



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: September 11, 2026

Re: **Synopses of Regulations received from 8/28/2026 through 9/10/2026**

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

Budget and Management, Department of

Proposed Regulation

DLS Control No. 26-166

Department of Budget and Management: Personnel Services and Benefits:

Recruitment, Examinations, Selections, and Employment: COMAR 17.04.03.22

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to establish and incorporate minimum qualifications for Chief Financial Officer positions into regulations in accordance with Senate Bill 859 of the 2026 Legislative Session.

Housing and Community Development, Department of

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 26-169

Department of Housing and Community Development:

Tenant's Exclusive Negotiation Period and Right of First Refusal:

Procedure: COMAR 05.22.01.01

Tenant's Optional Positive Rental Payment History Reporting:

COMAR 05.22.02.01 – .07

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to describe procedures and requirements for certain landlords to offer tenants optional positive rental payment history reporting, required under Ch. 773, SB 335, Acts of 2026.

Natural Resources, Department of

Proposed Regulation

DLS Control No. 26-164

Department of Natural Resources: Fisheries Service:

General: COMAR 08.02.01.11

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to update and clarify the requirements for obtaining a black bass tournament permit. Currently, a permit is only mandatory if a tournament meets three specific criteria: having ten or more boats, having a specific weigh-in or entry location, and providing an offer or reward for catching black bass. The proposed action modifies the criteria and requires non-possession based tournaments with catch-weigh-release or catch-photo-release formats to obtain a permit if the tournament fishing occurs either exclusively in Maryland, or in Maryland and up to two additional jurisdictions (for example, waters under the jurisdiction of Virginia or the Potomac River Fisheries Commission). The proposed action also clarifies that the reward or incentive offered must be specifically for black bass. These changes ensure the Department is capturing relevant tournament information specific to black bass.

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 26-165

Department of Natural Resources: Fisheries Service:

Fishing in Nontidal Waters: COMAR 08.02.11.01 and .03

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to update the rules for trout fishing in Governor Bridge Pond, Waterworks Park Pond, the lower Savage River, and Owens Creek. Since the proposed action makes changes to several different areas for different reasons, the specific actions taken are described below.

Governor Bridge Pond (Prince George's County)

The proposed action adds this area to the list of put-and-take trout fishing areas and establishes a closure of zero, which means that the creel limit is five trout per person per day and the area is open to trout fishing year round. By designating the pond as a put-and-take trout fishing area, law enforcement will be simplified by making the regulations consistent with all other trout-stocked ponds in the region and will give anglers in the urban area an increased opportunity to harvest trout.

Waterworks Park Pond (Anne Arundel County)

Currently, this area is designated as a catch and return area for all species, however, the Department would like to allow the harvest of trout. The proposed action adds this area to the list of put-and-take trout fishing areas and establishes a closure of zero, which means that the creel limit is five trout per person per day and the area is open to trout fishing year round. The proposed action also modifies the catch and return rules for this area to allow an individual to keep their limit of trout, but maintains the rule that all other species must be returned to the pond. By designating the pond as a put-and-take trout fishing area, law enforcement will be simplified by making the regulations consistent with all other trout-stocked ponds in the region and will give anglers in the urban area an increased opportunity to harvest trout.

Lower Savage River (Garrett County)

The proposed action changes the designation for the areas of the lower Savage River that are currently listed as trophy trout fishing areas to catch-and-return trout fishing areas. The Savage River mainstem from the Savage River Reservoir Dam downstream to the lower suspension bridge (Allegany Bridge) is established as a catch-and-return trout fishing area that is limited to artificial fly fishing. The Savage River mainstem from the downstream side of the Route 135 bridge upstream for a distance of approximately 2.7 miles to the lower suspension bridge (Allegany Bridge) is established as a catch-and-return trout fishing area that is limited to the use of artificial lures and also includes a ban for treble hooks. The treble hook ban is a result of public comment received for the changes in that area of the river.

The Department continuously evaluates freshwater fishing regulations for efficacy based on fishery dependent and independent monitoring efforts. Currently, the Savage River tailwater trout fishery is managed under trophy trout harvest restrictions, although fishery-independent data suggests that trout only rarely reach the minimum size for harvest under those restrictions.

Additionally, a 2025 creel survey demonstrated that, although a small percentage of anglers intended to harvest trout, the total trout harvest on the river was zero, despite more than 1,800 angler hours per mile expended and each adult trout in the river being caught nearly twice each year on average. Changing to catch-and-return will better align angler expectations with reality and is necessary to provide adequate protection for this heavily used fishery, in part due to barbless hook restrictions that accompany that designation.

Owens Creek (Frederick County)

The proposed action adds the upper sections of Owens Creek that are located on Catoctin Mountain Park (U.S. National Park Service) property to the list of catch-and-return, artificial fly fishing only areas. This change adds bait and tackle restrictions and requires catch and release for any trout, including brown trout. Declines in brook trout numbers in this upper section of Owens Creek warrant further protection of the population. The catch-and-return, artificial fly fishing only regulations are the most protective angling regulations that can be applied. Adopting this change on sections of Owens Creek on federal property will match the catch-and-return, artificial fly fishing only regulations on the Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park sections of Big Hunting Creek.

Environment, Department of the

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 26-163

Department of the Environment: Water Pollution:

Water Quality: COMAR 26.08.02.03-2, .03-3, .04, .04-2, and .08

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to amend existing regulations under COMAR 26.08.02. Federal regulations at 40 CFR §131.20 require that states review and, as necessary, revise their water quality standards every three years. This review process is known as the Triennial Review. This action fulfills Maryland's Triennial Review requirement. The review revealed several necessary amendments and additions to the water quality standards, including: (1) Updates to numeric toxics criteria; (2) adopting recreational criteria for cyanotoxins; (3) updates to the list of "Tier II" (high quality) waters; (4) amending designated uses which reflect existing uses.

Transportation, Department of

Proposed Regulation

DLS Control No. 26-171

Department of Transportation:

Motor Vehicle Administration—Driver License and Identification Card:

Point System: Definition of Moving Violation and Assessment of Points:

COMAR 11.17.13.02

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to amend regulations to add a moving violation that will result in a one-point assessment on an individual's driving record upon conviction pursuant to the passage of Ch. 667 (S.B. 698) and Ch. 668 (H.B. 474), Acts of 2026.

Proposed Regulation

DLS Control No. 26-172

Department of Transportation:

Motor Vehicle Administration — Administrative Procedures:

Motor Vehicle Fees: COMAR 11.11.05.04

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to reduce the fee for the issuance of a nonresident permit for a member of the uniformed services and is serving on active duty in this State or an adjoining state or the District of Columbia.

Energy Administration, Maryland

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 26-151

Independent Agencies: Maryland Energy Administration:

Jane E. Lawton Conservation Program: COMAR 14.26.01.01 – .18

According to the administration, the purpose of this action is to update and align Maryland Energy Administration regulations with recent statutory changes. The General Assembly transferred Section(s) 9–20A–01 through 9–20A–10 and the subtitle “Subtitle 20A. The Jane E. Lawton Conservation Loan Program” of Article – State Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland during the recent legislative session to be Sections 10–862 through 10–871, respectively, and the part “Part VII. The Jane E. Lawton Conservation Loan Program” of Article – Economic Development of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Administration is aligning its regulations with this change.

Maryland Department of Health

Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 26-170

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; and (5) remove obsolete language.

Labor, Maryland Department of

Proposed Regulation

DLS Control No. 26-167

Maryland Department of Labor: Board of Master Electricians:

General Regulations: COMAR 09.09.03.03

According to the department, the purpose of this action is to is to adopt a new regulation to require that to be eligible for a master electrician license, an applicant must have held a current journeyman electrician license for at least three years and, during that period, shall have completed the 3-year work experience requirement for a master license.

Lottery and Gaming Control Agency, Maryland State

Emergency/Proposed Regulations

DLS Control No. 26-168

Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency:

Instant Bingo Machines in Anne Arundel and Calvert Counties:

General: COMAR 36.07.01.01 and .03

Technical Standards: COMAR 36.07.06.08

According to the agency, according to the department, the regulation change is being requested because of legislative changes to Criminal Law Article, § 12-308, Annotated Code of

Maryland (effective July 1, 2026), which provides that an electronic instant bingo machine is not required to print a paper ticket for each game of instant bingo played unless the player elects to print the ticket. This proposed amendment adding new §F would implement legislative changes to Criminal Law Article, § 12-308, Annotated Code of Maryland (effective July 1, 2026), which provides that an electronic instant bingo machine is not required to print a paper ticket for each game of instant bingo played unless the player elects to print the ticket. The proposed amendment to §D is stylistic, consistent with the Style Manual for Maryland Regulations.