



SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions 2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

**January 22, 2026
Schedule 6**

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 22, 2026

SB 314 Senator Waldstreicher

COURTS – IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY – DONATION OF PET SUPPLIES

Establishing a certain immunity from liability for a person who donates a pet item or dispenses a donated pet item; and authorizing the State Department of Agriculture to inspect donated commercial feed and establish procedures for handling donated commercial feed.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

AG, § 6-106.1 and CJ, § 5-634.1 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Department of Legislative Services

90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Baltimore Area: 410-946-5400 — Washington Area: 301-970-5400

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SB 315 **Senator Waldstreicher****CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – EXPUNGEMENT – ADVERSE ACTIONS
AND REMOVAL FROM MARYLAND ELECTRONIC COURTS (MDEC)
SYSTEM**

Clarifying that refusal by a person to disclose information about criminal charges that have been expunged may not be the sole reason for a unit, an official, or an employee of the State or a political subdivision of the State to deny the person's application for a license, permit, registration, or governmental service; providing that refusal by a person to disclose information about criminal charges that have been expunged may not be the sole reason for an educational institution to expel or refuse to admit the person; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CP, §§ 10-109, 10-111, and 10-112 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 316 **Senator Waldstreicher****INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS – TITLE VI COORDINATORS**

Requiring the governing board of each institution of higher education in the State and local school systems to designate a Title VI Coordinator to ensure compliance with Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; and authorizing a person alleging discrimination under certain provisions of law to file a complaint with a Title VI Coordinator of a local school system, as applicable.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 11-409 and 26-706 - added and § 26-705(a) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 317 Senator Brooks, et al**CREDIT REGULATION – MAXIMUM INTEREST RATE FOR ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS (SERVICE MEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT)**

Prohibiting a person from charging an annual interest rate above 6% per year on a certain obligation held by an active service member or jointly by an active service member and the active service member's spouse; requiring that the active service member or the active service member's spouse provide the creditor with certain notice and documentation not later than 180 days after termination or discharge from active duty; and authorizing a court to grant a creditor relief from application of the Act after a certain finding.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

CL, § 12-102.1 - added and § 12-107 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 318 Senator Brooks**STATE CAPITAL PROGRAM – COVERED PROJECTS – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH REQUIREMENTS (COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH ACT OF 2026)**

Requiring units of State government proposing certain capital projects to complete a certain community engagement plan and certain community outreach activities and submit a certain report to the Department of Budget and Management; and requiring the Department to annually submit a compiled report, beginning December 1, 2027, of the community engagement and outreach reports submitted by each unit of State government proposing a covered project to certain governing bodies, the General Assembly, and the Legislative Policy Committee.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

SF, §3-611 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 319 Senator Muse**FAMILY LAW – CHILD SUPPORT – ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS**

Authorizing the Child Support Administration to take action to secure an assignment to the State of any rights to support on behalf of a child receiving foster care maintenance payments; and requiring a court to terminate a child support order that was previously established or assigned for a child receiving a foster care maintenance payment under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

FL, §§ 5-525.4 and 12-104.2 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 320 **Senator Muse****CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – EXPUNGEMENT – NO FINDING AND CASE TERMINATED WITHOUT FINDING**

Authorizing the expungement of a disposition under a certain provision of law if the disposition was included in a case that was disposed of by the court with a no finding designation or designated by the court as having been terminated without finding.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CP, § 10-110(d) - amended and § 10-110(j) - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 321 **Senator Sydnor****PUBLIC SAFETY – LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES – USE OF BODY–WORN CAMERAS**

Altering certain provisions of law to require a law enforcement agency to require the use of body–worn cameras, subject to a certain policy, by each sworn law enforcement officer, regardless of rank, employed by the law enforcement agency while the officer is in uniform, in public, and conducting law enforcement–related duties.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

PS, § 3-511(c) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 322 **Senator Sydnor****COURTS – JURY SERVICE – DISQUALIFICATION**

Providing that a person who has been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment exceeding 1 year and is currently serving the sentence imposed for the conviction, including a term of parole or probation, or has been convicted of a crime involving or relating to perjury, witness intimidation, jury intimidation, or fraud or a related crime is not qualified for jury service.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, § 8-103 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 323 Senator Smith, et al**JUVENILE COURT – JURISDICTION (YOUTH CHARGING REFORM ACT)**

Altering the jurisdiction of the juvenile court by repealing provisions specifying that the juvenile court does not have jurisdiction over a child alleged to have committed any crime punishable by life imprisonment.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CJ, §§ 3-8A-03 and 3-8A-27(a)(2)(iii), CP, Various Sections, and ED, § 7-303(a)(6) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 324 Senator Augustine**HIGHER EDUCATION – PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS – DIRECT ADMISSION PROGRAM**

Establishing a direct admission program at participating public senior higher education institutions for certain eligible high school students beginning in the 2027–2028 academic year; requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to administer the direct admission program through a certain financial aid system and the Common Application; requiring a student to have completed all prerequisite courses, met a certain standard, and applied to an institution by the established deadline; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 15-101.1 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 325 Senator Augustine**LAND USE – PERMITTING – DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (MARYLAND HOUSING CERTAINTY ACT)**

Requiring the approval of a housing development project application by a local regulatory authority or the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission to be governed only by certain laws and regulations in effect at the time of submission of a substantially complete application; granting the proponent of an approved housing development project certain vested rights related to use and development for a certain time period; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

LU, §§ 1-401 and 10-103 - amended and LU, §§ 12-101 through 12-301 and LG, § 20-128 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 326 **Senators Lam and Carozza****PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS – PARITY WITH OTHER HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS (PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PARITY ACT OF 2026)**

Altering certain provisions of law to include physician assistants in the health care practitioners who may take certain actions, including actions related to the guardianship of disabled persons, admission of individuals to mental health facilities, the Emergency and Allergy Treatment Program, and the Attendant Care Program; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to cover charges related to examinations by a physician assistant for certain emergency evaluatees; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CS, ET, HG, HU, and SP, Various Sections - amended and HG, §§ 10-601(g) and 18-214(d)(12) - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 327 **Senator McCray****CRIMINAL LAW – DRUG PARAPHERNALIA AND CONTROLLED PARAPHERNALIA PROHIBITIONS – REPEAL**

Repealing prohibitions relating to drug paraphernalia and controlled paraphernalia.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

CR, §§ 5-101(h) and (p), 5-619, and 5-620 - repealed and § 5-101(i) through (o), (p-1), and (q) through (ff) - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings