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The Arc Maryland

Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
2026 Bill Tracker- The Arc Maryland							
		Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2027)	House Speaker by Request of Administration			Bill text not yet available	MDH- DDA Budget Hearing is scheduled for 2/26/26 in the House at 1 PM
		Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2027)	Senate President at Request of Administration			See above	MDH- DDA Budget Hearing is scheduled for 2/27/26 in the Senate at 11:30 AM
		Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act	House Speaker at Request of Administration			Bill text not yet available	
		Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act	Senate President at Request of Administration			See above	
Bill Positions by Topic							
Bill	**Crossfiled Bill**	**Title**	**Sponsor**	**Status**	**Position**	**Description**	**Notes**
Community Living & Working							
SB0022	HB0226	Department of Disabilities - Housing Programs and Affiliated Foundations – Establishment	Chair, FIN by Request of the Department	In Senate FIN First Reading	Support	Requiring the Department of Disabilities to establish affordable and accessible housing programs; authorizing the Department to establish affiliated foundations to work with certain programs and units of the Department to solicit and accept funds, partner with individuals and entities, and promote certain activities that support certain projects; and generally relating to the establishment of housing programs and affiliated foundations by the Department of Disabilities.	Some of the programs and services provided by the Department of Disabilities are vulnerable to private, state, and federal funding source cuts. The creation of a foundation, to support these activities of the Maryland Department of Disabilities, will provide an opportunity and mechanism for other foundations, and corporate and individual donors to support the functions of the MDOD, enabling the department to continue to provider certain critical services, such as tech assistance and housing supports.
HB0226	SB0022	Department of Disabilities - Housing Programs and Affiliated Foundations – Establishment	Chair, APP by Request of the Department	In House APP First Reading	Support	See above	See above
SB0037		Maryland Service Animal Programs - Participant Disqualification - Revisions	Senator Simonaire	In Senate FIN First Reading	Support	Revising provisions related to the disqualification of a program participant from the Maryland Children's Service Animal Program or the Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program; and generally relating to the Maryland Children's Service Animal Program and the Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program.	Clarifies criteria for disqualification of a participant in the program by stating the individual's behavior must post a "direct threat", referring to the definition in the ADA of Direct Threat. A nonprofit training entity may disqualify a Program participant from participation in the Program if the nonprofit training entity determines that the Program participant's involvement in the Program: (i) presents a danger to the Program participant's mental or physical well–being; (ii) (removing) [has caused or may potentially cause harm] (inserting) PRESENTS A DIRECT THREAT to others, etc.
SB0199		Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund - Eligible Companions	Senator Simonaire	In Senate FIN First Reading	Support	Requiring a grant from the Individuals With Disabilities and Service–Disabled Veterans Boating Fund to provide opportunities to participate in certain water–dependent activities for eligible companions of individuals with disabilities or service–disabled veterans; and generally relating to the Individuals With Disabilities and Service–Disabled Veterans Boating Fund.	Provides for eligible companions to support veterans and other individuals with disabilities to participate in sailing and other water-based activities. "ELIGIBLE COMPANION" MEANS AN ACCOMPANYING FAMILY MEMBER OR DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF AN INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES OR OF A SERVICE–DISABLED VETERAN PARTICIPATING IN SAILING, BOATING, KAYAKING, CANOEING, PADDLEBOARDING, OR SURFING ACTIVITIES.
HB0015		Public Information Act – Public Records – Nonprofit Organizations	Delegate M. Morgan et al.	In House GVC First Reading	Evaluating	Altering the definition of a "public record" under the Public Information Act to include certain documentary material made by certain nonprofit organizations; altering the applicability of certain rules and limitations under the Public Information Act to include certain nonprofit organizations; and generally relating to nonprofit organizations and the Public Information Act.	While transparency is important, we have concerns that this bill would not require the same transparency of both for profit AND nonprofit organizations that receive contracts and funds from the state.
HB0122		State Aid – Nonprofits – Status	Delegate Szeliga et al.	In House GVC First Reading	Evaluating	Prohibiting a unit of State government or other State entity that provides State aid from providing State aid to a nonprofit entity unless the nonprofit satisfies certain requirements; and generally relating to State aid and nonprofits.	As wtih HB0015, we are unclear as to why there is a focus on NPOs and not all entitities doing business with the state.
HB0129		Public Funding - Nonprofit Entities - Reporting	Delegate M. Morgan et al.	In House APP First Reading		Requiring a nonprofit entity that receives at least 50% of its funding each year from a grant from the State, a county, or a municipality, the State capital budget, or certain local impact grants to report certain information to the Comptroller; etc.	Again, why is this limited to NPOs

