



SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions
2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

February 2, 2026
Schedule 12

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 February 2, 2026

SB 444 **Senator Kramer**

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: Finance

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 445 **Senator Kramer****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: Finance

SB 446 **Senator Gile****CONSUMER PROTECTION – SALE AND RESALE OF TICKETS – DISCLOSURE OF TAX INFORMATION AND ACTION FOR DAMAGES**

Repealing the requirement to include taxes in the total price for a ticket on a ticket listing and at each step of a ticket purchase transaction; authorizing a consumer, an artist, or a venue to file a private right of action against a ticket issuer, secondary ticket exchange, or reseller for a certain violation; authorizing a court to award economic and punitive damages; and establishing the circumstances under which damages may not exceed certain amounts.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CL, § 13-310.1 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 447 **Senator Gile****CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT – DISCLOSURE OF REPORTS AND RECORDS**

Expanding the circumstances under which a report or record concerning child abuse or neglect may be disclosed by the Department of Human Services to include the administrator of a certain child care center, the coach, team administrator, or manager of a certain youth sports program, and the administrator or other appropriate personnel of any organization that provides adult supervision or care and control of children.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HU, § 1-202(c) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 448 **Carroll County Senators****CARROLL COUNTY – PUBLIC FACILITIES BOND**

Authorizing and empowering the County Commissioners of Carroll County to borrow not more than \$27,000,000 in order to finance the construction, improvement, or development of certain public facilities in Carroll County and to effect such borrowing by the issuance and sale at public or private sale of its general obligation bonds; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 449 **Carroll County Senators****WORKERS’ COMPENSATION – HEART DISEASE AND HYPERTENSION PRESUMPTION AND PERMANENT PARTIAL DISABILITY – CARROLL COUNTY CORRECTIONAL DEPUTIES**

Extending the presumption of compensability under the workers’ compensation law to include, subject to certain conditions, Carroll County correctional deputies who suffer from heart disease or hypertension resulting in partial disability or death; and altering a certain definition of “public safety employee” so as to apply a certain workers’ compensation provision relating to permanent partial disability benefits to correctional deputies employed by Carroll County.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

LE, §§ 9-503(b) and (e) and 9-628(a) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 450 **Carroll County Senators****CARROLL COUNTY – OFFICE OF PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS – DENIAL OF COMMERCIAL PERMIT OR LICENSE FOR UNPAID PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES**

Prohibiting the Carroll County Office of Permits and Inspections from issuing or renewing a commercial license or permit in the county if the applicant has unpaid personal property taxes except under certain circumstances; and authorizing the Carroll County Office of Permits and Inspections to issue or renew a commercial license or permit if the applicant submits certain evidence that the applicant has paid any previously unpaid personal property taxes.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

LG, § 12-906 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 451 Senator Ready**EMINENT DOMAIN – JUST COMPENSATION – FEES AND COSTS**

Establishing that damages to be awarded for the taking of land in a condemnation proceeding include, in addition to the fair market value of the land taken, any legal, expert, or other fees or costs of the action incurred by a defendant.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

RP, § 12-104 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 452 Senator Jennings**VEHICLE LAWS – HISTORIC MOTOR VEHICLES – MINIMUM AGE**

Requiring that a motor vehicle be at least 25 years old in order to be eligible for registration as a historic motor vehicle.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TR, § 13-936 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 453 Senator Jennings**HORSE RACING – LAUREL PARK – ARABIAN BREED RACING AUTHORIZATION**

Authorizing a licensee at Laurel Park to conduct live racing of Arabian breed horses; and making the Act an emergency bill.

EMERGENCY BILL

BR, § 11-522 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 454 Senator Jennings, et al**PUBLIC SCHOOLS – SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS – FIREARMS REQUIRED**

Repealing a certain provision of law relating to a certain school police officer's authorization to carry a firearm under certain circumstances; and requiring a school resource officer to carry a firearm while present on the premises of the school to which the officer is assigned.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 4-318(d) and 7-1508 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 455 **Senator Rosapepe****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: Finance

SB 456 **Senator Rosapepe****FANTASY COMPETITIONS – ALTERATIONS AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION REQUIREMENTS**

Altering the definition of “fantasy competition” for purposes of provisions of law governing fantasy competitions to include certain competitions; requiring, rather than authorizing, the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to impose a \$50,000 annual fee for the registration of a fantasy competition operator; requiring the Commission to establish a certain voluntary exclusion program; prohibiting a fantasy competition operator from paying a prize or an award to certain excluded individuals; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, §§ 9-1D-01(d), 9-1D-02, 9-1D-03, 9-1D-05, and 9-1E-01(i) and (j) - amended and § 9-1D-05 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 457 **Senator Rosapepe****PROPERTY TAXES – AUTHORITY OF COUNTIES TO ESTABLISH SUBCLASSES AND SET SEPARATE RATES FOR LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS TO LAND**

Authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county to establish subclasses of real property consisting of land and improvements to land and set separate real property tax rates for each subclass.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

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

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 458 Senator Rosapepe**VEHICLE LAWS – CROSSWALK MONITORING SYSTEMS – AUTHORIZATION**

Authorizing the use of crosswalk monitoring systems in school zones if authorized by local law; providing that the owner or driver of a motor vehicle recorded failing to yield to a pedestrian crossing a roadway in a crosswalk is subject to a citation and a certain civil penalty under certain circumstances; establishing certain defenses to a charge of an alleged violation recorded by a crosswalk monitoring system; and prohibiting a contractor administering a crosswalk monitoring system from being compensated on a per–ticket basis.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, §§ 4-401(13), 7-302(e)(1) through (3) and (4)(i), and 10-311 - amended and TR, § 21-502.2 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 459 Senator Rosapepe**PROCUREMENT – ADVERTISING – LOCAL NEWS ORGANIZATIONS (LOCAL NEWSPAPERS FOR MARYLAND COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2026)**

Requiring units of State government to ensure that at least 50% of the unit’s total dollar value of procurement contracts for print and digital advertising is being made directly to local news organizations.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SF, § 14-419 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 460 Senator Rosapepe**STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION AND DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES – PROPERTY APPRAISAL AIDS – GEOGRAPHIC IMAGES**

Requiring the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to prepare, install, and maintain certain appraisal aids that consist of a database of statewide and local geographic images; requiring each county and Baltimore City to reimburse the State for 100% of the costs of the database less than \$1,000,000 and 50% of the costs over \$1,000,000; and requiring, by June 30, 2026, the Department to develop policies to protect the identity of any individual whose image is captured by oblique aerial photographic imagery.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TP, §§ 2-106(b) and (c) and 2-210 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 461 **Senator McCray****SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – HEAT AND EAT PROGRAM – ELIGIBILITY**

Altering the eligibility requirements for the Heat and Eat Program within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in the Department of Human Services to require a household to include an elderly or disabled individual.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HU, § 5-506 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 462 **Senator Muse****LANDLORD AND TENANT – RESIDENTIAL LEASES AND HOLDOVER TENANCIES – LOCAL GOOD CAUSE TERMINATION (GOOD CAUSE EVICTION)**

Authorizing a county to adopt, by local law or ordinance, provisions prohibiting certain landlords of residential property from failing to renew a lease during the lease period or from terminating a holdover tenancy without good cause; establishing certain requirements and prohibitions for a local law or ordinance adopted in accordance with the Act; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

RP, §§ 8-208(c) and 8-402(c)(2) - amended and §§ 8-402(e) and 8-402.3 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 463 **Senator Muse****MUNICIPALITIES – VAGRANCY – REPEAL OF AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT**

Repealing the authority of a municipality to prohibit vagrancy.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

LG, § 5-207 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 464 **Senator Muse**

COMMISSION TO EXAMINE THE EXPUNGEMENT LAWS OF MARYLAND

Establishing the Commission to Examine the Expungement Laws of Maryland; and requiring the Commission to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2027.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 465 **Senators James and Ready**

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – ADMISSION OF OUT-OF-COURT STATEMENTS – ASSAULT IN THE SECOND DEGREE

Providing that during the trial of a criminal case in which a defendant is charged with an assault in the second degree, a certain statement is not excluded by the hearsay rule if the statement is offered against a party that has engaged in, directed, or conspired to commit wrongdoing that was intended to and did procure the unavailability of the declarant of the statement, under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 10-901 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 466 **Senator King**

INCOME TAX – CREDIT FOR PHYSICIAN PRECEPTORS IN AREAS WITH HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE SHORTAGES – ALTERATIONS

Altering eligibility for a credit against the State income tax for physician preceptors by repealing a requirement that a student in a physician preceptorship program be enrolled in a medical school or medical training program in the State and reducing the required number of hours for a preceptor rotation for community-based clinical training; and applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-738 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 467 **Senator King****MARYLAND CHILD CARE CREDENTIAL PROGRAM – EXTENSION OF FUNDING**

Requiring the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2028, to appropriate each year to the Maryland Child Care Credential Program an amount that is at least equal to the amount appropriated in fiscal year 2024.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 9.5-904 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 468 **Senator King****INCOME TAX – LOCAL CHILD TAX CREDIT – AUTHORIZATION**

Authorizing a county to provide, by law, a credit against the county income tax for certain dependent children; and applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TG, §§ 10-706, 10-751, and 10-809 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 469 **Senator Hayes****MARYLAND AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FUND – AFFORDABILITY – PURPOSE OF FUND AND AUTHORIZED PROGRAM**

Altering the purpose of the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund to specify that the financial security provided by the Fund be provided at rates that are affordable; and authorizing the Executive Director of the Fund to establish an affordability program that may otherwise be considered to be inconsistent with certain provisions of insurance law.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

IN, §§ 20-301(a) and 20-507(b) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 470 **Senator Hayes**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: Finance

SB 471 **Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee and Senator McKay**CIRCUIT COURT CLERKS AND REGISTERS OF WILLS – MAXIMUM
SALARY

Providing that the maximum annual salary of the clerks of the circuit courts and the registers of wills may not be more than the salary of a State employee at grade 26, step 20 of the State of Maryland Standard and Bargaining Salary Scale in effect on the day before the clerk or the register begins a new term of office; and repealing as obsolete a certain minimum salary requirement for the register of wills for Baltimore City.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 2-504 and ET, § 2-205 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 472 **Senator Hettleman**BALTIMORE COUNTY CODE OF PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS – 2025
EDITION – LEGALIZATION

Legalizing the 2025 Edition of the Baltimore County Code of Public Local Laws and any supplement to the extent to which that code or supplement contains laws enacted by the General Assembly.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 473 **Senators Hettleman and Love****PUBLIC UTILITIES – FOR–HIRE DRIVERS AND TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATORS – HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING AND LIABILITY**

Requiring an applicant for certain for–hire driver’s licenses and transportation network operator’s licenses to submit to the Public Service Commission documentation verifying that the applicant completed a certain human trafficking awareness training program; and prohibiting licensed taxicab drivers, for–hire drivers, or transportation network operators from being held civilly or criminally liable for reporting or responding to in good faith a suspected incident of human trafficking.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PU, § 10-404(g) and (h) - renumbered, §§ 10-104.2 and 10-404(g) - added, and Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 474 **Senator Waldstreicher****CIVIL ACTIONS – NONECONOMIC DAMAGES – PERSONAL INJURY AND WRONGFUL DEATH**

Repealing certain limitations on noneconomic damages in civil actions for personal injury or wrongful death; and applying the Act prospectively.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 11-108 - repealed

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 475 **Senator Sydnor, et al****CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – EVIDENCE – PROTECTING ARTISTS’ CREATIVE EXPRESSION (PACE ACT)**

Providing that the creative expression of a criminal defendant or juvenile respondent is not admissible against the defendant or respondent unless the court makes certain findings, subject to a certain exception; and providing that the Act does not preclude the admission of a creative expression in juvenile cases for the purposes of evaluating, recommending, or ordering referral to mental health services or diversion programs.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 10-926 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 476 **Senator Muse**STATE GOVERNMENT – MARYLAND REPARATIONS COMMISSION
– REVISIONS

Altering the membership, duties, and reporting requirements for the Maryland Reparations Commission.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

Chapter 9 of the Acts of the 2025 Special Session, §§ 1(c)(7), (12), and (13) and (g)(1) and 2 - amended and Various Sections - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 477 **Senator McKay**CIVIL ACTIONS – REAL ESTATE APPRAISALS – STATUTE OF
LIMITATIONS

Establishing a statute of limitations for certain civil actions against a person for certain real estate appraisal–related actions.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 5-122 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 478 **Senator McKay**WASHINGTON COUNTY – INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION –
DUALY ENROLLED STUDENTS

Altering the definition of “dually enrolled student” to include both a nonpublic secondary school student and a homeschool student in Washington County so that these students are eligible to apply for the Part–Time Grant Program and the Early College Access Grant.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 15-127, 18-1401, and 18-14A-01 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 479 **Senator McKay****ENVIRONMENT – BUILDING ENERGY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
AND ENERGY USE INTENSITY TARGETS – EXEMPTIONS**

Exempting a covered building that received a use and occupancy permit before June 1, 2022, from compliance with certain building energy performance standards and energy use intensity targets until it becomes necessary to replace lighting systems, heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, or other major components of the covered building due to failure of those components, or as a result of the end of life of those components.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EN, § 2-1602 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 480 **Senator McKay****OFF-HIGHWAY RECREATIONAL VEHICLE RECREATION
OVERSIGHT BOARD – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle Recreation Oversight Board to advise the Secretary of Natural Resources on the operation, acquisition, regulation, and general oversight of off-highway recreational vehicle trails and recreation in the State.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

NR, § 5-1011.1 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 481 **Senator McKay****FAMILY LAW – DENIAL OR INTERFERENCE WITH VISITATION
RIGHTS**

Requiring, rather than authorizing, a court to order visitation to be rescheduled, in a manner consistent with the best interests of the child, when the court finds that a party to a custody or visitation order has unjustifiably denied or interfered with visitation granted by the custody or visitation order.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

FL, § 9-105 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 482 **Senator McKay****CRIMINAL LAW – INTERFERENCE WITH CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OR A PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT**

Prohibiting a person from intentionally, willfully, and without authorization committing a certain act with the intent to interrupt or impair the functioning of critical infrastructure; providing that a person convicted of violating the Act is guilty of a felony and is subject to imprisonment of up to 10 years or a fine not to exceed \$50,000, or both; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, § 7-302(a), (c), and (d) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 483 **Senator McKay, et al****CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – AUTOMATED EXPUNGEMENT (CLEAN SLATE ACT OF 2026)**

Requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Judiciary to expunge all cases meeting certain criteria on or before July 1, 2028; and requiring the Department and the Judiciary to expunge certain newly eligible cases on a monthly basis.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CP, § 10-112.1 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 484 **Senator McKay****FAMILY LAW – CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT – REPORTING**

Altering certain provisions of law relating to the reporting of child abuse and neglect and the reporting of certain information regarding certain children at risk of harm to require reporting to the Department of Human Services instead of to the local department of social services or the appropriate law enforcement agency; requiring the Department to establish a centralized intake system for reports, assess reports for validity, and assign reports to the appropriate local department to investigate; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

FL, § 5-703.1 - added and Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 485 **Senator Carozza, et al****PUBLIC HEALTH – WOMEN’S HEALTH CARE DATA – REPORT**

Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to develop and implement a standard system to collect and compile annual data on the costs of prenatal care, birth, postpartum care, pregnancy care, abortion services, and menopausal care in the State; establishing limitations on the data and information that may be collected or reported under the Act; and requiring the Department to submit a comprehensive report of the collected data to the General Assembly on or before December 1 of each year.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

HG, §§ 20-217 through 20-220 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 486 **Senator Carozza, et al****HIGHER EDUCATION – MARYLAND GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS**

Expanding eligibility under the Maryland Graduate and Professional Scholarship Program to include students attending the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and enrolled in certain Physician Assistant, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, or Veterinary Medicine degree programs.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 18-2601 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 487 **Senator Henson****MOTOR VEHICLES – SPEED MONITORING SYSTEMS – SAFETY CORRIDORS (VULNERABLE ROAD USER PROTECTION ACT OF 2026)**

Authorizing the State Highway Administration to implement a program of safety corridor speed monitoring systems for use in areas determined to be of high risk to vulnerable road users; authorizing a local jurisdiction to use speed monitoring systems in safety corridors under certain circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, §§ 12-118(f), 21-101(t-1), and 21-810.1 - added and CJ, GP, IN, and TR, Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 488 **Senator Lewis Young****CONTINUING CARE IN A RETIREMENT COMMUNITY PROVIDERS –
GOVERNING BODIES – MEMBERSHIP (SUE HECHT CONTINUING
CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY TRANSPARENCY ACT)**

Requiring a retirement community provider to include certain information in a certain application and disclosure statement; altering a certain requirement pertaining to the number of regular and alternate members selected to be on the governing body of a continuing care in a retirement community provider; authorizing a resident association, rather than a governing body, to select regular and alternate subscriber members of a governing body; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HU, §§ 10-411(c)(10) and (11), 10-425(a)(4) and (9), and 10-427 - amended and § 10-411(c)(11) - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 489 **Senator Lam****HEALTH OCCUPATIONS – PHYSICIANS TRAINED IN
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL SCHOOLS**

Establishing that certain applicants for a physician license are exempt from certain educational requirements if the applicant submits certain evidence of international postgraduate medical education training accredited by a certain entity; and authorizing certain licensed physicians trained in international medical schools to practice medicine during their initial license term only under supervision.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HO, §§ 14-308(b)(6)(i) and 14-314(a) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 490 **Senator Lam****MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – STEP THERAPY, FAIL–FIRST PROTOCOLS, AND PRIOR AUTHORIZATION – PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO TREAT SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS**

Prohibiting the Maryland Medical Assistance Program from applying a prior authorization requirement in certain circumstances to and from applying a step therapy or fail–first protocol for a prescription drug used to treat an adult enrollee’s diagnosis of bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, major depression, post–traumatic stress disorder, or a medication–induced movement disorder associated with the treatment of serious mental illness.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

HG, § 15-160 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 491 **Senator Salling****LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS’ PENSION SYSTEM – MILITARY SERVICE CREDIT ELIGIBILITY**

Authorizing certain members and former members of the Law Enforcement Officers’ Pension System to receive credit for certain military service if the member receives military service credit in another retirement system; and prohibiting an individual from receiving credit more than one time.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SP, § 38-104 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 492 **Senator Beidle****HEALTH OCCUPATIONS – MASSAGE THERAPY – ADVERTISING**

Prohibiting licensed massage therapists, registered massage practitioners, and third parties directed by licensed massage therapists or registered massage practitioners from placing, publishing, or distributing certain advertisements; and requiring certain advertisements for massage therapy to include the massage therapist’s full name and the registration or license number of the therapist or massage practitioner providing the services advertised.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HO, § 6-401 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 493 **Senator Beidle****NURSING FACILITIES – INVOLUNTARY DISCHARGE OR TRANSFER**

Prohibiting certain facilities from involuntarily transferring or discharging a resident to certain housing or before receiving certain confirmations; altering the information required to be included in a certain notice or updated notice; requiring that a certain notice or updated notice be provided to certain residents at least a certain period of time before an involuntary discharge or transfer; and requiring that a post discharge plan contain certain information.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, §§ 19-345 and 19-345.1 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 494 **Senator Beidle****MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION – CERTIFICATES OF NEED AND MATERIAL CHANGE TRANSACTIONS**

Repealing the exemption from the certificate of need requirement for certain mergers; requiring certain health care entities to provide certain notice of a material change transaction to the Maryland Health Care Commission and the public; establishing a public interest review process for material change transactions, including criteria for determining whether a material change transaction is subject to a public interest review; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, §§ 19-114 and 19-120(a)(2), (h)(2)(iii), (j)(2), and (k)(6)(v) - amended and § 19-120.3 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 495 **Senator Hettleman****HEALTH – NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM – GAUCHER DISEASE**

Requiring the Maryland Department of Health, as part of the newborn screening system, to screen for Gaucher disease.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 13-111 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 496 **Senator Hershey****MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF OBESITY**

Authorizing, beginning January 1, 2027, the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide comprehensive coverage for the treatment of obesity; and requiring the Maryland Department of Health to provide notice to Program recipients if the Department elects to provide the comprehensive coverage.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 15-103(a)(2)(xxvii) and (xxviii) - amended and §§ 15-103(a)(2)(xxix) and 15-160 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 497 **Washington County Senators****PROPERTY TAX – CITY OF HAGERSTOWN AND THE HAGERSTOWN MULTI-USE SPORTS AND EVENTS FACILITY, INC. – EXEMPTION**

Exempting from the property tax property that is owned by the City of Hagerstown and used primarily for public social, recreational, and entertainment purposes; establishing that the exemption from the property tax for certain property owned by the City of Hagerstown or the Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Events Facility shall apply retroactively beginning with fiscal year 2024; and requiring the State, Washington County, and the City of Hagerstown to pay a refund for any excess property tax paid due to the retroactive exemption.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TP, §§ 7-251 and 7-524 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 498 **Washington County Senators****WASHINGTON COUNTY SALARY STUDY COMMISSION – MEMBERSHIP – ALTERATIONS**

Altering the membership of the Washington County Salary Study Commission to substitute one member from the Cumberland Valley Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. with one member from the Washington County Home Builders Association, Inc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

LG, § 28-203 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 499 **Washington County Senators****WASHINGTON COUNTY – NOTICE OF TAX SALE – ALTERATIONS**

Altering the requirements for providing notice of the tax sale of property in Washington County: increasing from one to two the number of notices required to be sent to the owner of property after the property is sold at a tax sale in Washington County; and requiring the second notice be sent within 15 days after the first required notice.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TP, §§ 14-813(a) and 14-817.1 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 500 **Washington County Senators****WASHINGTON COUNTY – PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FOR DISABLED VETERANS – ELIGIBILITY**

Expanding eligibility for a certain property tax credit in Washington County for certain disabled veterans to include certain members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Public Health Service.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TP, § 9-323(g) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 501 **Washington County Senators****WASHINGTON COUNTY – PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – PLATOON 22, INCORPORATED**

Requiring the governing body of Washington County and of a municipal corporation in Washington County to grant a 100% property tax credit against the county and municipal corporation property tax imposed on certain real property owned by Platoon 22, Incorporated, and used to provide housing to veterans; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2026.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TP, § 9-323(h) - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 502 Senator King**LANGUAGE ACQUISITION TRACKING PROGRAM FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Language Acquisition Tracking Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children in the State Department of Education to ensure that eligible children develop language skills at the same rate and to the same extent as their peers; establishing a State Coordinator of Language Acquisition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children to coordinate the Program and create a parent and guardian resource to help parents and guardians of deaf or hard of hearing children track a child's language acquisition progress; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 8-801 through 8-807 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 503 Senator King**GROWING FAMILY CHILD CARE OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM – FUNDING**

Requiring the Governor to include an appropriation of \$450,000 in the annual budget bill for the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Program for fiscal years 2028 through 2030.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 9.5-114(e) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 504 Senator Lam**DATA PRIVACY – CONSUMER DATA, PUBLIC RECORDS, AND MESSAGE SWITCHING SYSTEM (DATA PRIVACY ACT)**

Prohibiting a certain controller from selling the personal data of a consumer to a purchaser who seeks to use the data for immigration enforcement; requiring a custodian of a public record to take reasonable steps to determine whether a public record is accessed for enforcing immigration law; requiring an entity that operates a certain message switching system to take certain actions regarding system access; requiring certain procedures of certain governmental entities to account for data containing sensitive attributes; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

CL, Various Sections - amended and added, GP, Various Sections, PS, § 3-529, and SG, § 10-1702 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 505 **Senators Lam and Feldman**

TRANSPORTATION – AVIATION – PASSENGER HEALTH AND SAFETY (AVIATION HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT)

Requiring the Maryland Aviation Administration to develop certain passenger forms for aircraft traveling with detained individuals; requiring certain flight crews to distribute and collect certain forms; requiring certain aeronautical service providers to confirm that the forms are on board an aircraft before servicing the aircraft; prohibiting the refueling of an aircraft if an individual on board is in any kind of restraint; requiring that certain individuals who are removed from an aircraft be provided certain services; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, §§ 5-107, 5-108, and 5-1010 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 506 **Senator Lewis Young**

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS – PHARMACISTS – MINOR CONDITIONS AND HIV PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

Authorizing pharmacists, under certain circumstances, to prescribe, administer, and dispense certain drugs or devices and perform and interpret certain laboratory tests; repealing provisions establishing and governing the Nonoccupational Postexposure Prophylaxis (nPEP) Standing Order Program; and authorizing the Maryland Department of Health to establish certain statewide written protocols relating to the treatment of minor conditions and the prevention and treatment of human immunodeficiency virus.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, §§ 13-5301 through 13-5303 - repealed and HO, § 12-101(x) - amended and §§ 12-515 and 12-516 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 507 **Senator Zucker****PUBLIC SCHOOLS – INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES – ACCESSIBILITY AND EMERGENCY PLANNING**

Requiring each local school system to identify, in its regular safety evaluation, issues of accessibility for individuals with disabilities; requiring local school systems to include in a certain confidential annual report instances in which a public school facility became inaccessible for a student with a disability in a manner that could impede evacuations or emergency response; and requiring a certain annual report to be confidential and limiting disclosure of the report to certain individuals.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-1510(a) and (f) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 508 **Senator Carozza****SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION – ALTERATIONS**

Adding two student members to the Somerset County Board of Education; altering who appoints an individual to fill a vacancy on the board to be the County Commissioners of Somerset County instead of the Governor; increasing the annual compensation for the chair and regular members of the board to be \$6,000 and \$5,000, respectively; establishing a scholarship for a student member of the board to be used for the student's higher education; and altering the actions the board may take during an executive session.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EMERGENCY BILL

ED, §§ 3-1201, 3-1203, and 3-1204 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 509 **Senator Rosapepe****HIGHER EDUCATION – WORKFORCE PELL GRANT PROGRAM – IMPLEMENTATION**

Implementing the federal Workforce Pell Grant Program in the State through which Pell Grants may be awarded to students enrolled in a certain short-term program; requiring the Governor, after consultation with certain entities, to determine whether to approve short-term programs as eligible for Pell Grant funds subject to certain requirements; prohibiting institutions of postsecondary education from using certain funds subject to a certain exclusion; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

ED, § 11-212 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 510 **Senator West**STATE BOARD OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS –
FUNERAL DIRECTION LICENSURE AND APPRENTICES –
REQUIREMENTS

Altering the education requirements an individual must meet to practice funeral direction or as a licensed apprentice; and prohibiting the practical examination qualification required for a license to practice funeral direction from including a practical examination demonstrating competency in the preparation of dead human bodies for final disposition and sanitary science.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HO, §§ 7-303 and 7-306(d)(1) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 511 **Senator Smith**CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS – COOPERATIVE LIMITED
EQUITY HOUSING CORPORATIONS – ESTABLISHMENT

Authorizing a Maryland nonstock corporation to convert to a cooperative limited equity housing corporation subject to certain requirements; requiring a cooperative limited equity housing corporation to provide a certain notice and offer to certain households under certain circumstances; requiring a cooperative limited equity housing corporation to reimburse certain households for moving expenses; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2027

CA, § 5-207(a) - amended and §§ 5-6D-01 through 5-6D-09 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 512 **Senator Smith**

CRIMINAL LAW – STALKING – PENALTIES

Increasing the penalties for stalking to a period of imprisonment of up to 10 years or a fine of up to \$10,000 or both if the victim had a protective order in effect against the defendant at the time of the offense or the defendant had previously been convicted of stalking.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, § 3-802 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 513 **Senator Smith****FIRE PREVENTION – ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHALS, RESIDENTIAL RENTAL HIGH–RISE PROPERTY FIRE SAFETY EQUIPMENT, AND FIRE ALARM SYSTEM TECHNICIANS**

Authorizing a county or municipal corporation to designate certain fire marshals with the approval of the State Fire Marshal or to request that the State Fire Marshal designate certain fire marshals and requiring the State Fire Marshal to adopt certain regulations governing the qualifications, training, standards, and certification of designees; requiring installation of certain fire prevention in certain high–rise residential buildings, beginning October 1, 2026; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PS, §§ 6-304, 9-102, 9-901, and 9-902 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 514 **Senator Smith****CRIMINAL LAW – THIRD–DEGREE ASSAULT**

Establishing that it is a misdemeanor to intentionally cause offensive contact, engage in conduct tending to put another in fear of offensive contact, or attempt to cause offensive contact; and altering a certain list of convictions that are eligible for expungement under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, § 3-203.1 - added and CR, §§ 3-206 and 3-209, CJ, §§ 4-301(b) and 4-302(d), and CP, § 10-110(a)(1)(vii) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings