



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE, EXECUTIVE, AND LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Memorandum

To: Members of the AELR Committee
Standing Committee Chairs

From: Georgeanne Carter, AELR Committee Counsel
Kathleen P. Kennedy, AELR Committee Counsel
Kelvin V. Lucas, AELR Committee Counsel

Date: April 29, 2025

Re: **Synopses of Regulations received from 4/11/2025 through 4/28/2025**

Enclosed please find synopses of regulations received by the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) during the weeks noted above.

The Office of Policy Analysis prepares analyses of the regulations to determine if there are any problem areas, to ensure that the regulations comply with statutory authority and legislative intent, and to assess the fiscal impact of the regulations. If any regulation is of particular interest to you, please feel free to contact us at 410-946-5350 and we will supply you with a copy of the regulation along with the legal and fiscal analysis.

GC/KPK/KVL/bal

cc: Sally Robb
Jeremy Baker

Budget and Management, Department of

Proposed Regulation

DLS Control No. 25-083

Department of Budget and Management: Personnel Services and Benefits:

Leave: COMAR 17.04.11.30

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to comply with 2024 Senate Bill 109, which provides certain State employees with Parental Bereavement Leave with pay after the death of the employee's child; an employee who experiences a stillbirth or death of the employee's infant effective October 1, 2024.

Natural Resources, Department of

Proposed Regulation

DLS Control No. 25-084

Department of Natural Resources: Boating–Speed Limits and Operation of Vessels:

Patapsco River: COMAR 08.18.19.05

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to establish two 6-knot effective at all times speed zones in the Patapsco River for the area surrounding the demolition and construction site of the Francis Scott Key Bridge Project. The zones will encompass the waters upstream and downstream of the bridge project but will not affect the main shipping channel. A similar speed zone was in place on the east side of the river for a period of time after the bridge collapsed. The Department considered input from boaters, the Association of Maryland Pilots, the United States Coast Guard, and the construction company to determine the best siting of these zones.

Transportation, Department of

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 25-078

Department of Transportation: State Highway Administration:

Work Zone Speed Control Systems: COMAR 11.04.15.01 – .04

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to align regulations with HB 513 Motor Vehicles – Work Zone Speed Control Systems – Revisions (Maryland Road Worker Protection Act of 2024), which was introduced and passed during the 2024 legislative session

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 25-085

Department of Transportation:

Motor Vehicle Administration — Vehicle Inspections:

General Inspection: COMAR 11.14.01.01 – .18

Safety Standards for Passenger Cars, Taxicabs, Light Trucks, Vans, Multipurpose Passenger Vehicles, and Type II School Vehicles: COMAR 11.14.02.01 – .29

Safety Standards for Motorcycles: COMAR 11.14.03.01 – .14

Safety Standards for Trucks, Truck Tractors, Commercial Buses, and Type I

School Vehicles: COMAR 11.14.04.01 – .23

Safety Standards for Trailers: COMAR 11.14.05.01 – .11

Emissions Equipment Standards: COMAR 11.14.06.01 – .07

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to repeal the existing chapters of regulations regarding the licensing of vehicle inspection stations, and the registration of inspection mechanics, and adopt new chapters to address changes in vehicle technologies, vehicle inspection test tools and equipment, and to separate, organize, and clarify the existing regulations regarding vehicle equipment safety inspection. The new proposed chapters remove unnecessary and obsolete language, updates references, addresses changes in automotive standards and emerging technologies, and incorporates current policy and procedures for the licensing and regulatory oversight of Maryland Vehicle Safety Inspection program by the Maryland Department of State Police Automotive Safety Enforcement Division (ASED).

This action also establishes the licensing of inspection mechanics independent of an inspection station license. This will allow persons to be examined and licensed as vehicle inspection mechanics prior to employment at inspection stations and will facilitate the transfer of inspection mechanics from one station to another without unnecessary delay and interruption of employment.

In addition, the proposed new regulations make provision for the inspection of vehicles which have been properly modified for operation by persons with special needs. ASED will provide an examination of specially modified vehicles and the related documentation at no cost to persons with special needs. ASED personnel will then provide a form that identifies the properly modified equipment, which will be presented to inspection stations and inspection mechanics to allow vehicle safety inspections to be performed and certified with certain authorized exemptions to regulated vehicle equipment.

Finally, the proposal addresses auxiliary equipment installed on vehicles that potentially risk person, property, or environmental hazards which is not currently regulated and makes provisions for current and emerging automotive technologies for vehicle safety that are not currently regulated such as supplemental restraint systems, anti-lock brakes and traction control, and stability systems. eliminates requirements for obsolete or ineffective test equipment and tools and allows the current test equipment and tools used in the automotive industry to be approved for use during vehicle safety inspections.

Health Benefit Exchange, Maryland

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 25-089

Independent Agencies: Maryland Health Benefit Exchange:

Individual Exchange Navigator Certification and Training Standards:

COMAR 14.35.02.04

Insurance Producer Authorization to Sell Qualified Plans in the SHOP Exchange and Individual Exchange: COMAR 14.35.04.02 and .04

Insurance Producer Authorization - Renewal, Reinstatement, and Suspension or Revocation of Authorization: COMAR 14.35.05.02

Captive Producer Training and Authorization Standards Authority:

COMAR 14.35.08.*

Appeals from Determinations Regarding Producer Authorization or Individual Exchange Navigator Certification: COMAR 14.35.10.01

Application Counselor Training and Certification Standards:

COMAR 14.35.13.06 and .09

According to the exchange, the purpose of this action is to require insurance producers to pass an examination after training in order to achieve authorization to sell health plans on Maryland Health Connection and to allow MHBE discretion to refuse to reauthorize producers who have had disciplinary action taken against them. This action also proposes to codify existing examination and certification requirements for navigators and application counselors, and to codify the termination of the Captive Producer Program.

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 25-088

Independent Agencies: Program Services:

Attendant Care Program: COMAR 14.11.01.01 – .14

According to the program, the purpose of this action is to update COMAR 14.11.01-14.11.13 to be in accordance with Ch. 35 (S.B. 226), which expands the purpose of the Attendant Care Program in the Department of Disabilities to include providing financial assistance to an eligible individual for “ongoing additional supports.” It also provides clarifying language on the general operations of the Program and repeals the provision on Advanced Payments.

Labor, Maryland Department of

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 25-081

Maryland Department of Labor: Job Service:

Economic Stabilization: COMAR 09.33.02.01 – .06, .08, and .09

According to the department, the purpose of this action is based on the passing of Senate Bill 780 which became law in the 2020 legislative session and Senate Bill 801 which was adopted in 2021, both of which amend certain aspects of the Economic Stabilization Act. Updated regulations are needed to reflect these changes and to ensure proper procedures in administration, execution, and oversight of the Economic Stabilization Act. These regulations will:

1. Change reporting guidelines for eligible employers from voluntary to mandatory;
2. Outline exceptions to the act;
3. Add definitions for “Employer,” “Employee,” and “Secretary” and updates the definition to “reduction in operations;”
4. Change the timeline of written notice from an employer before a reduction in operations;
5. Give the MD Labor Secretary or the Secretary’s designee authority to compel compliance; and
6. Grant violation and penalty discretion to the MD Labor Secretary or the Secretary’s designee.

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 25-082

Maryland Department of Labor: Office of Cemetery Oversight:

Crematories — Definitions: COMAR 09.34.05.02

Crematories-Permit and Registration Process and Fees:

COMAR 09.34.06.02 – .07 and .14

Crematories — Inspections, Complaints, and Discipline: COMAR 09.34.07.02

Crematories — [Cremation] Crematory Procedures:

COMAR 09.34.08.01 – .03, .05 – .08, and .10 – .12

Crematories — Code of Ethics: COMAR 09.34.09.02

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to expand the options available for Marylanders for the final disposition of human remains by regulating alkaline hydrolysis in order to protect the dignity and needs those who choose alkaline hydrolysis.

Higher Education Commission, Maryland

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 25-086

Maryland Higher Education Commission: Financial Aid:

Charles W Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member

Scholarship Program: COMAR 13B.08.03.02, .04, and .09

According to the commission, the purpose of this action is to (1) eliminate the current eligibility requirement that an applicant enroll in an undergraduate degree or certificate program, (2) amend or remove outdated text, and (3) make other changes to align the regulations with the requirements of Chs. 223 and, Acts of 2024.

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 25-087

Maryland Higher Education Commission: Financial Aid:

Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship: COMAR 13B.08.23.07 and .08

According to the commission, the purpose of this action is to (1) make an adjustment to the allocation method for the Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship, allowing community colleges to receive initial funding notifications by August 15, (2) allocate funds annually based on each college's proportional share of total FTE enrollment in workforce development sequences, and (3) allow colleges to receive half of their calculated annual allocation, with the remaining funds to be distributed at a later date determined by the Office after the initial disbursement.

Education, State Board of

Proposed Regulation

DLS Control No. 25-077

State Board of Education: Certification:

Suspensions and Revocations: COMAR 13A.12.05.05

According to the board, the purpose of this action is to repeal and replace the licensure requirements for principals, assistant principals, and supervisors of instruction. The new regulations expand the pathways to licensure and modify the specific courses required for those who earn a licensure outside of an administrator preparation program.