



SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions
2026 Maryland General Assembly Session

January 27, 2026
Schedule 8

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 January 27, 2026

SB 368 **Senators Bailey and Harris**

CALVERT AND ST. MARY'S COUNTIES – LIVING SHORELINES AND NONSTRUCTURAL SHORELINE STABILIZATION MEASURES

Establishing requirements for the use of living shorelines and nonstructural stabilization measures in Calvert County and St. Mary's County; and exempting property located in Calvert County and St. Mary's County from certain general requirements regarding the use of nonstructural shoreline stabilization measures.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EN, § 16-201 - amended and NR, § 8-1808.11 - repealed and added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Department of Legislative Services

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SB 369 Senator Hettleman**NONPROFIT HOUSING CORPORATIONS – TAX AND ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENT EXEMPTIONS – ALTERATIONS**

Exempting certain real property owned by certain subsidiary entities of a certain nonprofit housing corporation from taxes and special assessments of the State or a political subdivision; and exempting certain real property of a certain nonprofit housing corporation from certain procedures for enforcement of a judgment against the nonprofit housing corporation.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

HS, § 12-104 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 370 Senator Augustine**STATE ACUPUNCTURE BOARD – REVISIONS**

Defining “manual therapies” as it relates to the practice of acupuncture; requiring the State Acupuncture Board to make available proof of renewal, rather than issuing a renewal certificate; prohibiting a person from employing an individual to practice acupuncture without a license or aiding or abetting the unauthorized practice of acupuncture; and providing that a person who violates the Act, for a first offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 or imprisonment of up to 1 year or both.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HO, §§ 1A-101, 1A-302(b), 1A-306(e), and 1A-403 - amended and § 1A-403 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 371 Senator Carozza, et al**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL – DISCHARGE PERMITS – CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS**

Repealing a requirement that a person hold a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) general discharge permit before the person may begin construction on any part of a new CAFO.

EMERGENCY BILL

EN, § 9-323 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 372 Senator McCray**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – MARYLAND NEW MARKETS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Maryland New Markets Development Program; requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development to administer the Program; authorizing a credit against the State insurance premium receipts tax and certain State insurance retaliatory taxes, fees, charges, and penalties for certain equity investments in certain community development entities; authorizing the Department to recapture a credit under certain circumstances; limiting the credit amounts that may be issued to \$18,750,000 for any taxable year; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

HS, §§ 4-3101 through 4-3111, IN, §§ 6-123 and 6-306, and TG, § 10-758 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 373 Senators Hershey and West**ENVIRONMENT – REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE – WITHDRAWAL (RESTORING ENERGY FREEDOM ACT)**

Requiring the Governor to withdraw the State from participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

CONTINGENT – EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026

EC, EN, NR, and SG, Various Sections - amended and EN, § 2-1002(g) - repealed and § 2-1002(h) through (j) - renumbered

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 374 Senators Beidle and Hershey**TRANSPORTATION – RENTAL CARS – EXCISE TAX EXEMPTION**

Providing an exemption for certain rental vehicles from the vehicle excise tax.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TR, §§ 8-402(b), 13-809(c)(1), and 13-810(a)(24) and (25) - amended and § 13-810(a)(26) - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 375 Senator Watson**COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION – ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TRAINING PROGRAM – REQUIREMENT**

Requiring the State Department of Education to develop or approve an artificial intelligence training program for members of county boards of education that includes foundational training and continuing annual training; requiring each member of a county board to complete an artificial intelligence training program each year that covers developments in artificial intelligence technology, evolving best practices for use in education settings and new guidance; and providing the training may be in person, online or in a hybrid format.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 4-148 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 376 Senator Watson**DIGITAL ASSET AND BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE – ESTABLISHMENT**

Establishing the Digital Asset and Blockchain Technology Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding the use and regulation of blockchain technology and cryptocurrency in the State; and requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations on or before October 1, 2027, to the Governor, the General Assembly, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Economic Matters Committee.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

SB 377 Senator Guzzone**EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT – INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT QUALIFYING CHILDREN – ELIGIBILITY**

Expanding eligibility for the Maryland earned income tax credit for individuals without qualifying children by altering the income thresholds at which the credit phases out; providing that, after the 2025 tax year, the income threshold and phase-out amounts are adjusted annually for inflation; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-704 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 378 Senator Guzzone**EDUCATION – REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS AND COUNTY LIBRARIES – FUNDING**

Altering the calculation of certain funding for certain regional resource centers and each county public library system for certain fiscal years; and altering the types of services of which each public library is required to offer at least one service.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, §§ 23-205(c), 23-410, 23-503 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 379 Senator Guzzone**RECOVERY RESIDENCE GRANT PROGRAM – FUNDING**

Extending through fiscal year 2030 the requirement that an appropriation of \$500,000 be included in the annual budget bill for the Recovery Residence Grant Program.

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

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

HG, § 19-2505(g) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 380 Senator Lewis Young**PHYSICIANS – LICENSING – INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS**

Authorizing the State Board of Physicians, beginning October 1, 2028, to issue a license, not to exceed 3 years, to practice medicine to an internationally trained physician under certain circumstances; requiring the Board to adopt regulations establishing minimum qualifications and application fees and to provide a pathway to full licensure; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

HO, § 14-321 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 381 **Senators Watson and West****EDUCATION – SCHOOL BUILDING ENERGY USAGE – MONTHLY REPORT**

Requiring each county board of education to collect data on energy usage and report the data collected to the Interagency Commission on School Construction; requiring the Commission to adopt regulations specifying the data to be collected and the means and frequency of reporting; and requiring the Commission to analyze the data collected and provide recommendations for improving school building energy efficiency and usage.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 5-331 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 382 **Senator Watson, et al****RETIRE IN MARYLAND TAX RELIEF ACT**

Authorizing a credit against the State income tax for certain taxpayers who are at least 77 years old; providing that if the credit exceeds the State income tax for a taxable year, the unused amount of the credit may not be carried over to any other taxable year; and applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

TG, § 10-754.1 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 383 **Senator Watson, et al****HIGHER EDUCATION – PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOLS – ADVERTISING**

Authorizing the Secretary of Higher Education to allow certain private career schools to advertise certain information and collect contact information from potential new students before receiving a certificate of approval from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to operate a private career school in the State under certain circumstances; requiring an approved private career school to advertise only information relating to the opening of the private career school and include a certain disclosure; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

ED, § 11-212 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 384 Senators Watson and Carozza**REAL ESTATE BROKERS – RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE
TRANSACTIONS – TRANSACTION BROKERS**

Authorizing a licensed real estate broker, a licensed associate real estate broker, or a licensed real estate salesperson to establish nonagency relationships to act as a real estate transaction broker in a residential real estate transaction under certain circumstances; establishing the duties of a transaction broker in a transaction brokerage; requiring the State Real Estate Commission to develop a certain standard consent form for a transaction brokerage; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

BOP, §§ 17-322(b)(30) and 17-532(a) - amended and §§ 17-551 through 17-557 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 385 The President (By Request – Administration), et al**PUBLIC HEALTH – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMUNIZATIONS,
SCREENINGS, AND PREVENTIVE SERVICES – PHARMACIST
ADMINISTRATION AND REQUIRED HEALTH INSURANCE
COVERAGE (THE VAX ACT)**

Requiring the Secretary of Health to issue recommendations for certain immunizations, screenings, and preventive services based on certain evidence-based scientific and clinical guidance; altering the authority of pharmacists to administer certain vaccinations; altering the health insurance coverage requirements for certain immunizations, screenings, and preventive services; and repealing obsolete language regarding the pertussis vaccine.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

HG, §§ 18-328 through 18-332 - repealed and § 18-112 - added and HO, §12-508 and IN, §§ 15-1A-10 and 15-817 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 386 The President (By Request – Administration), et al

ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION, ENERGY STORAGE, AND MARYLAND STRATEGIC ENERGY INVESTMENT FUND (LOWER BILLS AND LOCAL POWER ACT OF 2026)

Requiring an electric company, located in the State, that owns or operates a transmission line that is designed to carry a voltage in excess of 69,000 volts to participate as a member in a regional transmission organization under certain circumstances; requiring a person applying for a certain certificate of public convenience and necessity to include certain information with the application; requiring certain transmission utilities to submit a certain advanced transmission technology implementation report; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

PU and SG, Various Sections - amended and added and TR, § 8-311 - added

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SB 387 The President (By Request – Administration), et al

FOOD RETAILERS – DYNAMIC PRICING, SURVEILLANCE DATA, AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS (PROTECTION FROM PREDATORY PRICING ACT)

Prohibiting a food retailer from engaging in the practice of dynamic pricing or using consumer surveillance data to set a price for consumer goods or services; prohibiting a food retailer from using protected class data to offer, advertise, or sell a consumer good or service under certain circumstances; prohibiting a food retailer from diminishing or impairing any right or benefit guaranteed to employees of the food retailer under an existing collective bargaining agreement or memorandum of understanding; etc.

EMERGENCY BILL

CL, § 13-321 - added and § 13-411 - amended and LE, § 4-406 - added

Assigned to: Finance

SB 388 The President (By Request – Administration), et al**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – DELIVERING ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AND ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS (DECADE) ACT**

Altering the designation, administration, and purposes of and eligibility for certain economic development programs; redesignating the Economic Development Opportunities Program Account to be the Strategic Closing Fund within the Department of Commerce; altering the purposes for and methods by which the Fund may be utilized; altering the termination date of the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program, Job Creation Tax Credit, Research and Development Tax Credit, and Employer Security Clearance Costs Tax Credit; etc.

VARIOUS EFFECTIVE DATES

Various Articles and Various Chapters of the Acts of Various Years, Various Sections - Various Actions

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation and Finance

SB 389 The President (By Request – Administration), et al**LAND USE – TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT – ALTERATIONS (MARYLAND TRANSIT AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITY ACT)**

Providing for the automatic designation of certain transit-oriented developments as enterprise zones; requiring the Maryland Development Corporation to prioritize certain redevelopment projects when making loans under the Strategic Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program; altering the authority of local legislative bodies to regulate land use planning on land located near certain transit stations; delaying the collection of certain development excise taxes and development impact fees for certain residential real estate projects; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

EC, LU, LG, and TR, Various Sections - renumbered, amended, and added

Assigned to: Finance and Education, Energy, and the Environment