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SB0003	HB0188	Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2026	Senator Kramer	In Senate FIN First Reading	Evaluating	Repealing and establishing the methodology used to calculate the weekly benefit amount; altering the taxable wage base used to determine employer contributions to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and the amount of earned wages subtracted from a weekly benefit amount; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor, on or before a certain date each year, to determine and make available online the State annual average wage applicable to the rate of contribution; requiring the Secretary of Labor to set the taxable wage base and the maximum weekly benefit amount in a certain manner for certain years; and generally relating to unemployment insurance.	The Maryland Unemployment Insurance Fund is reaching insolvency, and an intention of this bill is to restore the solvency of the fund, however we have questions on the manner in which this bill is structured. We are concerned it may disparately impact small for-profit organizations, small non-profits, and other organizations that cannot offer, in wages, what larger and for-profit organizations may be able to offer, yet all will be equally subject to paying unemployment premiums based on the new formula that is based on average wages of all organizations. There is a question of whether this change would remove incentives to manage rates based on an experience quotient: Specifically, this is the section of concern:THE SECRETARY SHALL ANNUALLY SET THE TAXABLE WAGE BASE AS AN INCREASING PERCENTAGE OF THE AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE UNTIL THE TAXABLE WAGE BASE PROVIDED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH IS IN EFFECT. 2. BEGINNING CALENDAR YEAR 2029 AND EACH CALENDAR YEAR THEREAFTER, THE TAXABLE WAGE BASE SHALL BE 16% OF THE AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE. We will seek clarification from the Sponsor's office for future evaluation of position.
HB0188	SB0003	Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2026	Delegate Charkoudian	In House ECM First Reading	Evaluating	See above	See above
HB0152		Consumer Protection - Electronic Funds Transfers - Regulations (Elder Fraud Prevention Act of 2026)	Delegate Stewart	In House ECM First Reading	Support	Providing that consumer wire transfers involving electronic fund transfers made ancillary to bank-to-bank transfers via a wire service are subject to certain provisions of the federal Electronic Funds Transfer Act of 1978.	Elderfraud is a continuing and significant issue, and state laws and regulations need to be substantially strengthened to protect consumers from fraud. Criminals target older adults for fraud using a variety of financial products including electronic payments, wire transfers, and cryptocurrencies. According to the AARP, the FBI found that in 2021, nearly 168,000 people ages 50 and older reported being victims of fraud, losing a total of nearly $3 billion. The average amount lost by a person 50 and older was over $17,500. This bill would enable banks to place a hold on electronic fund transfers such as ACH, to provide time for additional thought and potential intervention to prevent victimization.
HB0315		Human Relations - Discrimination in Housing - Income-Based Housing Subsidies	Delegate Stewart	In House ECM First Reading	Support	Providing that a certain landlord may not refuse to rent to a prospective tenant who pays rent with the assistance of an income-based housing subsidy under certain circumstances; providing that a certain landlord may collect financial information from a perspective tenant under certain circumstances; and providing that a violation of the Act is a discriminatory housing practice and is subject to enforcement by the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights.	
SB0259		Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning	Senator Jackson	In Senate JPR First Reading		Bill Text not yet available	
Education & Childcare							
SB0051		Public Schools - Self-Contained Special Education Classrooms - Use of Video Recording Devices	Senator Folden	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/4 at 2 PM	Evaluating for Support with Amendment	Requiring each county board of education, beginning in a certain school year, to install and provide notice of the use of certain video recording devices in self–contained special education classrooms, subject to certain requirements; prohibiting a county board from storing a certain video recording for a certain amount of time except under certain circumstances; establishing certain reporting requirements in the event of an interruption of a certain video recording; establishing requirements for the review and dissemination of a certain video recording by certain persons under certain circumstances; requiring a county board to make a reasonable attempt to conceal the identity of a certain student; prohibiting the State Department of Education, a county board, a school, or a principal from using a certain video recording device for a certain purpose; and generally relating to the use of video recording devices in self–contained special education classrooms.	This bill version is based on the 2021 Legislation that was previously presented and subsequently withdrawn by the Senate Sponsor in response to advocate concerns that it did not include safeguards for students and families to protect from the use of video footage to be used to discipline students or justify changes in placement.The 2022 version of the bill included this critical section, missing from this 2026 bill version, and The Arc will advocate to get the bill amended to include this safeguard. Amendment needed: "THE DEPARTMENT, A COUNTY BOARD, A SCHOOL, OR A PRINCIPAL MAY NOT USE A VIDEO RECORDING MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION: (1) AS EVIDENCE IN A COMPLAINT AGAINST A STUDENT OR SCHOOL EMPLOYEE THAT IS NOT RELATED TO A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT; OR (2) IN THE OBSERVATION OR EVALUATION OF A STUDENT FOR STUDENT PLACEMENT DECISIONS." We would also likely add "for student discipline or placement decisions"

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Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
SB0070	HB0297	Adult Education - High School Diploma Pathways - GED Option Pilot Program and MDiplomaWorks Pathway	Chair, EEE at the request of the Department	In Senate EEE Hearing 1/28 at 11 AM	Support, and evaluating for possible amendment	Establishing the GED Option Pilot Program; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor, in consultation with certain entities, to establish criteria to select certain local school systems to participate in the Pilot Program; establishing qualifications for certain students selected to participate in the Pilot Program;establishing the MDiplomaWorks pathway as an alternative method of earning a high school diploma in the State; and generally relating to adult education and high school diploma pathways.	We believe this is an innovative, needed initiative. We wonder about selection criteria, and if this could be expanded to include students with disabilities who have exited with a certificate within a certain time frame, who want a second chance at a Diploma.
HB0297	SB0070	Adult Education - High School Diploma Pathways - GED Option Pilot Program and MDiplomaWorks Pathway	Chair, W&M at the request of the Department	In House W&M First Reading	Support, and evaluating for possible amendment	see above	see above
SB0079	HB0163	County Boards of Education - Student Technology Use Policy - Requirements	Senator Benson	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/4 at 2 PM	Support	Requiring a county board of education to develop and adopt a policy on the use of personal electronic devices during school hours; requiring the policy to restrict or limit the use of personal electronic devices by students during school hours, except under certain circumstances; and generally relating to county boards of education and a student technology use policy.	This bill contains these important provisions to ensure a student with disabilities will still have access to a device when one is needed for a free and appropriate public education, and to monitor health of the student:A POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT PROHIBIT A STUDENT FROM USING A PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE: (1) FOR ANY PURPOSE DOCUMENTED IN THE STUDENT'S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM OR SECTION 504 PLAN; (2) TO MONITOR OR ADDRESS A STUDENT'S DOCUMENTED HEALTH ISSUE; OR (3) WHEN DIRECTED BY AN EDUCATOR OR ADMINISTRATOR FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.
HB0163	SB0079	County Boards of Education - Student Technology Use Policy - Requirements	Delegate Wu et al.	In House W&M First Reading	Support	see above	see above
HB0073		Public Schools - Water Safety and Swimming Course - Established	Delegate Toles	In House W&M Hearing 2/11 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content standards for a course on water safety and swimming for public school students in certain grades; requiring county boards of education to implement the water safety and swimming course for students in certain grades in certain schools in the county; requiring each county board to ensure the provision of reasonable accommodations necessary to provide students with disabilities equal opportunity to participate, to the fullest extent possible, in the water safety and swimming course; and generally relating to a course on water safety and swimming in public schools.	The bill would require the following: ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS FOR A COURSE ON WATER SAFETY AND SWIMMING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 8. - and - EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL ENSURE THE PROVISION OF REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES EQUALOPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, IN THE WATER SAFETY AND SWIMMING COURSE. Many states already have this requirement, and we believe this is essential for helping to prevent accidental drowning deaths of children and adults with disabilities.
HB0123		School Systems – Reportable Offenses – Alterations	Delegage Griffith	In House W&M and JUD First Reading	Evaluating	Including institutions and programs of higher education in which a student is enrolled as part of a dual enrollment program in the definition of "school system"; adding certain offenses to the list of offenses a law enforcement agency must report to certain school personnel under certain circumstances; authorizing State's Attorneys to make a certain notification if a student is arrested for certain offenses; and generally relating to reportable offenses in school systems.	We are evaluating the proposed expansion of violations that would need to be reported to law enforcement by a school system
HB0128		County Boards of Education - Therapy Dogs - Policy for Handling and Use in Schools	Delegate Vogel	In House W&M First Reading	Support	Requiring each county board of education to allow, subject to certain requirements and policies, the use of therapy dogs in public schools in the county; and generally relating to therapy dogs in public schools.	This was introduced in a prior session but stalled. Therapy animals have been found to be beneficial to students in educational settings. Research on animal-assisted interventions in educational settings, find that therapy dogs encourage the development of reading abilities, including reading rate, accuracy, fluency, and comprehension, enhance primary skills such as object recognition and categorization, reduce stress, and provide a source of motivation, and focus on learning.
HB0311		Public Schools - Individuals With Disabilities - Accessibility and Emergency Planning	Delegate Kaufman	In House W&M First Reading	Support	Requiring each local school system to identify, in its regular safety evaluation, issues of accessibility for individuals with disabilities; requiring local school systems to include in a certain confidential annual report instances in which a public school facility became inaccessible for a student with a disability in a manner that could impede evacuations or emergency response; and requiring a certain annual report to be confidential and limiting disclosure of the report to certain individuals.	

Healthcare

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HB0058		Transportation – Paratransit Services – Interjurisdictional Routes	Delegate Healey	In House E&T First Reading	Evaluating for Support	Requiring a county that submits an application to the Secretary of Transportation for funding for certain transportation services to identify certain interjurisdictional paratransit service routes in the application; requiring the Secretary to adopt procedures to ensure counties cooperate in establishing certain interjurisdictional paratransit service routes; requiring a county that receives funding for certain transportation services to establish certain interjurisdictional paratransit service routes; and generally relating to interjurisdictional paratransit service routes.	While we are still evaluating this bill, we support the intention that seeks to expand interjurisdictional transportation availability for people with disabilities, to address equity and access to critical healthcare. The bill adds: (I) THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIES A COUNTY–ADMINISTERED PARATRANSIT SERVICE THAT PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION FOR ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED RESIDENTS WITHIN DESIGNATED SERVICE AREAS, INCLUDING INTERJURISDICTIONAL ROUTES BETWEEN COUNTIES AND THE FACILITIES WITHIN THOSE COUNTIES IN THE FOLLOWING NETWORKS OF PROVIDERS: 1. ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE; 2. JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE; 3. LIFEBRIDGE HEALTH; 4. LUMINIS HEALTH MARYLAND; 5. MEDSTAR HEALTH; AND 6. UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM;
HB0147	SB0069	Nonprofit Organizations Navigator – Termination Provision – Repeal	Delegate Guzzone	In House GVC First Reading	Support	Repealing a termination provision relating to provisions of law establishing a nonprofit organizations navigator within the Department of Commerce; and generally relating to the nonprofit organizations navigator.	Repeals the sunset of this service, allowing it to continue
SB0069	HB0147	Nonprofit Organizations Navigator – Termination Provision – Repeal	Senator Kagan	In Senate FIN First Reading	Support	see above	see above
SB0240		Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council - Establishment	Senator Karen Lewis Young	In Senate FIN First Reading	Evaluating for Support	Establishing the Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council to provide feedback to the Office of Health Care Quality regarding maintaining oversight of health care facilities and to notify the Secretary of Health if the Office is negligent in providing oversight of health care facilities; and requiring the Advisory Council, beginning in 2027, and by December 1 annually, to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.	For the last decade, the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) lagged in oversight of Maryland's health care facilities by limiting their actions to response to written complaints and licensing surveys. Nationally, Maryland has consistently been in the bottom 10% of hospital patient satisfaction, the worst in ER wait time (hopefully this dial has moved with legislation passed last year), and the second to worst in nursing home inspections. With new leadership in place, there is hope that OHCQ will return to its vital function of providing pro-active oversight of our health care facilities and improve our key metrics of quality of care. A Stakeholder Advisory Council for OHCQ may help to restore public trust and provide constructive feedback to the agency. The Council will be structured similarly to hospital Patient Family Advisory Councils and Federal agency advisory committees. These advisory groups serve a non-regulatory function, but instead promote engagement and transparency. The Council will provide feedback from a diverse group of stakeholders, and members could raise red flags if they see that OHCQ is experiencing mission drift away from providing oversight of Maryland's health care systems.
HB0316		Confidentiality of Medical Records - Definition of Medical Record	Delegates Kaufman et al.	In House HLT First Reading	Evaluating for Possible Support with Amendments	Altering the definition of "medical record" for purposes of law governing the confidentiality of medical records to require that certain information be recorded by a health care provider through certain means, instead of entered into the record of a patient or recipient, and to include certain electronic messages.	Why we understand the positive intention of this legislation, we have questions about the inclusion of any and all communications, related to the care of an individual, becoming a part of the individual's medical record per the definition below of what constitutes a health record. Healthcare professionals frequently communicate with eachother regarding a person in care, discuss possible- not confirmed- diagnosrs, and possible effective treatment plans, including care provided in DDA HCBS. These informal conversations should continue to be allowed and we do not believe they should be subject to mandatory inclusion in a person's permanent medical record, but these types of communication would be captured in this definition change: "(i) Is ~~[entered in the record of a patient or recipient]~~ RECORDED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER THROUGH WRITTEN, ELECTRONIC, OR OTHER MEANS, INCLUDING AUDIO OR VIDEO MEANS;-and- (V) ELECTRONIC MESSAGE SENT OR RECEIVED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER THAT IDENTIFIES OR MAY READILY BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE IDENTITY OF A PATIENT."

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SB0244		Code Revision – Health – Maryland Medical Assistance Program	Senate President By Request of Dept of Legislative Services	In Senate FIN First Reading	Evaluating	Revising, restating, and recodifying the laws of this State relating to the Maryland Medical Assistance Program. Here is the new section on page 26 of the bill: 15–103.1. (A) AS PERMITTED BY FEDERAL LAW OR WAIVER, THE SECRETARY MAY ESTABLISH A PROGRAM UNDER WHICH PROGRAM RECIPIENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ENROLL IN MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS. (B) (1) THE BENEFITS REQUIRED BY THE PROGRAM DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE: (I) ADOPTED BY REGULATION; AND (II) AT LEAST EQUIVALENT TO THE BENEFIT LEVEL REQUIRED BY THE PROGRAM ON JANUARY 1, 1996 (2) FOR ANY POPULATIONS OR SERVICES EXCLUDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE SECRETARY MAY AUTHORIZE A MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES OR PROVIDE FOR THE POPULATION, INCLUDING AUTHORIZATION OF A SEPARATE DENTAL MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION OR A MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO PROGRAM RECIPIENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.	see above
Justice & Civil Rights							
SB0004		Charitable Organizations – Charitable Donation and Tax–Exempt Status – Revocation (Keeping Charities Nonpartisan Act of 2026)	Senator Kagan	In Senate EEE and B&T First Reading	Support with Amendment	Altering, for the purpose of certain provisions of law that regulate charitable organizations, the definition of "charitable organization" to include a certain person that is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service to receive donations that are deductible from federal income tax; prohibiting certain charitable organizations from participating in or intervening in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate for public office; authorizing the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, acting jointly, to order the revocation of certain tax–exempt statuses of a charitable organization under certain circumstances; requiring the Comptroller and the Director of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to revoke certain tax–exempt statuses under certain circumstances; providing that a charitable organization whose tax–exempt status is revoked does not qualify for certain income, sales and use, and property tax exemptions; requiring the Attorney General to monitor action by the federal government for a certain purpose; and generally relating to charitable organizations.	The intention of this legislation is clear to prevent NPOs from engaging in partisan politics. How the prohibited activity is defined here, however, may be problematic in that in the strictest interpretation and application it may prevent voter education for our stakeholders to understand the positions of the various political candidates leading up to elections. On Page 5 and continuing, prohibited nonprofit "activity" is defined as ... THE CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION DOES NOT AND WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN OR INTERVENE IN, *INCLUDING THROUGH THE PUBLICATION OR DISTRIBUTION OF STATEMENTS*, A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ON BEHALF OF OR IN OPPOSITION TO A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE. We regularly provide questions to candidates about their positions on issues that matter to the disability community, and publicize/distribute information provided by each candidate, in a non-partisan manner to educate voters. We fear that the way this restriction is worded, NPOs would not be able to share candidate platforms in an educational, nonpartisan, educational manner and this has potential to restrict voter education
SB0029	HB0044	Election Law - Petitions and Ballot Questions - Contents, Plain Language Requirement, and Procedures	Senator Kagan	In Senate EEE Hearing 1/21 at 11 AM	Support	Altering the information that is required to be included on the signature page of a petition seeking to place a question on the ballot and with a question on the ballot; requiring that a certain summary included on the signature page of a petition seeking to place a question on the ballot and a certain statement about a question on the ballot be written in plain language; requiring certain boards of elections to post the text of ballot measures for at least 90 days before the general election; etc.	This bill was introduced last session, but stalled in the House. We support as this bill requires ballot questions and descriptions to appear in plain language, and for measures to be provided to the public at least 90 days before elections.
HB0044	SB0029	Election Law - Petitions and Ballot Questions - Contents, Plain Language Requirement, and Procedures	Delegate Feldmark	In House GVC Hearing 2/4 at 2 PM	Support	See above	See above
SB0073		Election Law - Polling Place Procedures - Voting by Elderly Voters and Voters With Disabilities (Accessible and Expedited Voting Act of Maryland)	Senator Ellis	In Senate EEE First Reading	Support	Requiring the State Board of Elections to establish guidelines for the local boards of election to implement a process to accommodate and expedite voting for elderly voters and voters with disabilities at each early voting center and polling place; requiring the local boards to implement the guidelines and collect feedback on the process from elderly voters and voters with disabilities and make immediate adjustments to the process; requiring the training program for election judges to include instruction on best practices for assisting elderly voters and voters with disabilities; and generally relating to in–person voting by elderly voters and voters with disabilities.	House Version last year (HB0781) passed the house but stalled in the Senate

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SB0182	HB0282	Adult Protective Services - Modifications	Chair, JPR by Request from the Department	In Senate JPR Hearing 1/21 at 11 AM	Evaluating	Altering provisions relating to the reporting and investigation of abuse, neglect, self–neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults; and generally relating to adult protective services.	The bill expands the statuatory definition of abuse to include psychological harm and sexual abuse by a person in a relationship of trust with an individual, and includes other provisions. Many changes are positive, but the interpretation of some of the definitions may be more subjective. For example, measuring psychological harm is very difficult and may be compounded or amplified by a person's prior traumas. Also, "nonconsensual" use of a vulnerable adult's funds would need to be further explained. How will "risk of harm" be evaluated: people frequently balance, with support, risk as they navigate life decisions.This is known as the dignity of risk, and essential for growth and we would want to ensure a person with IDD and their freedoms are upheld in addition to their protections.
HB0282	SB0182	Adult Protective Services - Modifications	Chair, JUD by Request from the Department	In House JUD Hearing 2/5 at 2 PM	Evaluating	See above	See above
HB0310	SB0268	Correctional Services - Restrictive Housing - Individuals With Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities	Delegates Kaufman et al.	In House JUD First Reading	Support	Authorizing an incarcerated individual to undergo a certain assessment at intake at a State correctional facility by a certain clinical professional; authorizing a certain clinical professional to make a certain recommendation about a certain incarcerated individual; and prohibiting a State correctional facility from putting a certain incarcerated individual in restrictive housing for more than 15 consecutive days in a 30-day time period unless the individual commits a certain prohibited act.	Resources: https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/COR-%C2%A7-9-614b_-GOCPP_-Restrictive-Housing-2023-2024-Report.pdf, https://disabilityrightsmd.org/drm-investigation-prompts-prison-reform-efforts-across-maryland/#:~:text=Subsequent%20to%20the%20interviews%20surrounding,prison%20segregation%20practices%20can%20cause.
SB0268	HB0310	Correctional Services – Restrictive Housing – Individuals With Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities	Senator Henson	In Senate JPR First Reading	Support	See above	
HB0216	SB0140	Criminal Law - Benefits Exploitation	Delegates Kaufman et al.	In House JUD Hearing 1/27 at 2 PM	Support	Prohibiting a person from knowingly recruiting, harboring, transporting, or obtaining an individual for the purpose of appropriating the government benefits of an individual for the benefit of the person or another through deception, coercion, exploitation, isolation, or any other means; prohibiting a person from aiding, abetting, or conspiring with one or more persons to violate a certain provision of the Act; establishing that a violation of the Act is a felony; etc.	Benefits exploitation (or benefits trafficking) is a national problem, and several other states have passed similar legislation to protect older adults and people with disabilities who rely on public benefits and may be vulnerable to this type of abuse. When this bill came up in a prior session, Maryland Legal Aid shared the case of a woman with disabilities in her 80s whose family member brought her to Maryland from another state and then proceeded to isolate her, hide her government identification documents, and steal her benefits, pension, and rental income. This exploitation occurred over an 18-month period before it was discovered upon the family member's petition for guardianship and interview with the exploited person. In addition to penalties, more must be done in oversight in our systems of care so we can unveil and respond to these situations.
SB0140	HB0216	Criminal Law - Benefits Exploitation	Senator West	In Senate JPR Hearing 1/20 at 1 PM	Support	See above	See above

Monitored Bills by Topic

Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
Community Living & Working							
SB0151		Income Tax – Credit for Individuals Residing With and Caring for Elderly Parents	Senator Folden	In Senate B&T Hearing 1/21 at 10 AM	Monitoring	Allowing a credit against the State income tax for an individual who resides with and provides care for a certain elderly parent during the taxable year under certain circumstances; making the credit refundable; and generally relating to a State income tax credit for individuals who reside with and provide care for elderly parents.	Could have implications for disability care credits- There is not a definition of "provide care" in the bill, needed by the Comptroller to evaluate and determine the validity of a claim for this credit. Operationalizing this tax credit would also require additional review and enforcement, creating a financial impact to the state that extends beyond the credit, and this must be considered in our tight budget year along with other priorities.
Education & Childcare							
Healthcare							
Justice & Civil Rights							

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The Arc Maryland

Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes

[To find contact information for your representatives, click here.]

COMMITTEES

Click each committee or Name for Details and Contact Information

House Committees

Abreviation	Committee Name	Committee Chair	Committee Vice Chair
APP	Appropriations	Ben Barnes	Anne R. Kaiser
ECM	Economic Matters	Kriselda Valderama	Lorig Charkoudian
E&T	Environment and Transportation	Marc Korman	Michele Guyton
GVC	Government, Labor and, Elections	Melissa Wells	Kenneth Kerr
HLT	Health	Heather Bagnall	Bonnie Cullison
HRU	Rules and Executive Nominations	Anne Healey	Marvin E. Holmes, Jr.
JUD	Judiciary	J. Sandy Bartlett	Debra Davis
W&M	Ways and Means	Jheanelle Wilkins	Jessica Feldmark

Senate Committees

Abreviation	Committee Name	Committee Chair	Committee Vice Chair
B&T	Budget and Taxation	Guy Guzzone	Jim Rosapepe
EEE	Education, Energy, and the Environment	Brian Feldman	Cheryl C Kagan
EXN	Executive Nominations	Benjamin Brooks	C. Anthony Muse
FIN	Finance	Pamela Beidle	Antonio Hayes
JPR	Judicial Proceedings	William C. Smith, Jr.	Jeff Waldstreicher
SRU	Rules	Katie Fry Hester	Arthur Ellis

LEADERSHIP

Click each Name for Details and Contact Information

House Leadership

Title	Representative
Speaker of the House	Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Speaker Pro Tem	Luke Clippinger
Majority Leader	David Moon
Majority Whip	Ashanti Martinez
Minority Leader	Jason C. Buckell
Minority Whip	Jesse T. Pippy

Senate Leadership

Title	Senator
President of the Senate	Bill Ferguson
President Pro Tem	Malcolm Augustine
Majority Leader	Nancy J. King
Majority Whip	Joanne C. Benson
Minority Leader	Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.
Minority Whip	Justin Ready

How Bills Become Laws in Maryland



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Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes

