



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:** March 27, 2026

**Re:** **Synopses of Regulations received from 3/13/2026 through 3/26/2026**

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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

### **Elections, State Board of**

#### **Proposed Regulations**

**DLS Control No. 26-028**

**Board of Elections: Disclosure by Persons Employing A Lobbyist:**

**Statement of Contributions:** COMAR 33.22.01.01

**Penalties:** COMAR 33.22.02.01

According to the board, the purpose of this action is to (1) implement Senate Bill 15 from the 2022 MGA legislative session and (2) implement Senate Bill 15 from the 2022 MGA legislative session

### **Natural Resources, Department of**

#### **Proposed Regulation**

**DLS Control No. 26-044**

**Department of Natural Resources:**

**Boating–Speed Limits and Operation of Vessels:**

**General:** COMAR 08.18.01.04

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to establish a process to delineate speed zones and restricted areas by public notice for the instances laid out in Natural Resources Article, §8-725.9, Annotated Code of Maryland (2025 Md. Laws, Chap. 433). Natural Resources Article, §8-725.9, Annotated Code of Maryland, allows the Department to establish or alter by public notice an area where vessel movement is controlled, limited, or restricted as designated by the U.S. Coast Guard or another federal agency, or, if the Department determines public safety is at risk and it is contrary to the public interest to delay action, a speed zone near: (1) a construction project on or adjacent to State waters; (2) a marine event; or (3) an accident or other emergent situation.

The proposed action establishes the process for issuing a public notice to implement the statute. The proposed action requires the public notice to be posted on the Department’s website a minimum of 24 hours in advance of the effective date. The public notice will also be disseminated through various other media (e.g., social media, email lists, publishing in the Maryland Register, etc.) and buoys will be placed in the area so that an affected individual has a reasonable opportunity to be informed. Creating or modifying speed zones or restricted areas by public notice will allow the Department to better manage the use of state waters in times of emergency or in response to short-term needs.

**Public Safety and Correctional Services, Department of**

**Proposed Regulations**

**DLS Control No. 26-041**

**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services: Parole Commission:**

**Geriatric Parole:** COMAR 12.08.03.01 – .06

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to establish the eligibility criteria for incarcerated individuals to be considered for geriatric parole and the procedures for hearing, evaluating, and deciding geriatric parole cases before the Parole Commission. These regulations align with Correctional Services Article, §7-310, Annotated Code of Maryland.

**Criminal Sentencing Policy, Commission on**

**Proposed Regulations**

**DLS Control No. 26-048**

**Independent Agencies: Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy:**

**General Regulations:** COMAR 14.22.01.01, .02, and .10

**Criminal Offenses and Seriousness Categories:** COMAR 14.22.02.02

According to the commission, the purpose of this action is to modify Regulations .01, .02, and .10 under COMAR 14.22.01 General Regulations to clarify that criminal desertion is not a guidelines offense. This is not a new guidelines rule but rather clarification of an existing rule. Additionally, the purpose of this action is to modify Regulation .02 under COMAR 14.22.02 Criminal Offenses and Seriousness Categories to reflect (1) the addition of three previously unclassified offenses; (2) the reclassification of one offense from property to person; (3) the addition of two offenses with a maximum penalty of one year or less since they may be prosecuted in circuit courts; and (4) minor edits to the table, including a slight revision to an offense description and the correction of a statute.

**Maryland Department of Health**

**Proposed Regulations**

**DLS Control No. 26-042**

**Maryland Department of Health: Board of Massage Therapy Examiners:**

**Handheld Tools:** COMAR 10.65.12.01 – .04

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to add a new chapter for handheld tools pursuant to Ch. 788, Acts of 2024.

**Proposed Regulations**

**DLS Control No. 26-045**

**Maryland Department of Health: Board of Nursing:**

**Nurse Psychotherapists in Independent Practice:**

COMAR 10.27.12.02, .05, .06, and .09

**Practice of Clinical Nurse Specialist:** COMAR 10.27.27.01, .04, .06, and .07

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to define “clinical nurse specialist” and “practice as a clinical nurse specialist,” and update scope of practice for the purpose of authorizing clinical nurse specialists to prescribe drugs and durable medical equipment, pursuant to House Bill 278, Health Occupations – Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing, 2023, Ch. 328 and Senate Bill 213, Health Occupations – Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing, 2023, Ch. 327.

**Proposed Regulations**

**DLS Control No. 26-046**

**Maryland Department of Health: Maryland HealthChoice Program:**

**MCO Application:** COMAR 10.67.03.08

**Managed Care Organizations:** COMAR 10.67.04.02, .03-2, and .20

**Benefits:** COMAR 10.67.06.07 and .28

**MCO Dispute Resolution Procedures:** COMAR 10.67.09.02 and .04

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to (1) clarify managed care organization requirements to maintain health plan and health outcomes accreditation; (2) update enrollee identification and pharmacy card requirements to align with federal regulation; (3) specify requirements regarding incentive plan disclosures; (4) update performance measures for the Population Health Incentive Program for measurement year 2026; (5) clarify coverage for newborns during hospitalizations of birthing parents after labor without requiring enrollee notification of the MCO; (6) extend self-referral for doula services through December 31, 2026; (7) establish clearer timelines for written grievance acknowledgements; and (8) change the standard preauthorization timeframe from 14 days to 7 days.

**Proposed Regulations**

**DLS Control No. 26-047**

**Maryland Department of Health:**

**Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, and Speech Language Pathologists:**

**Code of Ethics:** COMAR 10.41.02.02 and .04

**Licensure and Continuing Education:** COMAR 10.41.03.02, .03, and .06

**Music Therapy:** COMAR 10.41.05.02 and .04 – .07

**Cerumen Management:** COMAR 10.41.07.02 – .05

**Hearing Aid Dispensers:** COMAR 10.41.08.01-1, .02 – .06, and .08 – .14

**Speech-Language Pathology Assistants:** COMAR 10.41.11.01, .06, .07, .09, and .10

**Supervision of Students:** COMAR 10.41.12.03 and .04

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to (1) update ethical responsibilities; (2) update and clarify licensure and continuing education requirements; (3) revise and update certain definitions; (4) add scope of practice for hearing aid dispensers; (5) update the sale of hearing aid software guidelines to be consistent with Maryland law; and (6) remove obsolete language.

**Proposed Regulations**

**DLS Control No. 26-050**

**Maryland Department of Health: Maryland Health Care Commission:**

**Benchmarks for Preauthorization of Health Care Services:**

COMAR 10.25.17.01 – .06

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to propose amendments and a new regulation to COMAR 10.25.17. Legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly (Chapter 848/Senate Bill 791 and Chapter 847/House Bill 932, Health Insurance - Utilization Review – Revisions, 2024) requires payors to establish and maintain an online process that meets specified parameters by July 1, 2026. The law requires MHCC to establish by regulation a process through which a health care provider may request and receive a waiver of compliance from ensuring that the provider's e-prescribing or electronic health record system has the ability to access, at the point of prescribing, electronic prior authorization and real-time patient out-of-pocket cost information and available medication alternatives through the payor's online process. The proposed amendments: (1) clarify the scope of the chapter; (2) add new definitions and clarify existing definitions for certain terms; (3) add a requirement for payors to implement an online process, consistent with State law; (4) add a process for providers to request a waiver; (5) clarify financial penalties for noncompliance; and (6) include other miscellaneous, non-substantive updates.

**Public Service Commission**

**Emergency Regulations**

**DLS Control No. 26-051**

**Public Service Commission: Service Supplied by Electric Companies:**

**Small Generator Interconnection Standards:**

COMAR 20.50.09.02, .05, .06, and .09 – .14

According to the commission, COMAR 20.50.09 is being revised to expedite regulations to remove obstacles to the interconnection of utility-scale projects to facilitate projects meeting tax credit expiration deadlines, to offset the impacts of H.R.1, Public Law No: 119-21, otherwise known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act ("OBBBA"). Utility-scale projects must commence construction by July 4, 2026, or be placed in service by December 31, 2027, to receive Federal Clean Energy Investment (48E) investment tax credits. These emergency regulations will expire on October 1, 2026, or at such time before then when new regulations are promulgated in accordance with State Government Article, §§10-101-10-126.

**Education, State Board of**

**Proposed Regulations**

**DLS Control No. 26-043**

**State Board of Education: Certification:**

**Suspensions and Revocations: COMAR 13A.12.05.05, .06, and .10**

According to the board, the purpose of this action is to align the language with other regulations and clarify the rules associated with reinstating a historic administrator licensure area.