposing for sale a medetomidine product or xylazine product unless the purchaser provides proof the intended use is for institutional, veterinary, or scientific purposes; prohibiting a retailer from distributing, selling, or exposing for sale a medetomidine or xylazine product to an individual under the age of 21 years; requiring a retailer that prepares, distributes, sells, or exposes for sale a medetomidine or xylazine product to maintain certain records; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 8-6A-01(b)(3) - amended and §§ 21-2G-01 through 21-2G-03 - added
Assigned to: Finance

SB 436 Senator Folden**MINORS CONVICTED AS ADULTS – SENTENCING – TRANSFER TO JUVENILE COURT**

Establishing a presumption that the sentencing of a minor convicted as an adult should be transferred to the juvenile court, under certain circumstances, and authorizing the court to do so; and requiring the juvenile court to make a juvenile determination under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CP, § 6-235 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 437 Senator Folden**CRIMINAL LAW – THEFT AND FRAUD CRIMES – VALUATION AND FORGERY OF GIFT CARDS**

Providing for the valuation of a gift card for the purpose of determining value for crimes involving theft; and prohibiting a person, with the intent to defraud another, from altering or tampering with a gift card or its packaging.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, §§ 7-103(h) and 8-409 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 438 Senators Jackson and Hershey**COMMERCIAL LAW – SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITIES – ALTERATIONS**

Prohibiting an occupant from using the occupant's self-service storage facility beyond the term of a rental agreement after delivery of a notice of nonrenewal; requiring an operator to give an occupant at least 30 days after delivery of a notice of nonrenewal to remove the occupant's personal property from the self-service storage facility; requiring an operator to give an occupant notice of intent to dispose of the occupant's personal property at least 10 days before the operator disposes of that personal property; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

CL, §§ 18-501 and 18-502 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 439 Senator Jackson**EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION – FIRE AND RESCUE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES – USE OF MEDICAL CANNABIS**

Prohibiting an employer from taking certain discriminatory employment actions against a fire and rescue public safety employee based on the employee's use of medical cannabis, subject to certain conditions; and requiring an employer to report an incident of a fire and rescue public safety employee reporting for work while impaired by cannabis to the State Emergency Medical Services Board.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, §§ 20-601 and 20-606 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 440 Senator Guzzone**INCOME TAX – THEATRICAL PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT – SUNSET EXTENSION**

Extending the termination date to June 30, 2032, for a credit against the State income tax for certain costs related to certain theatrical productions in the State; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

Chapters 258 and 259 of the Acts of 2022, § 2 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 441 Anne Arundel County Senators

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – GOLF COURSE LICENSE AND SPORTS ACTIVITY VENUE LICENSES

Establishing in Anne Arundel County a Class C (golf course) license that authorizes the holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption at a certain golf course; and establishing in Anne Arundel County sports activity venue licenses that authorize the holder to sell beer and wine or beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption at a certain sports activity venue.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, § 11-1006.2 - renumbered and §§ 11-1006.2 and 11-1008.2 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 442 Anne Arundel County Senators

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – POPULATION RATIO QUOTA FOR CLASS A (OFF-SALE) AND CLASS D (OFF-SALE) LICENSES – EXEMPTION

Establishing an exemption to the population ratio quota for certain Class A (off-sale) and Class D (off-sale) licenses in Anne Arundel County for an application filed on or after January 1, 2023, and approved by the Board of License Commissioners before July 1, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, § 11-1602 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 443 Senator Carozza, et al

LOCAL BOARDS OF ELECTIONS – BOARD COUNSEL – QUALIFICATIONS

Altering the qualifications for counsel to local boards of elections to require that counsel be a registered voter of the State instead of the applicable county.

EMERGENCY BILL

EL, § 2-205(a) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment