



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: October 23, 2026

Re: **Synopses of Regulations received from 10/13/2026 through 10/22/2026**

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
Michelle Firmin
Erin Hopwood

Assessments and Taxation, Department of

Proposed Regulation

DLS Control No. 26-203

Department of Assessments and Taxation: Business Organizations:

Acceptance of Documents: COMAR 18.04.07.02

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to add a process by which a corrected document may retain its original filing date if it is resubmitted and accepted for record within 30 days after the initial notice of rejection.

Proposed Regulation

DLS Control No. 26-208

Department of Assessments and Taxation: Personal Property Assessments:

General: COMAR 18.03.01.01

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to Implement Senate Bill 331 from the 2019 MGA legislative session.

Department of Human Services

Proposed Regulation

DLS Control No. 26-199

Department of Human Services:

Social Services Administration Private Child Placement Agencies:

Private Adoption: COMAR 07.05.03.10

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to relieve the burden of face to face initial inquiries for private adoption agencies. The in-person requirement is unnecessarily burdensome considering inquiry interviews occur prior to submitting an application to become an adoptive parent. In virtual and telephone inquiry interviews, potential applicants can also ask questions in real time before deciding whether to submit an application. Additionally, face-to-face interviews are already part of the application and home study process, and at least one interview must occur in the applicant's home. Therefore, a face-to-face inquiry interview is an unnecessary barrier for individuals exploring adoption.

Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of

Proposed Regulation

DLS Control No. 26-206

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services: Parole Commission:

General Regulations: COMAR 12.08.01.03

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to update the number of commissioners that make up the Maryland Parole Commission to align with Correctional Services Article, §7-202, Annotated Code of Maryland, and to revise the formatting of Regulation .03 to conform to COMAR style requirements.

Environment, Department of the

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 26-204

Department of the Environment: Hazardous Substances Response Plan:

Procedures for Hazardous Substance Response: COMAR 26.14.01.02

Voluntary Cleanup Program: COMAR 26.14.03.02

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to revise COMAR 26.14 so that State regulations for the Voluntary Cleanup Program include those per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that were added to the definition hazardous substances in the federal regulations as of July 8, 2024, in 40 CFR §302.4. This action revises the regulations in COMAR 26.14 is to ensure that, for the purposes of MDE's Voluntary Cleanup Program, "contamination" includes releases, discharges, or threatened releases of materials identified as hazardous substances under CERCLA (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act).

The revisions to COMAR 26.14 are intended to ensure that releases of CERCLA hazardous substances are subject to cleanup provisions without making them controlled hazardous substances under the State's hazardous waste regulations (COMAR 26.13.01 – 26.13.10) since PFAS have not been designated as federal RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) hazardous wastes.

Transportation, Department of

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 26-200

Department of Transportation: Maryland Transportation Authority:

Electronic Toll Collection and Toll Violation Enforcement:

COMAR 11.07.07.02 and .06

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to amend COMAR 11.07.07.02 and 11.07.07.06 to allow the Maryland Transportation Authority to toll a Class G vehicle (trailer) but only if the license plate image of the motor vehicle cannot be captured or the registered owner cannot be determined from the image, Based on CY 2025 transactions, the MDTA estimates that it loses approximately \$11 million annually in uncollected revenue from commercial vehicles due to its inability to notice the owner of a Class G vehicle, These amendments align with H.B. 246 of the 2026 session of the Maryland General Assembly. H.B. 246 was signed into law on May 12, 2026, and takes effect on January 1, 2027.

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 26-209

Department of Transportation: State Highway Administration:

Heavy Weight Port Corridor Permit: COMAR 11.04.17.04 and .05

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to provide for the SHA Motor Carrier Division, Hauling Permits Unit to authorize routes of travel directly within the Heavy Weight Port Corridor Permit to reflect statutory changes from Chapters 120 and 121 of 2026 (Vehicle Laws - Heavy Weight Port Corridor Permits - Regulations).

Maryland Cannabis Administration

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 26-211

Independent Agencies: Maryland Cannabis Administration:

Social Equity: COMAR 14.17.03.01 and .03

According to the administration, the purpose of this action is to increase the number of qualifying partnerships and aggregate dollar amount of qualifying partnerships per fiscal year to promote enhanced participation by both operational cannabis licensees and social equity licensees within the Social Equity Partnership Grant Program.

Maryland Department of Health

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 26-202

Maryland Department of Health: Freestanding Ambulatory Care Facilities:

Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Facilities: COMAR 10.05.05.05 and .09

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to (1) amend the requirements for the reappointment term of a provider at a freestanding ambulatory surgical facility to align the requirements with that of the facility's accreditation organization, if applicable; and (2) remove obsolete requirements relating to written transfer agreements for Medicare participating hospitals.

Proposed Regulation

DLS Control No. 26-205

Maryland Department of Health: Hospitals:

Residential Service Agencies: COMAR 10.07.05.10

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to establish requirements for reporting and publication of data for the creation of a registry for home health care providers in the State.

Proposed Regulation

DLS Control No. 26-207

Maryland Department of Health: Health Services Cost Review Commission:

Uniform Accounting and Reporting System for Hospitals and Related Institutions:

COMAR 10.37.01.02

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to update the Commission's manual entitled "Accounting and Budget manual for Fiscal and Operation Management (October 1, 2024)," which has been incorporated by reference.