



SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions 2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

**January 19, 2026
Schedule 4**

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 19, 2026

SB 257 Senator Simonaire

MEL NOLAND WOODLAND INCENTIVES AND FELLOWSHIP FUND – REPORTING

Requiring the Department of Natural Resources to include in an annual report to certain committees of the General Assembly the amount of proceeds from a certain agricultural land transfer tax that are attributable to the taxation of certain instruments of writing that transfer title to parcels of land that are entirely woodland that were distributed to the Mel Noland Woodland Incentives and Fellowship Fund during the immediately preceding fiscal year; and requiring the Department to report any uncertainties regarding certain amounts.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

NR, § 5-307(j) - 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 258 Senator Attar**REAL PROPERTY – DEDICATION – ROADS**

Establishing that a private road open to public travel for 20 years or more shall be considered offered for dedication to public use; and establishing that the State, a county, or a municipality shall be considered to have accepted an offer for the dedication of a road to public use under the Act if the State, county, or municipality repairs and maintains the road in the same manner as a public road.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

RP, § 14-134 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 259 Senator Jackson**PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION – OPEN MOVIE CAPTIONING**

Decreasing from eight to four the number of screens in a motion picture house above which the motion picture house is required to provide open movie captioning.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

SG, § 20-306 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 260 Senator Jackson**MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION – MEMBERSHIP**

Altering the membership of the Maryland Health Care Commission by reducing from nine to eight the number of members who are individuals who do not have any connection with the management or policy of a health care provider or payor and including a representative of a hospital; and altering from five to four the number of Commission members who must be residents of different counties with a population of 300,000 or more.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HG, § 19-104 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 261 Senator Beidle**MARYLAND MONEY TRANSMISSION ACT – DEFINITION OF MONEY TRANSMITTER – ALTERATION**

Altering, for a certain licensing requirement, the definition of “money transmitter” under the Maryland Money Transmission Act to exclude a certain person designated as an agent of a payor for the purpose of the agent’s provision of payroll processing services under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

FI, § 12-401(q) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 262 Senator Simonaire**INCOME TAX – SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION FOR CLASSROOM SUPPLIES PURCHASED BY TEACHERS – ALTERATION**

Altering a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for unreimbursed expenses paid or incurred by certain teachers during a taxable year for the purchase of certain classroom supplies to include full-time teachers employed in prekindergarten programs in the State; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-208(x) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 263 Senator Brooks**EDUCATION – DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS – ADVANCE ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES**

Requiring a county superintendent of schools to allow a certain dependent child of an active service member to advance enroll in a school in the county in a certain manner; requiring the remote registration process to provide an opportunity for the service member or other parent or guardian of a dependent child with a disability to note whether the child has an individualized education program or a 504 plan in the sending state; and requiring the Secretary of Veterans and Military Families to publish information on advance enrollment.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 7-115.1 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 264 Senator Brooks**DRINKING WATER – REGULATION – CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF WATERBORNE DISEASE**

Establishing minimum detectable disinfectant residual level requirements, disinfectant residual testing requirements, and related requirements for the control of Legionella bacteria and other pathogens in the public water supply; requiring the Department of the Environment and the Department of Health, by October 1, 2027, to report to the Governor and General Assembly with recommendations for legislative action to control legionella bacteria and other waterborne pathogens in the public water supply of the State; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EN, §§ 9-412 and 9-413 - amended and §§ 9-429 through 9-436 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 265 Senator Brooks**COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEMS – PROHIBITED LOCATIONS – ADJACENT PARCELS**

Repealing certain prohibitions on the location of a community solar energy generating system based on the combined installed capacity of all community solar energy generating systems on adjacent parcels of land.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PU, § 7-306.2(d)(13) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 266 Senator Brooks**LOCAL GOVERNMENT – REGULATORY POWERS – REGULATION OF TREE OF HEAVEN**

Authorizing the governing body of a county or municipality to adopt certain ordinances to regulate the nonnative, highly invasive, deciduous hardwood tree known as tree of heaven; and authorizing the governing body of a county or municipality to establish a bounty program to incentivize the removal of trees of heaven.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

LG, § 1-1318 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 267 Senator Brooks**LAND USE – RESIDENTIAL HOUSING – OVERSIGHT, REGULATION, AND TAXATION (BUILDING AFFORDABLY IN MY BACK YARD ACT)**

Establishing certain policies and processes to facilitate the development of residential housing in the State; requiring an entity that owns residential real property in the State to make a certain certification to the Department of Housing and Community Development; authorizing a local jurisdiction to establish an administrative process to review, approve, modify, or deny certain housing development project applications; requiring the Governor to establish certain housing production targets at certain intervals; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

VARIOUS EFFECTIVE DATES

HS, LU, LG, RP, and TP, Various Sections - added and amended

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

SB 268 Senator Henson**CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – RESTRICTIVE HOUSING – INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**

Authorizing an applicable clinical professional to assess, at the time of intake at a State correctional facility, a newly incarcerated individual for a developmental or intellectual disability; authorizing a certain clinical professional to make a certain recommendation about a certain incarcerated individual; prohibiting a State correctional facility from putting a certain incarcerated individual in restrictive housing for more than 15 consecutive days in a 30-day period unless the individual commits a certain prohibited act; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CS, § 9-614.3 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 269 **Senator Henson****COURTS AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS – EVIDENCE – REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION OF MEDICAL BILLS**

Establishing a rebuttable presumption in an action for personal injury or wrongful death that a medical bill from a health care provider or an agent of the health care provider is authentic, fair, and reasonable if the bill was properly provided in discovery; and establishing that a party may overcome the presumption that a medical bill is authentic, fair, and reasonable by proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the medical bill, or any charge in a medical bill, is not authentic, is unfair, or is unreasonable.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 10-104.1 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 270 **Senator Carozza, et al****PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION – FULL COSTS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS OF SOURCES OF ELECTRICITY GENERATION**

Requiring the Public Service Commission to conduct an analysis of the full costs and benefits of sources of electricity generation in the State; and requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the House Environment and Transportation Committee by December 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 271 **Senator Gile****INCOME TAX – SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION – RETIREMENT INCOME OF FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL – ELIGIBILITY**

Altering a certain subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax to include certain retirement income attributable to a resident's employment with the District of Columbia as a member of a fire, rescue, or emergency services organization; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-207(mm) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 272 Senator Gile**HEALTH INSURANCE – SCALP COOLING SYSTEMS – REQUIRED COVERAGE**

Requiring certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, health maintenance organizations, and managed care organizations that provide coverage for chemotherapy to treat cancer to provide coverage for scalp cooling systems used for the preservation of hair in connection with chemotherapy treatment; and applying the Act to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or after January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

IN, § 15-864 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 273 Senator Gile**HIGHER EDUCATION – EDWARD T. AND MARY A. CONROY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – ELIGIBILITY**

Expanding the eligibility for the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program to an applicant who is or was eligible for the Chapter 35 Survivors' Dependents' Educational Assistance benefit as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and authorizing certain methods for verifying eligibility of these individuals for the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 18-601(d)(2) and (f)(1) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 274 Senator Sydnor**FAIR HOUSING AND HOUSING DISCRIMINATION – REGULATIONS, INTENT, AND DISCRIMINATORY EFFECT**

Authorizing the Department of Housing and Community Development to adopt certain regulations related to affirmatively furthering fair housing; providing that certain discriminatory housing practices may be committed without intent; prohibiting a person from acting in a certain manner that has a discriminatory effect; and providing that certain conduct necessary to achieve certain nondiscriminatory interests does not constitute a certain violation.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HS, § 2-402 and SG, §§ 20-702 and 20-705 - amended and SG, § 20-701(b-1) - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 275 Senator Watson**VEHICLE LAWS – ELECTRIC VEHICLE DEALER LICENSES – CITY OF BOWIE**

Increasing from four to five the number of dealer licenses available for certain manufacturers or distributors that deal only in electric or nonfossil-fuel burning vehicles; and providing that one of the licenses may be issued only for the operation of a dealership in the City of Bowie.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, § 15-305(e)(2) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 276 Senator Beidle, et al**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND HEALTH INSURANCE – COVERAGE FOR ORTHOSES AND PROSTHESES (SO EVERY BODY CAN MOVE ACT)**

Requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide certain coverage related to orthoses beginning January 1, 2027; clarifying that certain mandated benefits related to prostheses include all prostheses determined by a treating health care provider to be medically necessary for completing daily living activities, essential job-related activities, or performing certain other physical activities; etc.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027

HG, § 15-103(a)(2)(xxvii) and (xxviii) and IN, §§ 15-820 and 15-844(g) - amended and HG, § 15-103(a)(2)(xxix) - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 277 Senator West**ESTATES AND TRUSTS – VENUE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL PROBATE AND APPLICATION OF INHERITANCE TAX**

Altering certain criteria for determining the venue for administrative or judicial probate of decedents who were not domiciled in the State; providing that, for purposes of the application of the Maryland inheritance tax, the situs of intangible personal property is the domicile of the decedent; repealing a certain exemption from the Maryland inheritance tax for personal property that passes from a nonresident decedent; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ET, § 5-103 and TG, §§ 7-202 and 7-203 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 278 **Senators West and Waldstreicher****STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION –
EXPEDITED DOCUMENT PROCESSING AND FEES**

Establishing expedited processing fees for certain documents filed with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation; and requiring the Department to process documents filed at least 1 hour before the Department's close of business within 1 hour after the documents are received, and documents filed at least 30 minutes before the Department's close of business within 30 minutes after the documents are received.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CA, §§ 1-203 and 1-203.2 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 279 **Senator Hayes****BALTIMORE CITY – CIGARETTES, OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS,
AND ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES – LOCAL LAWS
AUTHORIZATION**

Authorizing Baltimore City to enact and enforce local laws regulating the sale and distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices, subject to certain exceptions.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BR, §§ 16-308.4, 16.5-104, and 16.7-103 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SENATE BILLS INTRODUCED January 20, 2026**SB 280** **Senators Augustine and Zucker****NATURAL RESOURCES – STATE PARKS – TERMINOLOGY**

Altering certain terminology relating to State parks that preserve and interpret the history of certain populations.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

NR, §§ 5-2A-04(f)(3), 5-2A-05(b)(2), and 5-1012 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 281 **Senators Augustine and Feldman****METRO FUNDING MODIFICATION ACT OF 2026**

Requiring the Governor to withhold 35% of the annual appropriation for grants to the Washington Suburban Transit District under certain circumstances; altering the calculation of the amount that the Governor is required to include in the annual budget each year to provide grants to the Washington Suburban Transit District to pay the capital costs of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; making the Act contingent on enactment of certain legislation by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia; etc. This bill requires a mandated appropriation in the annual budget bill.

CONTINGENT – EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

TR, § 10-205(f) and (g) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SENATE BILLS REASSIGNED January 16, 2026**SB 18** **Senator M. Washington****STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS – CONDITIONAL
LICENSE TO PRACTICE SOCIAL WORK – REVISIONS**

Altering the circumstances under which the Board of Social Work Examiners may issue a conditional license to practice social work; establishing alternate pathways through which an individual issued a conditional license may receive a full license; and requiring the Board, beginning in 2026, to report to certain committees of the General Assembly on the number of conditional licenses issued under the program, the number of conditional license holders who obtained full licensure, and any recommendations for improving the program.

EMERGENCY BILL

HO, § 19-309.1 - amended

Reassigned to: Finance

SB 42 **Senator Simonaire****REDUCTION FACILITIES AND VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS – HYDROLYZED AND SOIL REMAINS – IMMUNITY**

Providing that a registered reduction operator is not civilly liable for transferring and a veterans service organization is not civilly liable for receiving unclaimed hydrolyzed or soil remains of a veteran or an eligible dependent of a veteran for the purposes of disposition if acting in good faith; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 5-642 - amended

Reassigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 106 **Senator Ready, et al****VEHICLE LAWS – VEHICLE EMISSIONS INSPECTION PROGRAM – REPEAL**

Repealing the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

TR, §§ 23-201 through 23-206.2, 23-206.4, 23-207, and 23-209 - repealed

Reassigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 119 **Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request – Departmental – Health)****STATE BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS – SUNSET EXTENSION**

Continuing the State Board of Environmental Health Specialists, in accordance with the provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law), by extending to July 1, 2032, the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Board.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

HO, § 21-502 - amended

Reassigned to: Finance

SB 186 **Senator Augustine****STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY – EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS AND TIME PERIOD FOR INACTIVE STATUS**

Clarifying that applicants for licensure as an optometrist and certain applicants for reinstatement are required to pass all sections of each part of a licensure examination; repealing the requirement that the State Board of Examiners in Optometry give examinations to licensure applicants; prohibiting the Board from placing a licensee on inactive status for more than 6 consecutive years; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

HO, §§ 11-302(e), 11-304, 11-305, and 11-310 - amended

Reassigned to: Finance