



# SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions  
2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

**February 6, 2026**  
**Schedule 16**

---

**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 6, 2026**

**SB 643**     **Senator Bailey**

### **NATURAL RESOURCES – HUNTING – MANAGEMENT**

Providing that the Department of Natural Resources may authorize the reduction of the deer population on certain property with deer damage using certain methods; altering the time restrictions for Sunday deer hunting in certain counties during deer firearms season; repealing the prohibition against hunting migratory game birds on Sundays and authorizing the Department to allow Sunday hunting for migratory game birds, subject to a certain requirement; etc.

### **VARIOUS EFFECTIVE DATES**

NR, §§ 10-206 and 10-410(a) - 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 644**     **Senator King****SALES AND USE TAX – CERTIFICATES INDICATING MULTIPLE POINTS OF USE – ALTERATIONS**

Providing that, for purposes of certain laws governing the sales and use tax, a certain certificate indicating multiple points of use of certain digital codes, digital products, and taxable services shall be deemed fully completed under certain circumstances; providing that a buyer is not required to obtain prior approval from the Comptroller in order to present a certificate indicating multiple points of use to a vendor; applying the Act retroactively; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 11-403(e) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 645**     **Senator King****STATE BOARD OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS – MEMBERSHIP AND LICENSING**

Expanding the membership of and altering the quorum requirements for the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters; requiring the nomination process to include outreach to underrepresented deaf, deafblind, and interpreter communities; authorizing the Governor to remove certain members of the Board under certain circumstances; altering the date from July, 2024 to December 31, 2026, by which the Board must establish certain licensing requirements and by which sign language interpreters must meet certain licensing requirements; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, §§ 9-2411, 9-2412, 9-2414(a), and 9-2415 and Chapters 269 and 270 of the Acts of 2023, §§ 4 and 5 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 646**     **Senator King****PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM CONTRACTS – PROHIBITED PROVISIONS**

Prohibiting certain provisions from being included in public school system contracts; specifying that certain provisions are void if included in a public school system contract; specifying the applicable law and interpretation of public school system contracts; and applying the Act prospectively.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 4-148 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 647**     **Senator Bailey****LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' PENSION SYSTEM AND STATE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM – LINE-OF-DUTY CATASTROPHIC INJURY DISABILITY**

Requiring a certain line-of-duty disability allowance to be paid to a member of the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System or the State Police Retirement System who is found to be totally and permanently incapacitated, either mentally or physically, for the further performance of duty, and unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027

SP, §§ 24-401.1(k), 26-401.1(k), 29-109(c), 29-110, and 29-111 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 648**     **Senator Hettleman****LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS – EDUCATOR SCREENING – EDUCATOR IDENTIFICATION CLEARINGHOUSE (SCHOOL PERSONNEL VETTING AND HIRING TRANSPARENCY ACT)**

Requiring the State Department of Education to register each local school system in the State as an associate member of a certain national membership organization; and requiring each local school system in the State to utilize the Educator Identification Clearinghouse to screen individuals who receive an offer of employment for an educator position that requires a license and ensure that each individual who receives an offer applies for and obtains the appropriate license before certain occurrences.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 6-103.1 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 649**     **Senator Hettleman****ELECTRIC VEHICLE FUEL SOLD AT RETAIL – EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS, UNITS OF MEASURE, SALES PRICE, AND FEES**

Requiring the owner or possessor of a weight and measure used for the retail sale of electricity as a vehicle fuel to display certain information in a conspicuous manner; requiring all electricity possessed, offered, or exposed for sale and sold at retail as a vehicle fuel to be measured and sold in units of kilowatt-hours; requiring the Comptroller to determine the minimum price for the retail sale of electricity as a vehicle fuel by July 1 each year and to publish the minimum price on the Comptroller's website; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

AG, § 11-316 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 650**     **Senator Henson****FAMILY LAW – CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS (“KNOW BEFORE THEY KNOCK” FAMILY RIGHT TO NOTICE ACT)**

Requiring a certain on-site interview following a report of suspected child abuse to be with the child's parent or guardian rather than the child's caretaker; requiring a local department of social services or a law enforcement agency to provide a certain notice to a parent or legal guardian of a child at a certain time during an investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect; requiring the Department to develop a system to document proof of notice; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

FL, § 5-706 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 651**     **Senator Henson****REAL PROPERTY – TRANSFER-ON-DEATH DEED – ESTABLISHMENT**

Altering the Maryland Uniform Disclaimer of Property Interests Act to provide for the disclaimer of nonprobate transfers at death; providing for the creation, revocation, recordation, and effects of a transfer-on-death deed for real property; providing example forms for the creation and revocation of a transfer-on-death deed; altering certain recording requirements for the clerks of the circuit court; exempting a certain transfer-on-death deed from certain property transfer taxes; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

ET, RP, and TP, Various Sections - added and amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 652**     **Senators Waldstreicher and West****MARYLAND ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING ENFORCEMENT ACT**

Prohibiting certain persons from operating, offering, conducting, engaging in, or promoting illegal online gambling in the State; prohibiting certain persons from knowingly supporting, directly or indirectly, the operation, conduct, or promotion of illegal online gambling in the State; authorizing the Attorney General and certain prosecuting attorneys to take certain actions, issue certain notices, and seek certain relief in order to enforce the Act; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CL, § 13-301(14)(xlvii) - amended and CL, § 13-301(14)(xlix) and SG, §§ 9-1F-01 through 9-1F-16 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 653**     **Senator Kagan****STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTS – GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE – REQUIREMENTS**

Requiring instead of authorizing the Board of Architects to deny, reprimand, or suspend a license to practice architecture or a permit to operate a business through which an individual may practice architecture under certain circumstances; providing that the Board may deny, reprimand, or suspend a certain license or permit if a certain individual fraudulently misrepresents that the individual holds a certain license or permit; requiring a code official to verify a licensee's documents; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BOP, § 3-311 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 654**     **Senator Augustine****STATE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM – MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE – ALTERATION**

Increasing the age to 62 at which certain members of the State Police Retirement System are required to retire; increasing the age to 62 at which certain retirees must end participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program; and authorizing certain individuals, subject to certain limitations and requirements, to elect to extend their participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

SP, §§ 24-401 and 24-401.1(c), (d), and (g) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 655**     **Senator Augustine****ELECTRONIC DEVICE PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM – ESTABLISHED**

Altering the contents and use of the State Recycling Trust Fund; establishing a separate covered electronic device producer responsibility program plan and annual report, registration, and review fee account within the Fund; repealing certain provisions of law relating to existing covered electronic device takeback programs; altering certain provisions of law relating to registration fees for certain manufacturers of covered electronic devices; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EN, Various Sections - amended, §§ 9-1728.2 through 9-1728.6 - added, and § 9-1728.2 - repealed

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 656**     **Senator Henson****PUBLIC HEALTH – COSMETIC PRODUCTS – ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES FOR PROHIBITED INGREDIENTS (CROWN AND CARE ACT – PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM HARMFUL HAIR CHEMICALS)**

Providing that a person who violates the prohibition on the manufacture, sale, delivery, holding, or offering for sale a cosmetic product that contains certain ingredients is liable for certain civil damages; and authorizing the Maryland Department of Health to investigate a complaint alleging that a person included certain prohibited ingredients in cosmetic products.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

HG, § 21-259.2 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 657**     **Senator Henson****MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION – PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL (PAREA) GRANT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHED**

Establishing the Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal Grant Program to provide grants to certain individuals with the goal of becoming a real estate appraiser in certain communities; providing the purpose of the Program is to assist in closing appraisal gaps that occur in historically redlined neighborhoods and underrepresented communities; and requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to administer the Program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 18-4201 and 18-4202 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 658**     **Senator West, et al****DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN IN CUSTODY – ALTERATIONS**

Altering certain provisions relating to the responsibilities of the Department of Human Services as representative payee and fiduciary for certain children committed to the custody of the Department; and requiring the Department to use the benefits in a manner that is in the best interests of the child for the child's current unmet needs for costs not paid by the Department as part of the child's care or by the child's health insurance.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

FL, § 5-527.1 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 659**     **Senator Love****PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AND PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS – STUDENT PRIVACY POLICY REQUIREMENTS AND DISCRIMINATION REPORTING**

Requiring public and nonpublic primary and secondary schools to adopt certain written student privacy policies and procedures; and requiring nonpublic prekindergarten programs and nonpublic primary and secondary schools to report certain information about certain incidents of alleged discrimination to the State Department of Education annually.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 7-137 and 26-706 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 660**     **Senator Love****PUBLIC SAFETY – LAW ENFORCEMENT – RESPONSE TO IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

Requiring a law enforcement agency to respond to a report of an immigration enforcement activity within the agency’s jurisdiction; requiring a law enforcement officer responding to a report of an immigration enforcement activity to observe and report certain information; and requiring that the reports and recordings created in accordance with the Act are subject to the Public Information Act.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PS, § 3-535 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 661**     **Senator Love, et al****WIRETAPPING AND ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE – INTERCEPTED COMMUNICATIONS – ADMISSIBILITY OF EVIDENCE**

Providing that the contents of a certain intercepted communication and evidence derived from the communication may be received in evidence in a criminal trial or hearing before the District Court or circuit court under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 10-405 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 662**     **Senator Kramer****FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS – PAYMENT STABLECOIN SERVICES – ESTABLISHMENT AND REGULATION (MARYLAND STABLECOIN ACT)**

Altering the examination fee for a new commercial bank charter; requiring a certain nondepository trust company to include certain disclosures in its articles of incorporation; exempting from certain provisions of law a certain nondepository trust company authorized to provide certain services by the Commissioner of Financial Regulation; authorizing a certain nondepository trust company to request that the Commissioner reduce the capital stock requirements under certain circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

FI, Various Sections - amended and added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 663**     **Senator Kramer, et al****NURSING HOMES – DIRECT CARE WAGES AND BENEFITS AND COST REPORTS**

Requiring a nursing home to expend at least 75% of its total nursing and residential care revenue for direct care wages and benefits; and requiring nursing homes by September 1 each year, beginning in 2027, to submit a cost report with documentation of wage disbursement and other appropriate information to the Maryland Department of Health.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, §§ 16-209 and 16-210 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 664**     **Senator Harris****CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – PRIORITY FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**

Requiring the State Department of Education to establish a framework, for applications received after July 1, 2026, to prioritize the children of individuals who provide care for children in licensed child care centers, registered family child care homes, and registered large family child care homes for scholarships under the Child Care Scholarship Program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 9.5-113(c)(1) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 665**     **Senator Harris****OFFICE OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING AND MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING – RENAMING**

Renaming the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to be the Office of the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing; and renaming the Maryland Advisory Council on Deaf and Hard of Hearing to be the Maryland Advisory Council on Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

ED, HG, HU, SG, SP, and TR - Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 666 Senator Harris****REAL PROPERTY – SHORT-TERM RENTALS**

Prohibiting the governing body of a county or municipality from enacting a local law or ordinance prohibiting the offering of certain residential property as a short-term rental by an operator solely because the operator is a lessee or sublessee of the property; authorizing the governing body of a county or municipality to enact a local law or ordinance prohibiting the operator of a short-term rental who is a lessee or sublessee of the property from operating more than one short-term rental within the county or municipality; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

RP, § 14-126.1 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 667 Senators Harris and Lewis Young****NATURAL RESOURCES – EDIBLE FORESTS AND FORAGING PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing an Edible Forests and Foraging Program within the Department of Natural Resources; requiring individuals who forage in designated foraging areas to obtain a foraging permit; requiring the Department to charge a permit application fee and establish a fee waiver process for individuals who demonstrate financial need; requiring the Department to establish and maintain edible forests on State land, subject to available funding; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

NR, §§ 5-2201 through 5-2205 and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(iii)214. - added and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(iii)212. and 213. - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 668 Senators Harris and King****CHILDREN'S CABINET FUND – RENAMING AND FUNDING FOR GRANTS TO LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS**

Renaming the Children's Cabinet Fund to be the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund; and requiring the Governor, for fiscal years 2028 through 2031, to include an appropriation in the annual budget bill to the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund to be used for grants to the local management boards. This bill requires a mandated appropriation in the annual budget bill.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 8-417(b)(1), HG, § 15-139(c)(1), and HU, §§ 8-501 through 8-503 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 669**     **Senators Harris and Brooks****SMALL SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM INCENTIVE PROGRAM – ELIGIBILITY AND GENERATING CAPACITY**

Extending the deadline by which a solar energy generating system must be placed in service to be eligible for certification under the Small Solar Energy Generating System Incentive Program from January 1, 2028, to January 1, 2031; and increasing the total amount of in-State generating capacity for certain solar energy generating systems from 270 megawatts to 540 megawatts.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PU, § 7-709.1(d) and (g) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 670**     **Senator Kagan****ELECTION LAW – LOCAL BOARD OF ELECTIONS EMPLOYEES – AUTHORITY AT POLLING PLACES**

Requiring a police officer who is on duty at a polling place to obey the authority of a local board of elections employee; providing that local board employees, while serving a polling place, have the authority to keep the peace and order the arrest of certain persons; and authorizing local board employees, while serving in a polling place, to protect certain rights of, deny admission of, and eject certain challengers and watchers from a polling place under certain circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

EL, §§ 10-304 and 10-311(d) and (e) - amended and § 10-307.1 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 671**     **Senator A. Washington****PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS – PAYMENTS**

Making certain provisions of law governing construction contracts applicable to certain local government owners; altering certain provisions of law relating to the payment of contractors and subcontractors in procurement contracts and construction contracts; requiring certain notification if all or part of a payment is withheld; and altering certain provisions of law relating to the accrual of interest for unpaid amounts.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

RP, §§ 9-301(d) and 9-302 and SF, §§ 11-101, 15-103, and 15-104 - amended and SF, § 15-105 - repealed

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 672**     **Senator A. Washington****PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY – EXPANDING ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE**

Requiring the State Department of Education to develop an implementation and financing plan to expand access to high-quality early childhood education and child care in Prince George’s County for children from birth through 3 years; requiring the Department to consult with certain entities; and requiring the plan to include certain analyses.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 673**     **Senator A. Washington****STATE PROCUREMENT – APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLETION**

Requiring certain apprenticeship programs utilized in certain State procurements to have at least a 25% completion rate, as determined by the Maryland Department of Labor.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SF, §§ 14-801, 17-205, 17-601(b), and 17-6A-01(f) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 674**     **Senator A. Washington****TRANSPORTATION – REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITIES**

Establishing the Baltimore region, capital region, and Southern Maryland region transportation authorities to develop and implement certain transportation plans; establishing the Baltimore region, capital region, and Southern Maryland region transportation funds as special, nonlapsing funds; imposing certain transportation authority sales tax surcharges, hotel surcharges, and transfer tax surcharges; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, §§ 10.5-101 thru 10.5-413 - added and SF, TG, and TP, Various Sections - added and amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation and Finance

**SB 675**     **Senator A. Washington**STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT – PREVAILING WAGE RATE  
– CALCULATION

Modifying the method by which the Commissioner of Labor and Industry determines a prevailing wage rate; and requiring the Commissioner to vacate a certain prevailing wage rate under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

PU, § 1-101(p-1) - added and amended and SF, § 17-208 -amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 676**     **Senator A. Washington**

## CRIMINAL LAW – THREAT OF MASS VIOLENCE – PENALTY

Altering from a misdemeanor to a felony the crime of making a threat of mass violence.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, § 3-1001 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 677**     **Senator Folden**PUBLIC SAFETY – HANDGUN PERMITS – FIREARMS TRAINING  
COURSE

Altering the requirements for a certain firearms training course that an applicant for a permit to carry, wear, or transport a handgun must successfully complete.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PS, § 5-306(a-1) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 678**     **Senator Folden**CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – FORENSIC GENETIC GENEALOGICAL  
DNA ANALYSIS AND SEARCH – AFFIDAVIT FOR JUDICIAL  
AUTHORIZATION

Altering the requirements for a sworn affidavit submitted for judicial authorization to initiate a forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis and search (FGGS).

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CP, § 17-102(b) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 679**     **Senator Folden**

## CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – MOTION TO REDUCE DURATION OF SENTENCE – ELIGIBILITY (VINCENT ANTHONY FISHER III ACT)

Altering the eligibility criteria for the filing of a certain motion to reduce the duration of a sentence.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CP, § 8-110 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 680**     **Senator West**

## INTERCEPTED COMMUNICATIONS – PENALTY

Reclassifying, as a misdemeanor instead of a felony, a certain offense relating to the prohibition against intercepting and disclosing any wire, oral, or electronic communications.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 10-402(b) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 681**     **Senator Carozza**

## WORCESTER COUNTY – BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS – MEMBERSHIP

Increasing from three to five the number of members on the Board of License Commissioners for Worcester County.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

ABC, § 33-202 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 682**     **Anne Arundel County Senators**

## ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – COMMUNITY SEWERAGE SYSTEMS – HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION CONTROL

Authorizing a homeowner's association in Anne Arundel County to manage, operate, and maintain a shared facility or community sewerage system as a controlling authority if certain conditions are met; requiring the Maryland Environmental Service to take charge of and operate the shared facility or community sewerage system under certain circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

EN, § 9-1110 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 683**     **Senators Gallion and Jennings****PUBLIC UTILITIES – SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATIONS – SITING (SOLAR SITING AND PRESERVATION CREDIT ACT OF 2026)**

Authorizing a county to credit certain solar energy generating stations constructed on certain parcels toward the acreage limitation for solar energy generating systems constructed in priority preservation areas.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PU, § 7-218(h) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 684**     **Harford County Senators****HARFORD COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – CLASS HC (HEALTH CLUB) LICENSE – HOURS OF SALE**

Extending the hours from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m., rather than 9 p.m. during which a holder of a Class HC (health club) beer and wine license in Harford County may sell alcoholic beverages.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, § 22-1004(d) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 685**     **Senator Gile****LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS – SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT – RESPONSE POLICY AND AFTER-ACTION REVIEW**

Requiring the State Department of Education to develop a model sexual abuse and sexual misconduct response policy that includes, at minimum, certain components; requiring each local school system to adopt a certain response policy on or before July 1, 2027; and requiring each local school system to provide certain notices and conduct certain after-action reviews under certain circumstances.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 4-148 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 686**     **Senator Love****PFAS CHEMICALS – PRODUCT PHASE OUTS AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

Prohibiting manufacturers from selling, offering for sale, distributing, or distributing for sale in the State, certain products containing intentionally added per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) chemicals on or after certain dates; establishing registration requirements for certain products that contain intentionally added PFAS chemicals; providing for the testing of certain products to determine compliance with the Act; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EN and SF, Various Sections - added, amended, repealed, and renumbered  
Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 687**     **Senator M. Washington****ENVIRONMENT – FLOOD RISK REVIEW PROCESS – ESTABLISHMENT**

Requiring the Department of the Environment to establish and implement a flood risk review process for certain areas identified as being at risk of tidal or nontidal flooding; applying the flood risk review process to the Department's review of certain plans and permits; requiring the Department to consult with certain local jurisdictions, State agencies, and watershed advisory groups before making a certain final determination under the Act; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EN, §§ 5-101 and 5-701 - amended and § 5-803.1 - added  
Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 688**     **Senator M. Washington****ENVIRONMENT – STREAM AND FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECTS – REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS**

Requiring the Department of the Environment to prioritize certain practices when carrying out certain duties related to stormwater management; establishing certain restrictions on the use of a stream or floodplain restoration project to satisfy certain compensatory mitigation, permit, or total maximum daily load requirements; establishing requirements for stormwater management plans that include certain stream-related projects; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EN, §§ 4-203, 4-204, and 18-102 - amended  
Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 689**     **Senator McKay****TASK FORCE TO STUDY POSTRELEASE SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS (BRI'S LAW)**

Establishing the Task Force to Study Postrelease Services and Requirements; and requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations for improving postrelease programs designed to prevent recidivism to the Governor and General Assembly on or before July 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 690**     **Senator McKay****PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE – DISTRIBUTION OF PREMIUM TAX PROCEEDS TO STATE DISASTER RECOVERY FUND**

Requiring that \$5,000,000 of property and casualty insurance premium tax proceeds be distributed, beginning July 1, 2026, annually to the State Disaster Recovery Fund.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

IN, § 6-103.3 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 691**     **Senator McKay****REAL PROPERTY – TERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE CONTRACTS – CONTINGENCY CLAUSES**

Altering the definition of “contingency clause” as the term applies to the circumstances under which a residential real estate contract may be terminated by a purchaser; and altering the time period within which a holder of trust money must distribute trust money to a purchaser.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

RP, § 10-803 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 692**     **Senator Smith****FIREARMS DEALERS AND EMPLOYEES – REQUIRED TRAINING AND EXAM**

Requiring the Secretary of State Police to approve a certain training course and offer a certain exam for certain individuals licensed as, applying to be licensed as, or employed by, a State-regulated firearms dealer; requiring certain individuals to complete training and satisfactorily pass a certain exam described in the Act; requiring the Secretary to disapprove an application for a dealer's license under certain circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PS, § 5-110(a) - amended and PS, § 5-145.2 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 693**     **Senator Smith****CIVIL ACTIONS – CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE – REPEAL OF LIMITATIONS ON ATTORNEY'S FEES**

Repealing the limitation to 20% of a settlement or 25% of a judgment that counsel may charge or receive in an action for damages arising out of a claim or claims of child sexual abuse filed on or after June 1, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

CJ, § 5-117 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 694**     **Senator Smith****HUMAN RELATIONS – VIOLATIONS OF COUNTY DISCRIMINATION LAWS – COMPLAINTS**

Establishing that filing a certain complaint with the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights satisfies certain prerequisites to commencing a civil action alleging the violation of a county discrimination law.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, §§ 20-1202 and 20-1203 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 695**     **Senators Kagan and Gile****CONSUMER PROTECTION – DRIVER’S LICENSE AND ID CARD SWIPING – REGULATION**

Prohibiting a person from swiping the driver’s license or ID card of an individual except for certain purposes; prohibiting a person that swipes a driver’s license or ID card from storing, selling, or sharing the personal information collected except under certain circumstances; authorizing certain persons to use personal information collected through swiping only for certain purposes; authorizing a governmental entity to swipe only for certain purposes; establishing a violation of the Act as an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

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

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 696**     **Senator Jackson****FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS – COMPLAINT DATABASE AND ANALYSIS – REQUIRED**

Requiring the Office of Financial Regulation to establish and maintain a certain database for complaints filed against financial institutions for unfair, deceptive, or abusive practices; and requiring the Office to publish a certain analysis of complaints quarterly on the Office’s website.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

FI, § 2-123 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 697**     **Senator Feldman****ELECTION LAW – ACTIONS TO INFLUENCE AN ELECTION – SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM ALGORITHMS AND BOTS PURCHASED BY FOREIGN NATIONALS**

Establishing a rebuttable presumption that a social media platform has made an independent expenditure to a certain candidate if the social media platform knowingly and purposefully alters its algorithm to amplify certain political content for the benefit of the candidate; prohibiting a foreign national from using a bot to publish, distribute, or disseminate campaign material or artificially amplify political content to users of an online platform for a certain purpose; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EL, § 13-251 - added and § 13-401.1 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 698**     **Senator McCray****VEHICLE LAWS – DANGEROUS ACCUMULATIONS OF SNOW AND ICE – REMOVAL FROM EXPOSED VEHICLE SURFACES**

Prohibiting a person from operating or towing a vehicle without removing from exposed vehicle surfaces accumulated snow and ice; and prohibiting a person from committing a violation of the Act that contributes to an accident resulting in property damage or the death of or serious bodily injury to another person.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, § 21-1135 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 699**     **Senator McCray****HEALTH INSURANCE – PHYSICAL THERAPY – COPAYMENTS, COINSURANCE, AND DEDUCTIBLES**

Prohibiting insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations from imposing a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible for covered physical therapy services that is greater than the copayment, coinsurance, or deductible imposed for an annual physical or wellness visit under the same plan or contract.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

IN, § 15-864 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 700 Wicomico County Senators****WICOMICO COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – CLASS B (GOLF COURSE) LICENSE – HOURS OF SALE**

Altering the hours during which a holder of a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (golf course) license in Wicomico County may sell alcoholic beverages so as to begin sales at 7 a.m. rather than 10 a.m. Monday through Sunday.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, § 32-1003 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 701 Senator Mautz****WETLANDS AND WATERWAYS PERMITS – LIGHTHOUSE PIERS – PERMISSION OF OWNER OF PRIVATE WETLANDS**

Prohibiting a person from being required to obtain permission from the owner of private wetlands in order to construct a pier that is within the private wetlands, connected to a lighthouse, and not connected to the shore.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EN, § 16-105.1 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 702 Senator Mautz****BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM RELOCATION – REGULATIONS**

Requiring the Behavioral Health Administration to adopt regulations authorizing a behavioral health program to relocate to another site.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 7.5-402(a) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 703 Caroline County Senators****CAROLINE COUNTY – REGULATION OF ANIMALS – DOGS**

Repealing a requirement that before a certain date each year, a dog owner or keeper must apply for a license from a certain county employee; and repealing a requirement that a certain county employee issue a tag to a dog owner or keeper.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

LG, § 13-116 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 704 Senator Mautz****MARYLAND ESTATE TAX – QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY – TRANSFER TO LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Authorizing, for purposes of determining the Maryland estate tax, a qualified recipient to transfer ownership of qualified agricultural property to a limited liability company; providing that qualified agricultural property transferred in accordance with the Act is not subject to estate tax recapture if the ownership of the company consists only of qualified recipients and the property is used for farming purposes for at least 10 years after the decedent's death; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 7-309(c) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 705 Caroline County Senators****CAROLINE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION – MEMBER COMPENSATION – INCREASE**

Increasing the annual compensation of the president and voting members of the Caroline County Board of Education from \$4,000 and \$3,500 to \$6,000 and \$5,500, respectively.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 3-3A-05(a) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 706 Senator Hershey****RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD – ALTERATIONS**

Decreasing the renewable energy portfolio standard for Tier 1 renewable sources for 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PU, § 7-703(b)(22) through (25) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 707**     **Senator Ready, et al****MENTAL HEALTH LAW – DANGER TO THE LIFE OR SAFETY OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR OF OTHERS – DEFINITION (RIGHT TO TREATMENT)**

Defining “danger to the life or safety of the individual or of others” for purposes of the involuntary admission of individuals with mental disorders to a facility or Veterans’ Administration hospital and the emergency evaluation of individuals with mental disorders.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 10-601 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 708**     **Senator Zucker****STATE LOTTERY – COURIER SERVICES – LICENSURE**

Authorizing the Director of the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency to issue a license to certain persons to conduct certain lottery courier services in the State, subject to certain requirements and limitations; defining “courier service” as the process of delivering a lottery ticket to a purchaser through the online account of a licensed courier; providing that certain contracts between a licensed courier and a State lottery sales agent are not subject to disclosure under the Public Information Act; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SG, § 9-111(e)(1) - amended and § 9-111.1 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 709**     **Senator Carozza, et al****EDUCATION – PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS PROGRAM AND PURPLE STAR COLLEGES PROGRAM**

Altering the definition of “military-connected student” under the Purple Star Schools Program to conform with certain terms defined under State law; and establishing the Purple Star Colleges Program to recognize certain colleges that provide strong services and support for military-connected students.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-129(a) - amended and §§ 11-2001 through 11-2003 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 710**     **Senator Corderman, et al****CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM – REEMPLOYMENT AFTER RETIREMENT – EXEMPTION FROM EARNINGS OFFSET**

Exempting a retiree of the Correctional Officers' Retirement System from a certain earnings offset if the retiree is reemployed with a participating employer.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SP, § 25-403 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 711**     **Senator Corderman, et al****FAMILY LAW – CHILD NEGLECT DEFINITION – ALTERATION**

Altering the definition of child neglect to include the failure or refusal to provide to a child the education required by law.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

FL, § 5-701(s) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 712**     **Senator Corderman****PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION – FUNDING ACCURACY AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT ENROLLMENT COUNT – ALTERATIONS AND REPORT (EDUCATION FUNDING ACCURACY ACT)**

Altering the definition of “full-time equivalent enrollment” in the calculation for State education aid to include the average number of students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 on September 30 and May 31 of the prior school year; requiring the State Department of Education to publish online and submit a certain report to certain standing committees of the General Assembly; and applying the Act to the calculation of education funding for fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2027.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 5-201(g) - amended and § 5-244 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation and Education, Energy, and the Environment

**SB 713 Senator Corderman****CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – VERDICT OF NOT CRIMINALLY RESPONSIBLE – ELIGIBILITY FOR EVALUATION FOR DISCHARGE**

Establishing that a person committed to the Maryland Department of Health after a verdict of not criminally responsible for murder in the first degree or murder in the second degree is not eligible for discharge for at least a certain period of time from the date the person was committed.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CP, § 3-114 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 714 Washington County Senators****WASHINGTON COUNTY – MOBILE FOOD SERVICE FACILITIES AND SEMIPERMANENT FOOD SERVICE FACILITIES – TOILET AND LAVATORY FACILITIES**

Exempting mobile food service facilities and semipermanent food service facilities located in Washington County from the requirement that a food service facility have a lavatory and toilet.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 21-301(i-1) - added and §§ 21-309(a) and 21-325 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 715 Washington County Senators****WASHINGTON COUNTY – JUVENILES – TRUANCY REDUCTION PILOT PROGRAM**

Authorizing the Circuit Administrative Judge of the Fourth Circuit to establish a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program in the juvenile court in Washington County.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 3-8C-02 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 716 Senator Folden****COURTS AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS – CHARGING DOCUMENTS – LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

Altering a provision of law relating to charging a law enforcement officer with a crime to include a special police officer for the Maryland Judiciary.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 2-608(a)(10) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 717 Senator Folden****CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OFFENSES – TEST KIT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Altering the deadline by which a certain law enforcement agency must submit a certain sexual assault evidence collection kit and associated reference standards to a forensic laboratory for analysis.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CP, § 11-926(g) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 718 Senator Folden****FREDERICK COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – CLASS L PERMIT**

Establishing a Class L beer, wine, and liquor permit in Frederick County; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Frederick County to issue the permit to a holder of a manufacturer's license that also holds a Class DBR brewery license or a Class DDS distillery permit; and specifying that the permit authorizes the permit holder to sell or provide samples of certain beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ABC, § 20-409 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 719 Senators Love and Hester****SEWAGE SLUDGE – PER– AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES – REGULATION**

Establishing restrictions on the land application, on or after October 1, 2027, of sewage sludge or products containing sewage sludge with total concentrations of certain regulated per– and polyfluoroalkyl substances equal to or greater than certain levels; authorizing, on or before September 30, 2029, a person to blend sewage sludge from multiple sources for a certain purpose and subject to certain regulations and requirements; establishing certain monitoring protocols; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EN, § 9-201(k) - amended and § 9-250 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment