MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026

Legislative Update

March 16, 2026

LEGISLATION

WSSC Water-Sponsored

1. HB 1230 (PG/MC 102-26): Prince George's County and Montgomery County – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Procurement – Altercations

Bi-County Legislation

2. HB 1185 (PG/MC 104-26): Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Personnel Management – Disciplinary Actions
3. HB 328 (PG/MC 105-26): Bicounty Commissions – Public Ethics – Financial Disclosure Statements
4. PG/MC 107-26): Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Vendor Registration **(WITHDRAWN)**

Statewide Legislation

5. HB 43: Procurement – Advertising – Local News Organizations (Local Newspapers for Maryland Communities Act of 2026)
6. HB 91: Agriculture – Neonicotinoid Pesticides – Prohibitions
7. HB 155: Public Safety – Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Face Coverings
8. HB 204: Drinking Water – Regulation – Control and Prevention of Waterborne Disease
9. HB 220/SB 130: Environment – Water – Individual Unit Meters
10. HB 1268/SB 781: Environmental Permits - Requirements for Burden Analysis, Issuance and Renewal, and Public Participation (Cumulative Harms for Environmental Restoration for Improving Shared Health - CHERISH Our Communities Act)
11. HB 1538: Land Use - Accessory Dwelling Units - Requirements and Prohibitions (Maryland Generational Housing Act of 2026)
12. HB 508/SB 330: Public Safety – Police Accountability – Investigation Records Relating to Not Administratively Charged, Unfounded, and Exonerated Complaints
13. HB 513: Hate Crimes and Hate Bias – Definitions of Sexual Orientation and Hate Bias Incident
14. HB 553/SB 286: Public Safety – Elevator Inspection Certificates – Searchable Database
15. HB 556: Property Tax Credit – Utility Service Expenses for Dwellings (Maryland Family Utility Tax Relief Act)
16. HB 572/SB 432: Attorney General Actions and Climate Crimes Accountability Fund (Climate Crimes Accountability Act)
17. HB 634: Police Training – Autism and Dementia (LEAD Act of 2026)

18. HB 699: Maryland Use of Force Statute – Failure to Prevent Excessive Force or Render First Aid – Misdemeanor
19. HB 721/SB 243: Uniformed Services Spouses Act
20. HB 925/SB 719: Sewage Sludge - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – Regulation
21. HB 1022/SB 686: PFAS Chemicals – Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements
22. HB 1082: Large Load Customers – Data Centers and Rate Schedule Requirements
23. HB 1595/SB 427: Property Taxes – Authority of Counties to Establish a Subclass and Set a Special Rate for Personal Property of Data Centers
24. HB 1621: Wastewater Treatment Plants – Discharges – Monitoring, Reporting, and Requirements
25. SB 143: Public Works Contracts – Apprenticeship Requirements (Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act)
26. SB 992: Public Utilities – Large Load Customers – Registration and Demand Response Program
27. HB 0113: Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records - Resisting Arrest and Making a False Statement to a Law Enforcement Officer
28. HB 0187 / SB 320: Criminal Procedure - Expungement - No Finding and Case Terminated Without Finding

WSSC WATER-SPONSORED LEGISLATION

1. HB 1230 (PG/MC 102-26) Prince George's County and Montgomery County – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Procurement – Alterations	
SUMMARY: *FOR the purpose of repealing the name of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Office of Supplier Diversity and Inclusion; authorizing the Commission to name the Office; altering the purpose and duties of the Office; altering the local small business enterprise program to include local or small businesses or certain other businesses; authorizing the Commission to accept as a registered vendor any person that is registered as a vendor with another jurisdiction or has self-certified as a vendor in a certain manner; and generally relating to procurement by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.*	
Commission Position	
SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS	
House Positions	**House Activity**
• PGCHD – SUPPORT (3/6) • MCHD – SUPPORT (2/27)	MCHD Metro Washington Committee: Support (2/23) Environment and Transportation Committee: Hearing held 3/13/26 at 1:00 p.m.
Senate Positions	**Senate Activity**
• PGCSD - SUPPORT • MCSD - SUPPORT	
County Positions	**County Activity**
• MCCEx - • MC Council - • PGCCEx – SUPPORT (3/10/26) • PGC Council – SUPPORT (3/10/26)	Montgomery County Council State Legislative Program – 2/23/26

WSSC WATER-RELATED LEGISLATION

2. HB 1185 (PG/MC 104-26) Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Personnel Management – Disciplinary Actions	
SUMMARY: *FOR the purpose of requiring the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to take certain actions before suspending or removing an employee of the Commission; providing that the Commission may take any disciplinary action not later than within a certain number of days after the Commission acquires knowledge of the misconduct for which the disciplinary action is imposed; authorizing an employee who is suspended for disciplinary purposes to appeal to the Office of Administrative Hearings; requiring the Office to dispose of a case or conduct a hearing and issue a final decision in an appeal under this Act; and generally relating to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.*	
Commission Position	
House Positions	**House Activity**
• PGCHD – SUPPORT w/ Amendments (3/5) • MCHD – SUPPORT w/ Amendments (2/27)	MCHD - Metro Washington Committee Work Session: SUPPORT w/ Amendments (2/23/26) Environment and Transportation Committee: Hearing held 3/13/26 at 1:00 p.m.
Senate Positions	**Senate Activity**
• PGCSD - • MCSD -	
County Positions	**County Activity**
• MCCEx - • MC Council - • PGCCEx - • PGC Council - SUPPORT	

3. HB 328 (PG/MC 105-26) Bicounty Commissions – Public Ethics – Financial Disclosure Statements	
SUMMARY: *FOR the purpose of requiring an applicant for appointment as a commissioner of a bicounty commission to submit a certain statement to the Prince George's County Office of Ethics and Accountability; requiring the chief administrative officer for Prince George's County to transmit the financial disclosure statements of commissioners or appointed applicants of bicounty commissions to the Office; requiring the Office, rather than the chief administrative officer for Prince George's County, to retain the statements, return the statements to certain applicants under certain circumstances, provide certain notice to the State Ethics Commission, record certain information of individuals examining or copying the statement, and maintain, make available, and establish procedures governing the inspection of the statements; and generally relating to financial disclosure statements for commissioners and applicants for appointment as commissioners of bicounty commissions*.	
Commission Position	
N/A	
House Positions	**House Activity**
• PGCHD - SUPPORT • MCHD – SUPPORT	In the House - First Reading: Government, Labor, and Elections
Senate Positions	**Senate Activity**
County Positions	**County Activity**

4. PG/MC 107-26 Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Vendor Registration **WITHDRAWN**	
SUMMARY: *FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to accept as a registered vendor any person that is registered as a vendor with Montgomery County or Prince George's County; authorizing the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to enter into certain memoranda of understanding with Montgomery County and Prince George's County; and generally relating to procurement by the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.*	
Commission Position	
House Positions	**House Activity**
• PGCHD - • MCHD -	Delegation Public Bill Hearings – PGCHD (Dec. 1); MCHD (Dec. 4)
Senate Positions	**Senate Activity**
• PGCSD - • MCSD -	
County Positions	**County Activity**

5. HB 204/SB 264 Drinking Water – Regulation – Control and Prevention of Waterborne Disease	
SUMMARY: *The bill sets new requirements to control Legionella and other harmful bacteria in public water systems. It requires water suppliers to report certain disruptions, mandates investigations of reported Legionnaires' disease cases, and requires certain buildings to implement water management programs. It also directs state agencies to share information publicly, create education campaigns, and use collected penalties to support disease-prevention efforts.*	
Commission Position	
INFORMATION ONLY	
House Positions	**House Activity**
	T&E Hearing (2/4/26)
Senate Positions	**Senate Activity**
	EEE Hearing (2/10/26)
Other Positions	Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) – Oppose Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (MAMWA) – Oppose

6. HB 925/SB 719 Sewage Sludge - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances - Regulation	
SUMMARY: *Establishing restrictions on the land application, on or after October 1, 2027, of sewage sludge or products containing sewage sludge with total concentrations of certain regulated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances equal to or greater than certain levels; authorizing, on or before September 30, 2029, a person to blend sewage sludge from multiple sources for a certain purpose and subject to certain regulations and requirements; establishing certain monitoring protocols;*	
Commission Position	
SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS	
House Positions	**House Activity**
	HB 925 heard before Environment and Transportation Hearing 2/25. Reported out Favorable w/ Amendments (3/16/26)
Senate Positions	**Senate Activity**
	EEE Hearing 2/24 at 1:00 p.m. (SB 719)
Other Positions	

7. **HB 1022/SB 686: PFAS Chemicals – Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements**	
SUMMARY: *House Bill 1022 and Senate Bill 686 phases out the sale of many consumer products containing intentionally added PFAS chemicals in Maryland, establishes mandatory product registration and disclosure, creates a dedicated fund for PFAS assessment and remediation, and implements strong enforcement and funding mechanisms to protect public health and the environment.*	
Commission Position	
SUPPORT	
House Positions	**House Activity**
	~~T&E Hearing 3/5 at 1:00 p.m. (HB 1022)~~ Hearing Canceled Health Hearing 3/10 at 1:00 p.m. and T& E Hearing 3/10 at 1:00 p.m.
Senate Positions	**Senate Activity**
	EEE Hearing 2/24 at 1:00 p.m. (SB 686)
Other Positions	

8. HB 721/SB 243: Uniformed Services Spouses Act	
SUMMARY: *Senate Bill 243, titled the Uniformed Services Spouses Act, amends several sections of Maryland law to expand benefits and preferences previously reserved for veterans and active service members to also include their spouses*.	
Commission Position	
SUPPORT	
House Positions	**House Activity**
	Third Reading Passed (133-0 on 3/12/26). Referred Education, Energy, and the Environment
Senate Positions	**Senate Activity**
	EEE Hearing 2/12 at 2:00 p.m. (SB 243) Third Reading Passed (44-0 on 2/26/26)
Other Positions	

9. HB 1621: Wastewater Treatment Plants - Discharges - Monitoring, Reporting, and Requirements (Late Filed)	
SUMMARY: *Requiring the Department of the Environment to monitor effluent discharged from wastewater treatment plants for certain substances; establishing certain requirements for certain wastewater treatment plants; requiring the Department to establish certain bacterial action levels; prohibiting certain wastewater treatment plants from taking part in the Water Quality Trading Program; requiring the Department to establish a publicly available and searchable database containing certain information; etc.*	
Commission Position	
UNDER REVIEW	
House Positions	**House Activity**
	Heard before E&T Committee on 3/13
Senate Positions	**Senate Activity**
Other Positions	

10. HB1484/S.B.0781: Environmental Permits - Requirements for Burden Analysis, Issuance and Renewal, and Public Participation (Cumulative Harms for Environmental Restoration for Improving Shared Health - CHERISH Our Communities Act)	
SUMMARY: *The legislation introduces new requirements for environmental permits, particularly for projects identified as having a heightened potential for adverse community environmental and public health impacts. It mandates that applicants for such permits include an environmental impact analysis and, if applicable, an existing burden report. The Department of the Environment is tasked with determining whether a project may contribute to increased adverse impacts and is required to deny permits under certain conditions, with exceptions for projects serving essential community needs. The bill also stipulates that a portion of revenue from enforcement actions against facilities in at-risk areas be allocated to a special fund to support affected communities. Amendments to existing laws include changes to the Environment Article, specifically sections 1–601(a), 1–601.1, 1–602(a), and 2–405(a), and the addition of sections 1–703 through 1–705. The legislation outlines specific timelines, with the act set to take effect on October 1, 2025.*	
Commission Position	
UNDER REVIEW	
House Positions	**House Activity**
Senate Positions	**Senate Activity**
Other Positions	

Other Legislation

Bill #	Title/Description	Position	Status/Notes
11. HB 1538: Land Use - Accessory Dwelling Units - Requirements and Prohibitions (Maryland Generational Housing Act of 2026)	Requires Maryland localities to permit at least one internal and one external accessory dwelling unit per single-family lot, limits local and utility fees, and exempts family-occupied ADUs from property tax, thereby promoting affordable, multigenerational housing.	**MONITOR**	
12. HB 220/SB 130: Environment - Water - Individual Unit Meters	This bill enables the installation of individual water meters in multi-unit dwellings, ensures fair allocation and transparency of water costs, mandates leak detection, protects tenants from eviction over unpaid water bills, and establishes a complaint process. Sponsor: Del. Charkoudian	**MONITOR**	
13. HB 556: Property Tax Credit - Utility Service Expenses for Dwellings (Maryland Family Utility Tax Relief Act)	This bill enables Maryland local governments to offer property tax credits to residents whose utility expenses exceed 25% of their net income, with implementation beginning in the 2026 tax year.	**UNDER REVIEW**	
14. HB 155: Public Safety - Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Face Coverings	The bill prohibits Maryland law enforcement officers from wearing face coverings while on duty, except in narrowly defined situations, to promote transparency and accountability, with violations subject to criminal and civil penalties.	**MONITOR**	

15. HB 91: Agriculture-Neonicotinoid Pesticides-Prohibitions	This bill would ban the sale, distribution, and use of neonicotinoid-treated corn, soybean, and wheat seeds; prohibits neonicotinoid use on outdoor ornamental plants and turf; and allows the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Departments of the Environment and Natural Resources, to temporarily suspend these prohibitions under specified conditions.	**MONITOR**	
16. HB 43: Procurement - Advertising - Local News Organizations (Local Newspapers for Maryland Communities Act of 2026)	Requiring units of State government to ensure that at least 50% of the unit's total dollar value of procurement contracts for print and digital advertising is being made directly to local news organizations.	**MONITOR**	
17. SB 143: Public Works Contracts - Apprenticeship Requirements (Maryland Workforce Apprenticeship Utilization Act)	Revising apprenticeship requirements for public works contracts by adjusting apprentice and journey worker staffing thresholds, modifying project applicability, and eliminating the option to make payments in lieu of employing apprentices.	**UNDER REVIEW**	

18. HB 508/SB 330: Public Safety - Police Accountability - Investigation Records Relating to Not Administratively Charged, Unfounded, and Exonerated Complaints	Requiring that certain investigation records relating to a complaint of misconduct by a police officer be removed from the police officer's personnel record 3 years after an administrative charging committee issues a determination not to administratively charge the police officer in connection with the complaint or a trial board issues a finding of unfounded or exonerated in connection with the complaint.	**UNDER REVIEW**	
19. HB 513: Hate Crimes and Hate Bias - Definitions of Sexual Orientation and Hate Bias Incident	Altering the definition of "sexual orientation" applicable to certain hate crime statutes; and defining "hate bias incident" applicable to a certain requirement that the Department of State Police collect, analyze, and report certain information provided by certain law enforcement agencies.	**UNDER REVIEW**	
20. HB 553/SB 286: Public Safety - Elevator Inspection Certificates - Searchable Database	Requiring the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to post a user-friendly, searchable database of active elevator inspection certificates on the Maryland Department of Labor's website; and requiring the database to be searchable by street address, city, and county.	**MONITOR**	
21. HB 572/SB 432: Attorney General Actions and Climate Crimes Accountability Fund (Climate Crimes Accountability Act)	Authorizing the Attorney General to investigate and pursue legal action against entities for unlawful conduct contributing to climate change; permitting the Attorney General to retain outside counsel as needed; and establishing the nonlapsing Climate Crimes Accountability Fund.	**MONITOR**	

22. HB 634 Police Training - Autism and Dementia (LEAD Act of 2026)	Requiring the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to require entrance-level and in-service police training to include certain training regarding individuals with dementia and autism.	**MONITOR**	
23. HB 699: Maryland Use of Force Statute - Failure to Prevent Excessive Force or Render First Aid - Misdemeanor	For the purpose of prohibiting a police officer from intentionally violating the requirement that a police officer intervene to prevent or terminate the use of certain force by another police officer; prohibiting a police officer from intentionally violating the requirement to render certain first aid to a person injured as a result of police action and request certain assistance at a certain time; and classifying a violation of the Act by an officer as a misdemeanor and providing, on conviction, a term of imprisonment of up to 5 years.	**MONITOR**	
24. HB 1082: Large Load Customers – Data Centers and Rate Schedule Requirements	Requires electric utilities to apply specific rate schedules to data centers as large load customers, mandates cost protections for residential customers, and sets new deadlines for regulatory compliance and implementation.	**MONITOR**	
25. HB 1595/SB 427 – Property Taxes - Authority of Counties to Establish a Subclass and Set a Special Rate for Personal Property of Data Centers	Allows Maryland counties and Baltimore City to create a special property tax subclass and rate for qualified data centers, enabling local governments to incentivize data center investment starting in the 2026 tax year.	**MONITOR**	

26. SB 992 – Public Utilities - Large Load Customers - Registration and Demand Response Program	Requires large energy users to register with the Public Service Commission, establishes a demand response program, expands tax exemptions for qualifying data centers, and implements measures to ensure grid reliability and protect residential customers from additional costs.	**MONITOR**	
27. HB 0113: Criminal Procedure - Expungement of Records - Resisting Arrest and Making a False Statement to a Law Enforcement Officer	Expands Maryland's expungement law to allow individuals convicted of resisting arrest or making false statements to law enforcement to petition for expungement, aiming to reduce the long-term negative impacts of criminal records and promote racial equity, with a modest overall impact.	**MONITOR**	
28. HB 0187 / SB 320: Criminal Procedure - Expungement - No Finding and Case Terminated Without Finding	Expands expungement eligibility in Maryland to include cases disposed of with 'no finding' or 'terminated without finding' designations, aiming to reduce the lasting negative impacts of criminal records—especially for Black individuals—by broadening access to record-clearing opportunities.	**MONITOR**	