



SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions 2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

**January 16, 2026
Schedule 3**

PLEASE NOTE: January 23 – Bill request deadline.
February 9 – Bill introduction deadline.
All bills should be given to the Secretary of the Senate's office by 5:00 P.M. on Monday, February 9.
As required by Senate Rule 32(b), bills introduced after this date will be referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILLS INTRODUCED January 16, 2026

SB 246 Senator Beidle

HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION – TERM OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS

Authorizing a member of the Health Services Cost Review Commission to continue to serve for a period not to exceed 6 months after the expiration of the member's term of office, rather than until a successor is appointed and qualifies; and repealing the authority of a member of the Commission who was appointed after a term began to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 19-203 - amended

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 247 Senator Beidle**BIOTECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT INCENTIVE TAX CREDIT –
CONVERSION TO GRANT PROGRAM**

Converting the Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit to be the Biotechnology Investment Incentive Grant Program in the Department of Commerce; requiring the Department to disburse a grant within a certain time period; allowing a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for certain grants received during the taxable year; establishing a Biotechnology Investment Incentive Grant Program Fund; authorizing the Governor to include \$10,000,000 in the annual budget bill for the Fund; etc.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

EC, Various Sections - added and amended and TG, Various Sections -transferred, added, repealed, and amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 248 Senator Beidle**MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION –
INVESTMENTS – ALTERATIONS**

Requiring the Maryland Technology Development Corporation to adopt certain regulations regarding the consideration of remedies for investments in certain businesses that no longer meet the definition of a qualified business for purposes of provisions of law governing the Corporation; authorizing, rather than requiring, the Corporation to divest itself of an interest under certain circumstances; and authorizing the Corporation to pursue certain other remedies under those circumstances.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

EC, §§ 10-408(a) and 10-470 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 249 **Senator Beidle****TOBACCO PRODUCT LICENSEES – ADDITIONAL LICENSURE FOR ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES**

Repealing a provision of law authorizing a person holding a certain license relating to cigarettes or other tobacco products to manufacture, distribute, or sell electronic smoking devices in the same capacity as a person holding a certain license relating to electronic smoking devices; exempting the holder of a certain license who is an applicant for a license to act as an electronic smoking devices retailer or vape shop vendor from the requirement to pay an additional license fee for the license; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BR, §§ 16.7-102 and 16.7-202(a) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 250 **Senators Simonaire and West****ESTATES – MARYLAND UNIFORM SIMULTANEOUS DEATH ACT**

Conforming the Maryland Uniform Simultaneous Death Act to the Uniform Simultaneous Death Act; providing that a surviving individual who does not survive the death of another individual for at least 120 hours is deemed to have predeceased the other individual for purposes relating to the inheritance of property; establishing evidentiary procedures for determining an individual's death or survival in certain circumstances; providing for liability under the Act in connection with the distribution of disputed assets; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, §§ 10-801 through 10-805 - repealed, §§ 10-806 and 10-807 - renumbered, and §§ 1-801 through 10-807 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 251 Senators Love and Hettleman**CIVIL ACTIONS – MARYLAND UNIFORM PUBLIC EXPRESSION PROTECTION ACT**

Repealing a certain provision relating to strategic lawsuits against public participation; authorizing a person served with a pleading asserting a certain cause of action based on the person's communication related to a governmental proceeding or exercise of certain constitutional rights to file a special motion for expedited relief to dismiss the cause of action; generally relating to civil actions and public expression; and applying the Act prospectively.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 5-807 - repealed, §§ 5-1301 through 5-1313 - added, and § 5-808 - renumbered

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 252 Senator West**MARYLAND LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION – BOARD OF DIRECTORS – MEMBERSHIP**

Increasing the number of members on the Board of Directors of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation from 9 to 12.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HU, § 11-301 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 253 Senator Hettleman**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING – SUPERVISORY EMPLOYEES**

Authorizing supervisory employees of the Baltimore County Public Library to form, join, and participate in an employee organization and engage in certain other activities related to collective bargaining; authorizing certain bargaining units for the employees of the Baltimore County Public Library; and altering certain provisions to provide that an employee may be deemed a certain management employee, rather than a supervisory employee, under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 23-802 through 23-812 - renumbered, §§ 23-801(h), 23-803, and 23-810(a) - amended, and § 23-802 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 254 Senator Gallion**EDUCATION – SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM – HUMAN AND SEX TRAFFICKING**

Requiring that a certain program on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault include, for students in grades 6 through 8, material promoting the awareness and prevention of human and sex trafficking.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-439 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 255 Senator Sydnor**VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2026 – COUNTIES AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS**

Prohibiting the imposition or application of a method for electing the governing body of a county or municipal corporation that impairs the ability of members of a protected class to elect candidates of the members' choice or influence the outcome of an election by diluting or abridging the rights of voters who are members of a protected class.

EMERGENCY BILL

EL, §§ 15.7-101 through 15.7-107 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 256 Senator Gallion**STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS – REVISIONS**

Altering the name of the State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects to be the State Board of Professional Landscape Architects; altering the definition of “licensed landscape architects” to be “professional landscape architects”; altering certain qualifications for membership on the Board; altering certain duties of the Board; altering certain educational and experience requirements of applicants for a license to practice landscape architecture; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BOP, Various Secions - amended, repealed, and added and BR, CJ, EN, NR, PU, and SG, Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment