



# SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions  
2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

**February 4, 2026**  
**Schedule 14**

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**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.

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## **SENATE BILLS INTRODUCED February 4, 2026**

### **SB 520 Senator Kramer**

#### **PROPERTY TAX – CHARTER COUNTIES – APPLICATION OF COUNTY TAX LIMITATION ON PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET**

Authorizing a county council of a charter county, notwithstanding certain provisions of law, to set by simple majority vote of its members then serving a property tax rate that is higher than the property tax rate authorized under a county's charter or collect more property tax revenues than the revenues authorized under the county's charter for the purpose of funding the approved public safety budget of the county; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2026.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

ED, § 5-104(d) - amended and LG, § 16-109.1 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

#### **Department of Legislative Services**

90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

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**SB 521 Senator Kramer****HEALTH INSURANCE – MATERIAL CHANGES TO PROVIDER NETWORKS – NOTIFICATION AND SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD**

Requiring certain health systems to comply with certain insurance provisions regarding notice of termination of contracts; altering the notification requirements a carrier is required to provide an enrollee regarding changes to the carrier's provider panel; altering the notice requirements a carrier is required to provide to the Insurance Commissioner for certain material changes to the carrier's provider panel; requiring certain notice if a carrier and health system intend to terminate certain contracts; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 19-310.7 and IN, § 15-112(b)(4) and (y) - added and IN, §§ 15-112(b)(1)(ii)2., (c)(2), and 15-1316 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 522 Senator M. Washington****WORKERS' COMPENSATION – EVALUATION OF PERMANENT IMPAIRMENTS – LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER–CLINICAL**

Authorizing a licensed certified social worker–clinical to provide evaluation services for workers' compensation claims related to permanent impairments involving a behavioral or mental disorder; and requiring a licensed certified social worker–clinical to meet certain requirements to perform the evaluation services.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

LE, § 9-721(c) - amended and § 9-721(d) - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 523 Senator M. Washington****DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT – WATER RESOURCES – PROTECTION OF VERNAL POOLS (VERNAL POOL WETLANDS PROTECTION ACT OF 2026)**

Requiring the Department of the Environment to adopt regulations in a certain manner to identify and protect qualified vernal pools in the State; and requiring the Department, when issuing a permit for certain regulated activities, to protect qualified vernal pools that are listed by the Department in accordance with certain provisions under the Act and located within the geographic area covered by the permit.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EN, § 5-205 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 524**     **Senator M. Washington (By Request – Baltimore City Administration)****JUVENILE RECORDS – ACCESS BY BALTIMORE CITY MAYOR’S OFFICE**

Establishing that certain provisions of law relating to the confidentiality of juvenile police records and court records do not prohibit access to and confidential use of certain records by the Baltimore City Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the Baltimore City Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success, and the Baltimore City Mayor’s Office of African American Male Engagement under specified circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 3-8A-27 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 525**     **Senator M. Washington****CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – EXPUNGEMENT OF RECORDS – GOOD CAUSE**

Authorizing a person to file a petition for expungement of any misdemeanor or felony conviction a certain period of time after the completion of the sentence, parole, probation, and any other form of mandatory treatment associated with the conviction; authorizing a court to grant a petition on a showing of good cause; and providing that a denial of a petition may not be appealed and a subsequent petition may not be filed for a certain period of time.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CP, § 10-113 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 526**     **Senator A. Washington****PUBLIC SCHOOLS – RUBY BRIDGES WALK TO SCHOOL DAY AND MARYLAND SCHOOL PEDESTRIAN AWARENESS DAY – ESTABLISHMENT**

Designating November 14 as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day to commemorate Ruby Bridges, who became the first African American student to integrate an all-white school in New Orleans, Louisiana; designating the second Wednesday in October each year as Maryland School Pedestrian Awareness Day to promote safe pedestrian routes to and from school; and requiring the State Department of Education to provide resources for a program of education for Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day and to plan Maryland School Pedestrian Awareness Day.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 7-137 and 7-138 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 527**     **Senator Harris****PUBLIC HEALTH – IBOGAINE CLINICAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT (VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH INNOVATIONS ACT)**

Establishing the Ibogaine Clinical Research Grant Program to provide grants to certain research institutions to conduct certain clinical drug development trials on the use of ibogaine; and including the Program as an authorized use of funding from the Opioid Restitution Fund.

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

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, §§ 13-5901 and 13-5902 - added and SF, § 7-331(f) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 528**     **Senator Harris****CONSUMER PROTECTION – VIDEO STREAMING SERVICES –  
LOUDNESS OF COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS**

Prohibiting a certain video streaming service from transmitting to a consumer in the State the audio of a commercial advertisement in a manner that is louder than the audio of the accompanying video programming or video content of the video streaming service; providing that compliance with certain federal regulations shall be considered compliance with the Act; and establishing that a violation of the Act is subject to certain enforcement provisions under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CL, § 13-301(14)(xlvii) - amended and §§ 13-301(14)(xlix) and 14-1330 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 529**     **Senator Harris****SOUTHERN MARYLAND EARLY COLLEGE TEACHER PATHWAY  
PROGRAM AND PROGRAM WORKGROUP – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Southern Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway Program; requiring the State Department of Education to administer and implement, in consultation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the Program subject to a certain condition; requiring the University System of Maryland to develop, in consultation with the Department and the Commission, the Program and the teacher preparation pathway; establishing the Southern Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway Program Workgroup; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 7-2201 through 7-2204 and 12-124 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 530**     **Senator Hettleman****AGING-IN-PLACE PROGRAMS – GRANTS – MULTIGENERATIONAL THIRD PLACES (THE VILLAGE MULTIGENERATIONAL THIRD PLACES ACT)**

Authorizing the Department of Aging to make grants to nonprofit organizations and area agencies on aging to support social connection for individuals in aging-in-place programs through events or gatherings at multigenerational third places.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

HU, § 10-1201 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 531**     **Senators Hettleman and Love****CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – VICTIMS OF SEXUALLY ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR – REQUEST FOR VERBAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (VERBAL WAIVER TRANSPARENCY ACT)**

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: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 532**     **Senators Kagan and Feldman****HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS – OVER-THE-COUNTER CONTRACEPTION – ACCESS AND REPORTING**

Requiring each public senior higher education institution and community college to submit a report on contraception access to the Maryland Higher Education Commission each year; requiring the Commission to submit a report on contraception access to the General Assembly each year; and requiring each community college to provide students with access to all methods of over-the-counter contraception.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 11-407.2 - added and § 16-111 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 533**     **Frederick County Senators**

## FREDERICK COUNTY – SHERIFF – SALARY

Altering the annual salary of the Sheriff of Frederick County to be \$175,000 for calendar year 2027; and altering the annual salary of the Sheriff of Frederick County to be 82.5% of the State’s Attorney for Frederick County’s annual salary including any increments and salary adjustments authorized under certain provisions of law for calendar year 2028 and each subsequent calendar year.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 2-324(b) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 534**     **Frederick County Senators**

## FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE – BOARD OF TRUSTEES – MEETING AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Establishing certain public comment requirements and recording requirements for the Board of Community College Trustees for Frederick County; and requiring the members of the Board to undergo certain training.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

ED, § 16-407 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 535**     **Senator King**

## COUNTY BOARDS OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES – MEMBERSHIP – STUDENT MEMBER

Authorizing a county board of library trustees to provide for the selection of a student member of the board; and establishing the qualifications, setting a 1–year term of office, and providing for the voting rights of the student member of a county board of library trustees, if selected.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 23-403 and 23-404 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 536**     **Senator Folden**PRIVATE HOME DETENTION MONITORING AGENCIES –  
NOTIFICATION OF VIOLATION

Repealing the requirement that a private home detention monitoring agency provide notice to the designated law enforcement agency for violating a condition of home detention monitoring under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BOP, § 20-401(b) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 537**     **Senator McCray**

## YOUTH DELINQUENCY PREVENTION FUND – ESTABLISHMENT

Establishing the Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(iii)212. and 213. - amended and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(iii)214. and SG, §§ 9-3603 and 9-3604 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings and Budget and Taxation

**SB 538**     **Senator McCray**BALTIMORE CITY – RAFFLES – ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH  
PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL AND FOOTBALL TEAMS

Authorizing specified organizations that are affiliated with a professional National Football League team that plays its home games in Baltimore City to conduct raffles, subject to certain limitations; and repealing a certain termination date of certain provisions of law authorizing certain organizations that are affiliated with a professional Major League Baseball team that plays its home games in Baltimore City to conduct certain raffles.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

CR, §13-505.1 and Chapter 372 of the Acts of 2025, §2 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 539**     **Senator Smith**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY –  
WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM AND FUND

Establishing the Workforce Opportunities Grant Program to provide grants to certain organizations to support the planning and execution of workforce events and job fairs in the State; establishing the Workforce Opportunities Grant Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to support the Program; requiring that interest earnings be credited to the Fund; and requiring, for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2030, the Governor to include in the annual budget an appropriation of at least \$500,000 to the Program.

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

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, §§ 9-4125 thru 9-4129 and SF, 6-226(a)(2)(iii)214. - added and SF, SG, Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 540**     **Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee (By Request – Maryland Judicial Conference)**HOME DETENTION MONITORING AGENCIES – PROMOTION AND  
SOLICITATION OF BUSINESS – PROHIBITION

Prohibiting a private home detention monitoring agency, an agent of a private home detention monitoring agency, an employee of a courthouse, or an employee of a correctinal facility from engaging in certain activities promoting or otherwise soliciting business for a private home detention monitoring agency on the grounds of a courthouse or correctional facility.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BOP, § 20-702 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 541**     **Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee (By Request – Maryland Judicial Conference)**JUDICIARY DEPARTMENT – JUDICIAL REMOVAL –  
DISQUALIFICATION FROM FUTURE JUDICIAL OFFICE

Providing that a justice or judge removed or retired from office upon a recommendation of the Commission on Judicial Disabilities is not eligible for future judicial office.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – CONTINGENT

Maryland Constitution, Art. IV, § 4B - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 542**      **Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee (By Request – Maryland Judicial Conference)**

**COURTS – FORMER JUDGE – TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT**

Authorizing the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland to recall to judicial office for a temporary assignment a former judge who had the judge's most recent service terminated by reason of defeat for election if the judge had previously won election to judicial office.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 1-302(c) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 543**      **Chair, Judicial Proceedings 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: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 544**      **Chair, Judicial Proceedings 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: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 545**     **Senator Ready, et al****LAND SURVEYORS AND PROPERTY LINE SURVEYORS – PRIVATE PROPERTY ACCESS – PROHIBITION**

Prohibiting a land surveyor or a property line surveyor from conducting a survey on private property during deer firearms hunting season without written permission from the property owner.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BOP, § 15-610 - added and amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 546**     **Senator Attar****PUBLIC HEALTH – FOOD AND MILK PRODUCT LABELING – REQUIREMENTS**

Establishing requirements and prohibitions regarding food and milk product labeling; and requiring the Maryland Department of Health to create a marketing program and educational materials to inform consumers about the meaning of quality dates and safety dates for food labels by July 1, 2027, and to post the information on the Department's website.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 21-329.1 - added and § 21-424 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 547**     **Senator Charles****RECIPIENTS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING – REPORTING (BUY MARYLAND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS)**

Requiring a unit of State and local government and a person that receives funding from the State operating or capital budget to report on or before October 15 each year to the Comptroller certain information regarding the use of the funds; requiring a certain individual or corporation that receives payments from a unit of State and local government for providing goods or services to the unit to include certain information on the individual's or corporation's income tax return or declaration; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SF, § 7-407 and TG, § 10-826 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 548**     **Senator Charles****FAMILY LAW – CHILD SUPPORT – DETERMINATION OF CUSTODY AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PARENTS**

Requiring that a court determine custody before awarding child support under certain circumstances; and establishing a conclusive presumption that the application of the child support guidelines would be unjust or inappropriate if the parents mutually assert that the agreement is in the best interest of the child.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

FL, § 12-202(a) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 549**     **Senator Charles****MENTAL HEALTH – TREATMENT PLANS FOR INDIVIDUALS IN FACILITIES – PARTICIPATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS OR OTHER INDIVIDUALS**

Requiring certain facilities to inform individuals of certain rights relating to the participation of a family member or other authorized individual in the individual's plan of treatment; requiring facilities to recognize certain documents as an individual's formal request to allow a certain individual to participate in a certain plan; limiting the reasons for which a treating provider is authorized to withhold information on an individual's plan of treatment from certain third parties; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 10-706 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 550**     **Senator Charles****HEALTH CARE DECISIONS ACT – SURROGATE DECISION MAKING – MENTAL DISORDERS**

Repealing the prohibition against a surrogate authorizing treatment for a mental disorder for a person who has been certified to be incapable of making an informed decision.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 5-605(a)(2) and (4) through (6) and (d) - amended and § 5-605(a)(4) - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 551**     **Senator Charles****HEALTH INSURANCE – OVARIAN CANCER PREVENTION WITH SALPINGECTOMY – REQUIRED COVERAGE AND PROHIBITED COST SHARING**

Requiring certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide individuals with salpingectomy coverage for ovarian cancer prevention; and prohibiting the insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations from imposing a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible requirement on the salpingectomy coverage.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

IN, § 15-864 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 552**     **Senator Charles****ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY SUITLAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – ESTABLISHED**

Establishing the Suitland Development Authority in Prince George’s County; requiring the Authority to support and develop a certain neighborhood revitalization plan in coordination with certain residents; authorizing the Authority to modify certain boundaries, subject to a certain vote; requiring the Authority to take certain actions regarding the finances of the Authority; and exempting the Authority from certain taxation or assessments under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EC, §§ 12-1201 through 12-1214 and SF, §§ 6-226(a)(2)(iii)214. and 11-203(1) - added and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(iii)212. and 213. - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 553**     **Senator Augustine****COMMISSION TO ADVANCE LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY IN MARYLAND – REESTABLISHMENT**

Reestablishing the Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland with an altered membership and mandate.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 554**     **Senator Hayes****BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS – APPOINTMENT PROCESS – ALTERATIONS**

Repealing provisions of law related to the Baltimore City Public School Board Community Panel; and altering the process for appointments to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to require that appointed members and members appointed to fill a vacancy of an appointed or elected member are subject to confirmation by the Senate of Maryland.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 3-108.1 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 555**     **Senator Hayes****HEALTH – DEMENTIA SERVICES AND BRAIN HEALTH PROGRAM AND CLINICAL TOOLKIT**

Altering the duties of the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias Council; establishing the Dementia Services and Brain Health Program in the Maryland Department of Health to lead the State’s public health efforts relating to brain health and dementia; requiring the Director of Dementia Services and Brain Health to administer the Program; requiring the Program, rather than the Director, to perform certain duties and staff the Council; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, §§ 13-3205, 13-3206, 13-32A-01, 13-32A-02, 13-32A-04, and 13-32A-05 - amended and § 13-32A-07 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 556**     **Senator Gallion****WATER COMPANIES, SEWAGE DISPOSAL COMPANIES, AND WATER AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL COMPANIES – RATE CONSOLIDATION AND LIMITED-INCOME MECHANISMS**

Requiring the Public Service Commission to authorize certain rate consolidations involving two or more water systems or sewage disposal systems; requiring the Commission to allow water companies, sewage disposal companies, and water and sewage disposal companies to aggregate certain revenues and costs for certain purposes; authorizing the Commission to order gradual adjustments to certain rates charged to a system over a certain time period; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

PU, §§ 4-307 and 4-309(a) and (e) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 557**     **Senator Beidle**

## GAMING – DEFINITION OF “OWN” – ALTERATIONS

Altering the definition of “own” for purposes of certain provisions of law governing the operation of video lottery facilities and the conduct of sports wagering to exclude certain non-voting interests in the property or business of an applicant or licensee under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, § 9-1A-01(s) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 558**     **Senator Bailey**

## CHESAPEAKE BAY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHED

Establishing the Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program to provide funding for certain oyster propagation and replenishment projects that mitigate the effects on the State’s oyster population of certain transportation projects that maintain or expand the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore.

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

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

NR, § 4-1020.1 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 559**     **Senator Bailey**

## NATURAL RESOURCES – RECREATIONAL STRIPED BASS CATCH – REPORTING

Requiring every person who catches striped bass under a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license or registration to report the catch to the Department of Natural Resources; and requiring the Department to adopt regulations to carry out the Act, including regulations authorizing certain reporting methods, authorizing a person to report the catch through a mobile application to the maximum extent feasible, and establishing a reporting method that is usable by persons who do not have Internet access.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

NR, § 4-745(g) - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 560**     **Senator Sydnor**

## CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES – REFUNDS

Requiring a provider of a continuing care retirement community to pay any contractual entrance fee refund not later than 2 years after a continuing care agreement is terminated.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HU, § 10-449 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 561**     **Senator Sydnor**

## MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES – REIMBURSEMENT AND PROVISION OF SERVICES

Establishing requirements and prohibitions governing the provision of community violence prevention services through telehealth under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; requiring the Program to reimburse community violence prevention services that are provided in person regardless of the location at which the services were provided; prohibiting certain entities that employ or contract with a certified violence prevention professional from being required to maintain an affiliation with a hospital or trauma center; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 15-141.3 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 562**     **Senator Gile**

## STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY – PRESCRIBER–PHARMACIST AGREEMENTS – TREATMENT OF OPIOID USE DISORDERS

Repealing a requirement that authorized prescribers submit prescriber–pharmacist agreements to the health occupations board that regulates the authorized prescriber; authorizing pharmacists, under certain circumstances, to enter into prescriber–pharmacist agreements that authorize the pharmacist to treat an opioid use disorder using controlled dangerous substances drug therapy; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

HO, §§ 12-6A-03, 12-6A-04, and 12-6A-06 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 563**     **Senator Gile, et al****HEALTH FACILITIES – CONFIDENTIALITY OF MEDICAL RECORDS –  
CRISIS PREGNANCY CLINICS**

Applying certain provisions of law governing the confidentiality of medical records to crisis pregnancy clinics.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 4-301(h) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 564**     **Senators Gile and Love****STATE GOVERNMENT – OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL –  
DATA PROTECTION**

Establishing the Division of Data Protection within the Office of the Attorney General to investigate and bring civil actions related to violations; establishing the Maryland Data Privacy Implementation and Innovation Workgroup to study Maryland's consumer data privacy framework and evaluate implementation issues; and requiring the Workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SG, §§ 6-1001 through 6-1003 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 565**     **Senators Ready and West****MARYLAND STADIUM AUTHORITY – SALE OF SHAMROCK FARMS  
TO CARROLL COUNTY**

Prohibiting the Maryland Stadium Authority from selling, transferring, or disposing of Shamrock Farms except under certain conditions; and authorizing the County Commissioners of Carroll County to purchase Shamrock Farms on or before July 1, 2029, and subject to certain terms, conditions, and notice requirements.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

EC, § 10-613(a)(7) and SF, § 10-305(b)(1) - amended and EC, § 10-615(c) and LG, § 12-404(e) - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 566**     **Senator Ready, et al**

## 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; and requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to reinstate certain historic motor vehicle registrations.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TR, § 13-936 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 567**     **Senator Ready, et al**

## ELECTIONS – IN-PERSON VOTING – PROOF OF IDENTITY

Requiring an election judge to establish a voter’s identity by requiring the voter to present a valid government-issued photo identification or a valid non-government-issued photo identification, and a current bill, statement, or check that states the voter’s name and address as proof of identity; requiring a voter to vote a provisional ballot if the voter is unable to provide certain proof of identity; and prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully voting or attempting to vote under a false form of identification.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

EL, §§ 10-310 and 16-201 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 568**     **Senator Ellis**HEALTH OCCUPATIONS – LICENSED PSYCHOLOGISTS –  
PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY

Authorizing a licensed psychologist to use prescriptive authority under certain circumstances if the psychologist is certified by the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists; establishing the Prescriptive Authority Advisory Committee to advise the Board on oversight and implementation of certain provisions of the Act; establishing application and qualification requirements for certified prescribing psychologists; and establishing requirements for prescribing psychologists who use prescriptive authority.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HO, §§ 12-101(b), 12-102(e), and 18-101(f) - amended and §§ 18-3B-01 through 18-3B-09 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 569**     **Senator Ellis**

## COMMERCIAL LAW – ONLINE DATA PRIVACY – LIMITS ON DATA COLLECTION

Altering certain requirements for a controller relating to the collection of personal data; and prohibiting a controller, unless consumer consent is obtained, from collecting, processing, sharing, or selling precise geolocation data for the purpose of targeted advertising.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CL, §§ 14-4701(y) and 14-4707(a) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 570**     **Senator Ellis**

## PUBLIC HEALTH – BABY FOOD TESTING – DEFINITION OF BABY FOOD

Altering the definition of “baby food” for purposes of certain provisions of law governing baby food testing to include, rather than exclude, infant formula and to include infant cereal; and altering the defined term “toxic heavy metal” to be “toxic element” for purposes of certain provisions of law governing baby food testing.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 21-330.4 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 571**     **Senator Ellis**

## COMMERCIAL LAW – BROADBAND ACCESS – LOW-INCOME CONSUMER PROGRAMS (MARYLAND BROADBAND OPPORTUNITY AND FAIRNESS ACT)

Requiring certain broadband providers in the State to establish a program to provide certain broadband services to eligible low-income consumers on or before December 1, 2026; authorizing the Office of Statewide Broadband in the Department of Housing and Community Development to exempt certain providers from the requirement to establish a program; altering the duties of the Office; and establishing a Broadband Affordability Advisory Board.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CL, § 13-301(14)(xlvii) and HS, § 6.5-104(a)(1), (2), (4), and (5) and (e) - amended and CL, Various Sections - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 572 Charles County Senators****CHARLES COUNTY – COUNTY INSPECTOR GENERAL – AUTHORITY OVER CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Authorizing the governing body of Charles County to enact a local law granting an inspector general established by the county certain authority over Charles County Public Schools.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

LG, § 12-906 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 573 Charles County Senators****CHARLES COUNTY – GOVERNING BODIES OF COMMON OWNERSHIP COMMUNITIES – MEMBER TRAINING**

Requiring each member of a board of directors or officer of a council of unit owners of a condominium in Charles County and each member of a governing body of a homeowners association in Charles County to successfully complete a certain training curriculum on the responsibilities of a member of the governing body, 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: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 574 Charles County Senators****CHARLES COUNTY – STUDENT BUS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS – PROVIDER DISPLACEMENT**

Requiring the Charles County Board of Education to provide at least 10 years' notice and hold a certain public hearing before taking any action that results in a certain displacement of a person that has been providing student bus transportation services in Charles County; and requiring the Board of Education to provide written notice by registered mail at least 2 years before the displacement of a person that has been providing student bus transportation services.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-811 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 575 Charles County Senators****ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – MARYLAND STADIUM AUTHORITY – CHARLES COUNTY SPORTS AND WELLNESS CENTER**

Authorizing the Maryland Stadium Authority to review certain matters and make certain recommendations relating to the Charles County Sports and Wellness Center; authorizing the Authority to acquire and finance by certain means a Charles County Sports and Wellness Center site or an interest in the site; requiring the Authority to secure a written agreement to transfer ownership of the Charles County Sports and Wellness Center to Charles County as approved by the Board of Public Works; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EC, Various Sections - renumbered, amended, and added & SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(iii)212. and 213. - amended & § 6-226(a)(2)(iii)214.- added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 576 Senator Jennings****COOPERATIVE HOUSING CORPORATIONS AND CONDOMINIUMS – EMERGENCY USE OF RESERVE FUNDS**

Providing that reserve funds of a cooperative housing corporation or condominium may be used for purposes other than those specified in the funding plan in an emergency and if the use of funds is approved by an affirmative vote of the members or unit owners having at least two-thirds of the votes in the cooperative housing corporation or the council of unit owners, respectively.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CA, § 5-6B-26.1(g) and RP, § 11-109.4(f) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 577 Senator James****VEHICLE LAWS – TOWING OF VEHICLES FROM PARKING LOTS – CIVIL ACTION FOR NONPAYMENT**

Authorizing a person in possession of a towed vehicle to require the owner of the vehicle to present a valid government-issued photo identification card before retaking possession of the vehicle without payment; authorizing a tower to bring a civil action against a vehicle owner who withholds payment for retaking the vehicle; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, § 21-10A-05 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 578**     **Senator James****PUBLIC SAFETY – DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE – POLICE–INITIATED TOWING – ALTERATIONS**

Altering provisions related to the rates the Department of State Police sets for towing companies involved in police-initiated towing of motor vehicles to include the towing and recovery of light-duty vehicles; and defining “light-duty towing” as towing and recovery of a vehicle including trailers or semitrailers with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PS, §§ 2-314 and 2-314.1 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 579**     **Senator Jennings, et al****COUNTIES – NO-COST PREVENTIVE CANCER SCREENINGS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**

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

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

LG, § 9-115 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 580**     **Senator Jennings, et al****STATE GOVERNMENT – WALK-IN SERVICE REQUIREMENTS**

Requiring certain State divisions and programs to provide walk-in service to the public on a first-come, first-served basis at a reasonable frequency and at reasonable locations.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, § 10-1703 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 581**     **Senator Jennings, et al**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – STATEWIDE  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MASTER PLAN – REPORTING

Requiring the Department of Information Technology to post on its website the Statewide Information Technology Master Plan 6 months after the Governor is inaugurated in the Governor’s first term; and requiring the Secretary of Information Technology to notify the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly if the plan is delayed.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SF, § 3.5-304 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 582**     **Senator Jennings, et al**

## CONSUMER PROTECTION – UNSOLICITED LOANS

Prohibiting a creditor from sending a check or other negotiable instrument to an individual under certain circumstances; and establishing that an individual who receives a check or other negotiable instrument is not liable for the amount of the check or negotiable instrument under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CL, § 14-1330 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 583**     **Senator Jennings, et al**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION – SELF-  
DIRECTED SERVICES MANUAL – PUBLIC COMMENT

Requiring the Deputy Secretary for Developmental Disabilities to provide notice to the public before making changes to the Self-Directed Services Manual; requiring the Deputy Secretary to receive and consider comments on the proposed changes from the public for at least 90 days after the date on which the notice is provided; and prohibiting the Deputy Secretary from adopting the proposed changes until the public comment period has ended.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 7-409.1 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 584**     **Senator Jennings, et al**

**CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY AND  
TRANSMISSION LINES – NOTICE TO LANDOWNERS**

Requiring a person applying for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction of any transmission line to provide certain notices to certain landowners regarding the construction; and establishing that failure to provide a certain notice invalidates a certain hearing and, under certain circumstances, voids an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PU, § 7-204 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment