

The Arc Maryland brings you an updated version of our Bill Tracker at the start of every week during Maryland's Legislative Session. Legislation in this document includes items that The Arc Maryland has taken a position on and other items that we are currently monitoring. You can view the full bill text by clicking the link provided with each bill number in the leftmost column. Bills **passed in the House** are noted in **Orange**. Bills **passed in the Senate** are noted in **Purple**. Bills that have been **Withdrawn** are noted in **Red**. For any questions about the Bill Tracker, please email Luc Chausse, Director of Communications and Engagement, at lchause@thearcmd.org. Last Updated 3/18/24

Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
2024 Bill Tracker- The Arc Maryland							
SB0360	HB0350	Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2025)	Senate President at Request of Administration	Passed in Senate (46-0); In House APP First Reading	Support	Making the proposed appropriations contained in the State Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in accordance with Article III, Section 52 of the Maryland Constitution; etc.	3% Provider Rate Increases and 58 million for expansion services, and housing supplements
HB0350	SB0360	Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2025)	House Speaker at Request of Administration	In House APP First Reading	Support	See above	See above
SB0361	HB0351	Creation of a State Debt - Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2024, and the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loans of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023	Senate President at Request of Administration	In Senate B&T First Reading	Monitoring	Authorizing the creation of a State Debt in the amount of \$1,792,830,000, the proceeds to be used for certain necessary building, construction, demolition, planning, renovation, conversion, replacement, and capital equipment purchases of the State, for acquiring certain real estate in connection therewith, and for grants to certain subdivisions and other organizations for certain development and improvement purposes; etc.	
HB0351	SB0361	Creation of a State Debt - Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2024, and the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loans of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023	House Speaker at Request of Administration	In House APP First Reading	Monitoring	See above	
SB0362	HB0352	Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024	Senate President at Request of Administration	Passed in Senate (43-3); In House APP First Reading	Letter of Information	Altering or repealing certain required appropriations; authorizing the use of certain funds for certain purposes; altering the funding formula for community colleges and the State aid program for private nonprofit institutions of higher education; authorizing or altering the distribution of certain revenue; requiring interest earnings for certain special funds to accrue to the General Fund of the State for fiscal years 2024 through 2028; authorizing the transfer of certain funds; etc.	There is something in the BRFA that would allow DDA to place a cap/limit how much could be spent on individual directed goods and services under self direction. While we understand the need to generate revenues for the state budget, we would recommend a more in depth examination of rates, rate equity, and requirements to create a more fair and equitable system. We are also advocating that the reasonable and customary rate charts are updated for people who self direct, and devotion to ensuring providers and people who self direct have access to their annual budgets in LTSS.
HB0352	SB0362	Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024	House Speaker at Request of Administration	In House APP Hearing 2/28 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	See above	See above

Bill Positions by Topic

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Community Living & Working							
SB0092	HB0426	Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning	Senator Brooks	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/8 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring all motion picture houses to offer closed captioning for each screening of a motion picture; and requiring a place of public accommodation that controls, operates, owns, or leases at least two motion picture houses in the State to provide open captioning for at least two screenings each week.	repeat bill from previous year
HB0426	SB0092	Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning	Delegate Bhandari	Passed in House (101-36);	Support	See above	See above
SB0202		Department of Aging- Caregiver Expense Grant Program - Established	Senator Benson	In Senate Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Support	Allowing certain caregivers a credit against the State income tax equal to 30% of certain qualified expenses paid or incurred to provide care or support to certain qualifying family members; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.	We submitted DD Coalition testimony in support: Amendments proposed by the Senate would change this to a Grant Program .
SB0203	HB0007	Housing Innovation Pilot Program and Housing Innovation Fund - Establishment (Housing Innovation Pilot Program Act of 2024)	Senator Waldstreicher	In Senate EEE Hearing 1/25 at 2 PM	Support	Establishing the Housing Innovation Pilot Program in the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide loans for local housing authorities to develop mixed-income, cross-subsidized housing; establishing the Housing Innovation Fund; requiring a local housing authority to provide a dollar-for-dollar match for Program funds awarded to housing innovation projects that are part of the Program; requiring the Department to prioritize projects that do not use low-income housing tax credit equity or tax-exempt volume cap; etc.	We are interested in initiatives that will expand the stock of affordable, accessible, and safe housing for people with IDD
HB0007	SB0203	Housing Innovation Pilot Program and Housing Innovation Fund - Establishment (Housing Innovation Pilot Program Act of 2024)	Delegate Stewart	Passed in House (105-36); In Senate EEE First Reading	Support	See above	See amendments proposed by the House here.

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SB0331		Task Force to Study Paratransit in Maryland	Senators Lewis Young and Charles	In Senate FIN Unfavorable Report; Withdrawn (The bill was withdrawn before hearing)	Letter of Information	Establishing the Task Force to Study Paratransit in Maryland; requiring the Task Force to study paratransit in the State, including current, needed, and expected funding for paratransit, reasons for current funding and spending gaps, and the role public-private partnerships could play in meeting funding and service gaps; and requiring the Task Force to report, on or before June 30, 2025, its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.	There is currently a Health and Human Services Transportation Work Group that was established by Executive Order. If they are tasked with looking at Paratransit as a part of their duties, it is possible this Task Force on Paratransit may not be necessary. If the Task Force is created however, there should be representation from the disability community on the Task Force. This has been a topic of interest in the Cross Disability Coalition for years and there are members who would be excellent representatives for the voices of people with disabilities.
HB0215	SB0226	Human Services - Attendant Care Program - Ongoing Additional Supports	Chair, HGO By Request of Dept. of Disabilities	Passed in House (138-1) ; In Senate FIN First Reading	Support	Altering the purpose of the Attendant Care Program to include the provision of financial assistance for ongoing additional supports that increase an individual's independent performance of essential daily activities and is requested by an eligible individual	The Attendant Care Program is administered by the Maryland Department of Health to help people with severe chronic or and permanent physical disabilities living in the community. These services may take the form of employment supports, and supports to attend post-secondary education as examples. The goal of this program is to prevent nursing home admission by providing essential services and supports to people in the community. Statute dictates the program functions through providing direct reimbursement for attendant care services obtained by the program participant. With this bill the Department hopes to expand the program to allow for reimbursement of attendant care services and add "ongoing additional supports." This would allow participants in the program to be reimbursed for additional services and supports that they need for home and community-based living, that are approved by the MDOD. Examples of such supports could be grocery delivery, prescription drug delivery, service animal expenses, laundry services, and more.
SB0226	HB0215	Human Services - Attendant Care Program - Ongoing Additional Supports	Chair, Finance Committee (By Request - Departmental - Disabilities)	Passed in Senate (45-0) ; In House HGO Hearing 3/20 at 1 PM	Support	See above	See above
SB0088	HB0055	Maryland Commission on Veterans and Military Families	Senator Gile et al.	Passed in Senate (46-0) ; In House HGO Hearing 3/19 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	Establishing the Maryland Commission on Veterans and Military Families to study developing and implementing a statewide strategic plan to make Maryland the best state for veterans and military families, including legislative and budgetary recommendations; and requiring the Commission to report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2024.	We would like to see if this could include a commission member who is a parent of a child with a disability.
HB0055	SB0088	Maryland Commission on Veterans and Military Families	Delegate Pruski et al.	Passed in House (136-0) ; In Senate EEE First Reading	Letter of Information	See above	See above
SB0141	HB0199	Multifamily Dwellings - Smoking Policies	Senator A. Washington	In Senate JPR Hearing 1/30 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	Requiring the governing body of a common ownership community to develop a smoking policy if the property subject to the control of the governing body is a multifamily dwelling.	This may have applications for people with IDD who may not fully understand or be able to comply with living in a multifamily community that implements community smoking ban. Evaluating with DD Coalition for position
HB0199	SB0141	Multifamily Dwellings - Smoking Policies	Delegate Wu et al.	In House E&T Hearing 2/6 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	See above	See above
SB0262		Charitable Organizations - Late Fees and Registration - Suspension and Cancellation Requirements	Chair JPR by request of Dept. of Secretary of State	Passed in Senate (46-0) ; In House EMC First Reading	Support	Authorizing the Secretary of State to suspend payment of certain late fees assessed to certain charitable organizations under certain circumstances; and authorizing the Secretary of State to cancel a charitable organization's registration or reinstate a charitable organization's canceled registration under certain circumstances.	
SB0277	HB0161	Vehicle Laws - Driver's Licenses, Learner's Instructional Permits, and Identification Cards	Chair JPR by request of Dept. of Transportation	Passed in Senate (46-0) ; In House E&T First Reading	Support	Exempting certain applicants for identification cards who present certain documentation from the issuance fee for the identification card; extending the term of certain learner's instructional permits from 180 days to 1 year after the date of issuance; and establishing that certain driver's licenses issued to certain holders by the Motor Vehicle Administration remain in full force and effect during an absence from the State.	Would permit more people to obtain identification and DL cards by eliminating financial barriers. This would amend the law to say that a fee for a DL or ID is not required if the applicant for the card: (i) Is 65 years old or older; (ii) Is legally blind; (iii) Has permanently lost the use of a leg or an arm; (iv) Is permanently disabled so severely that the applicant cannot move without the aid of crutches or a wheelchair; (v) Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a "major life activity" as defined in the federal Americans with Disabilities Act; (and among other allowances in the bill...) (X) PRESENTS DOCUMENTATION SHOWING THAT THE APPLICANT IS CURRENTLY UNDER THE CARE OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

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HB0161	SB0277	Vehicle Laws - Driver's Licenses, Learner's Instructional Permits, and Identification Cards	Chair E&T by request of Dept. of Transportation	Passed in House (125-13) ; In Senate JPR First Reading	Support	See above	See above
HB0509	SB0599	Developmental Disabilities - Community Providers - Federal Participation for Local Funds	Delegate Kaiser et al.	In House HGO Hearing 2/14 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to develop a process to receive federal financial participation for the payment of county or municipal general funds appropriated to community providers that serve individuals with developmental disabilities; and requiring the Department to allocate the federal financial participation to the community providers to which the county or municipality general funds were appropriated.	We have communicated concerns that further study is needed to examine the impacts this could have, not just on participating counties and municipalities, but on the rest of the state. We believe this would remove needed flexibility for how these funds are used by providers (on necessities not funded through the medicaid rates) and would further complicate an already complicated rate system. DDA testified in opposition to both the House and Senate bills.
SB0599	HB0509	Developmental Disabilities - Community Providers - Federal Participation for Local Funds	Senator Kramer	In Senate FIN Hearing 2/20 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	See above	see above
SB0162	HB0093	Landlord and Tenant - Termination of Residential Lease - Limitation of Liability for Rent	Senator Waldstreicher	Passed in Senate (44-0) ; In House E&T First Reading	Support with Amendments	Limiting a tenant's liability for rent under a residential lease if a physician, counselor, therapist, or psychologist completes a form specifying that the tenant has an intellectual or developmental disability or mental disorder and the tenant vacates the leased premises, the management of which is extremely limited by the leased premises.	Sponsor amendments removed developmental disability as per the Coalition's feedback.
HB0093	SB0162	Landlord and Tenant - Termination of Residential Lease - Limitation of Liability for Rent	Delegate Mireku-North	Passed in House (121-14) ; In Senate JPR First Reading	Support with Amendments	See above	See above
HB0981		Maryland Department of Disabilities - Individuals With Limited English Proficiency - Access to Public Services	Delegates Martinez and Pena-Melnyk	Passed in House (135-0)	Support with Amendment	Requiring, on or before July 1, 2025, the Department of Disabilities to fully implement certain provisions of law requiring equal access to public services for individuals with limited English proficiency.	
SB0597	HB0773	Human Services - Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund	Senator Guzzone	In Senate Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Support with Amendments	Establishing the Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund to provide sailing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, and paddleboarding opportunities for individuals with disabilities and service-disabled veterans; requiring the Department of Disabilities to administer the Fund; establishing the qualifications for certain nonprofit organizations to receive a grant from the Fund; and authorizing the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2026, to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$500,000 to the Fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add surfing to 7-1102(B) - Change the name to "Human Services - Individuals with Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Adapted Water Sports Fund" - Remove the following from lines 26-27 on page 4: ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY OR ITS TRIBUTARIES AT 26 LEAST 25 TIMES IN EACH OF THE PAST 3 YEARS
HB0773	SB0597	Human Services - Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund	Delegate D. Jones	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Support with Amendments	See above	Amendments to the legislation: The suggested Governor's appropriation language was stripped, but the amendment to extend to activities in State Waters is included/
SB0347	HB0790	Medical Cannabis – Employees in Health Care Settings Caring for Qualifying Patients	Senator McKay	In Senate FIN Hearing 2/15 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	Authorizing designated medical personnel to administer medical cannabis to qualifying patients only if the cannabis is obtained through the qualifying patients caregiver and is administered in accordance with the certifying provider's written instructions; providing that designated medical personnel are not required to register with the Maryland Cannabis Administration; and exempting designated medical personnel from civil and criminal penalties relating to the administration of medical cannabis.	Cannabis has health benefits for people with IDD and certain conditions. Allowing staff to administer with BON guidelines would ensure people who use this substance for medicinal purposes can receive it. We have concerns, however that, because pot is not legal on a federal level, this could jeopardize our federal match on the Medicaid dollars. That would be very bad for the state if we lost the federal match for violating federal law.
HB0790	SB0347	Medical Cannabis – Employees in Health Care Settings Caring for Qualifying Patients	Delegate Buckel et al.	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Letter of Information	See above	See above
SB0859	HB1163	State Department of Education - Division of Rehabilitation Services - Funding	Senators Zucker and Guzzone	Passed in Senate (46-0) ; In House APP Hearing 3/20 at 1 PM	Support	Authorizing the Governor to include in the annual budget bill a certain appropriation to the Division of Rehabilitation Services in the State Department of Education to ensure the State match amount for the Division is met as required by certain federal acts.	
HB1163	SB0859	State Department of Education - Division of Rehabilitation Services - Funding	Delegate Atterbeary	Passed in House (136-0) ; In Senate B&T First Reading	Support	See above	
SB0077	HB0111	Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles - Authorizations and Requirements	Senator Waldstreicher	In Senate JPR Hearing 1/31 at 1 PM	Support with Amendments	Authorizing a person to ride a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area unless prohibited by local ordinance; and requiring a person riding a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area or in or through a crosswalk to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian or a person using an electric personal assistive mobility device.	The bill requires that bicyclists, etc. yield the right of way to a person in an electric personal assisted mobility device.

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HB0111	SB0077	Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles - Authorizations and Requirements	Delegate D. Jones	Passed in House (134-2); In Senate JPR First Reading	Support with Amendments	See above	See above
HB0195	SB0817	Public Safety - Missing Persons With Cognitive Impairment - Purple Alert Program	Delegate Guyton et al.	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Letter of Information	Establishing a Purple Alert Program to disseminate information to assist in locating a missing person who suffers a cognitive impairment, intellectual or developmental disability, or brain injury who is not eligible for the Silver Alert Program.	We are still evaluating what this bill would do. The Silver Alert law currently applies to people with cognitive impairments (not just older adults with dementia) so it is currently unclear if a new alert is needed. We understand the concern, we agree that people with IDD should be a priority when they are a missing person. See House Amendments added here .
SB0817	HB0195	Public Safety - Missing Persons With Cognitive Impairment - Purple Alert Program	Senators Ellis and Waldstreicher	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/27 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	See above	See above
SB0796		Maryland Disability Service Animal Program - Established	Senator Simonaire et al.	Passed in Senate (45-0);	Support	Establishing the Maryland Disability Service Animal Program in the Department of Disabilities; requiring the Department to select a nonprofit training entity for participation in the Program; and establishing the Maryland Disability Service Animal Program Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund.	Would support bringing more service animal availability to Maryland and create a fund to assist individuals with getting a service animal if they need one.
SB0891	HB1199	Transportation - MobilityLink Paratransit Service Improvements - Study	Senator McCray	In Senate Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Support	Requiring the Maryland Transportation Institute at the University of Maryland to conduct a study to identify methods to improve the Maryland Transit Administration's ADA MobilityLink paratransit service; authorizing the Governor to include in the fiscal year 2026 budget bill an appropriation of at least \$150,000 for the study; and requiring the Institute to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and certain elected officials by July 1, 2025.	There is already a group work looking at transportation for people with disabilities, but this bill creates an appropriation to fund a study related to the efficacy of ADA transportation.
HB1199	SB0891	Transportation - MobilityLink Paratransit Service Improvements - Study	Delegate Edelson	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Support	See above	see above. See amendments here .
HB1147		Environment - Playground Surfacing Materials - Prohibitions	Delegates Guyton and Lehman et al.	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Support	Prohibiting, on or after October 1, 2024, a person from using, supplying, selling, soliciting, or offering for sale playground surfacing materials that contain certain concentrations of PAH, PFAS, or lead for the construction or renovation of the ground surface of a playground in the State; prohibiting a county, municipality, or unit of local government from adopting any ordinance, rule, or regulation related to certain playground surfacing materials that is less stringent than the requirement of the Act; etc.	
SB0866		Health - Small Halfway Houses and Small Private Group Homes - County Zoning	Senator Ready	In Senate FIN Unfavorable Report; Withdrawn	Oppose	Authorizing a county to deem conclusively that a small halfway house or small private group home is a single-family dwelling or a multifamily dwelling for purposes of zoning.	Would limit where small group homes could exist in our communities. Seems to be some NIMBY at play with this legislation
SB0481	HB0693	Renters' Rights and Stabilization Act of 2024	Senate President at Request of Administration	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/29 at 1 PM and EEE First Reading	Support with Amendments	Increasing maximum surcharges for certain eviction proceedings from \$8 to \$93 and prohibiting the District Court from assigning the surcharge against a tenant; altering the priority and criteria in the Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program that are followed by the Department of Housing and Community Development and public housing agencies for providing vouchers and housing assistance payments to families; limiting the maximum security deposit required by a residential lease to 1 month's rent; etc.	Requesting to strike language that would amend the Statewide Voucher Program signed into law in 2023. We have discussed our concerns with the Governor's Office and understand their intent to submit amendments to remove language amending the Statewide Voucher Program
HB0693	SB0481	Renters' Rights and Stabilization Act of 2024	Speaker of the House by Request of Administration	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Support with Amendments	See above	See above
SB1096	HB1456	Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Identification of Nonapparent Disability	Senators Smith and Jackson	In Senate JPR Hearing 3/5 at 1 PM	Support with Amendments	Requiring that an application for a license, an identification card, or a moped operator's permit allow an applicant to indicate the applicant's nonapparent disability; and requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to ensure that the license, identification card, or moped operator's permit of an applicant who indicates that the applicant has a nonapparent disability includes an "ND" notation.	We understand why some individuals with nonapparent disabilities and some families may want this option for themselves or their loved ones. We submitted a support with amendments position to require the bill include a requirement for police training on what to do when presented with an ID that has a ND notation, and funding for the Ethan Saylor Alliance for advocates as police trainers. We would also like to see a requirement that the MVA must update their systems to ensure information that is put into the system of a child will be purged at the age of majority (unless the adult advocate puts the information back in the system, exercising their choice to be identified as a person with a ND) and assurances the designation on the DL or in the system will not trigger a requirement for a medical review of ability to drive.

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HB1456	SB1096	Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Identification of Nonapparent Disability	Delegate Lopez	In House HRU	Support with Amendments	See above	see above
SB0910		Governor's Workforce Development Board - Study on Diploma and Degree Employment Discrimination	Senator Rosapepe	In Senate Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Support	Requiring the Governor's Workforce Development Board, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Labor, to conduct a study on discrimination in employment opportunities in the State against individuals who do not hold a high school diploma or a degree from an institution of higher education; and requiring the Board to report its findings and recommendations on or before January 1, 2025.	
HB1069	SB1084	Workgroup for the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing - Established	Delegate Kaufman et al.	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Support	Establishing the Commission for the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing as an independent unit of State government to provide and advocate for accessible and comprehensive services, and foster inclusivity, equal opportunities, and improved quality of life, for individuals who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing.	
SB1084	HB1069	Workgroup for the Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing - Established	Senator M. Washington	In Senate Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Support	See above	Amendments proposed by the Senate would change this from a commission to a workgroup/

Education & Childcare

SB0189		Public Schools - Inclusive and Diverse English Language Arts - Development of Content Standards and Implementation	Senator Ellis	In Senate EEE Hearing 1/17 at 3 PM	Support with Amendments	Requiring the State Board of Education to develop content standards for inclusive and diverse English language arts to be included in certain State standards for English language arts by December 1, 2025; requiring each county board of education to develop and implement certain curriculum guides for inclusive and diverse English language arts; and requiring each public school to include inclusive and diverse English language arts in the English language arts curriculum beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.	We developed testimony with the DD Council to support that changes to English language arts standards should include inclusion from a disability lens.
HB0206		Education - Student Behavior - Parent and Guardian Notice and Required Counseling (Parent and Guardian Accountability Act)	Delegate R. Long	In House W&M Hearing 1/31 at 1 PM	Oppose	Establishing that it is unlawful for a parent or guardian of a student in a public school to fail to seek and participate in counseling with the parent's or guardian's child after receiving a certain notice of violent and disruptive behavior; and requiring a public school principal to provide a certain written notice to the parent or guardian of a student who engages in two or more incidents of violent and disruptive behavior on school premises or during school-related activities during the school year.	We are concerned that requiring parents to receive counseling for the behavior of their children is inappropriate in the case of a student with disabilities whose behavior may be related to their disability. While school-parent partnerships are important and should be a focus, we believe this particular bill/requirements may put undue burden on families of students with disabilities and is not in line with significant work to instill restorative practices in school, and is not supported in the trauma informed care model.
HB0060		Rehabilitation Services - Disability - Definition	Delegate Guyton	Passed in House (138-0) ; In Senate EEE Hearing 3/20 at 1 PM	Support	Altering the definition of "disability" relating to the provision of rehabilitation services in the State to align with the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and defining "disability" as any physical or mental impairment that constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment or independent living.	This updates language and should not present any unintended negative impact even as label would be different from Federal statute.
HB0050		Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education	Delegate Acevero	In House W&M Hearing 1/17 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	Establishing the Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education to make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education to further the discovery, interpretation, and learning of the history, culture, and civics of the United States and Maryland; and requiring the Commission to report its findings to the Board, the Governor, and the General Assembly by December 30 each year beginning in 2024.	We need to make sure alterations to the curriculum of history, culture and civics will include information on the history and culture of disabilities. This is important to increasing knowledge and understanding for greater inclusion/acceptance. Letter of information requested a change to a term- from "Differently abled" to "person with a disability", and also a request to add an additional member to the coalition from the disability community.
HB0074		Public Schools - Lifesaver Schools Program - Establishment	Delegate Guyton	In House W&M Hearing 1/17 at 1 PM	Support	Establishing the Lifesaver Schools Program to recognize public schools that provide health and safety training to students and school personnel; requiring Lifesaver Schools to offer students, at a minimum, training on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid, mental health wellness programs or a peer mentoring program, provide service hours for student participants, and offer certain training to school personnel; and authorizing a public school to partner with the county board to meet the criteria to qualify as a Lifesaver School.	We support this as one more way schools can embrace and implement cultures of understanding and help to those in need. We believe this will extend to greater empowerment, and safety for students with special behavioral and medical healthcare needs.

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HB0157		Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - Increase (School Safety Enhancement Act of 2024)	Delegate Griffith	In House APP Hearing 1/30 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	Beginning in fiscal year 2026, increasing from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000 an annual appropriation to the Safe Schools Fund to provide grants to local school systems and local law enforcement agencies to assist in meeting an annual reporting requirement on law enforcement coverage in public schools.	School safety is important and so is having resources for positive behavioral supports, training for teachers, and environmental modifications that could ensure access and safety, and want to ensure funds for those purposes are not starved in favor of funding for SROs. We have concerns about expanding the number of SROs in school when data supports situations where SROs have escalated situations. We will be sharing our views with partners and determining a position prior to hearing.
HB0167		Public Schools - Student Health - Certificate of Dental Health	Delegate Harrison	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Letter of Information	Requiring, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, each student enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school in the State, to submit a certificate of dental health to their school on a certain schedule; and requiring the Maryland Department of Health, to adopt certain regulations and to develop and disseminate a standard form for a certificate of dental health to county boards of education and parents and guardians of certain students.	On top of financial considerations and barriers to equity if legislation passes, there are some students with disabilities who do not tolerate dental care. In some cases, it may be in their best health interest to undergo dental work under sedation, but this is considered a risky approach and the risks often outweigh the benefits of the examination. There must be accommodations for students and families under certain circumstances so students are not prevented from accessing education- we have signed on to a letter of information from the EAC. Amendments were proposed by the House that made significant changes to the legislation.
SB0419	HB0377	Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program - Funding - Alterations	Senators King and Zucker	Passed in Senate (46-0) ; In House W&M Hearing 3/27 at 1 PM	Support with additional information	Altering the fiscal years, to begin in fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, during which the Governor is required to include in the annual budget bill a certain appropriation to the Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program.	We would still like to see inflation increases to the mandated appropriations for therapeutic childcare.
HB0377	SB0419	Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program - Funding - Alterations	Delegate Mireku-North et al.	In House W&M Hearing 1/31 at 1 PM and APP First Reading	Support with additional information	See above	See above
HB0420		State and Local Parks - Play Area Accessibility - Recreation Communication Boards Pilot Program	Delegate Lehman et al.	Passed in House (138-0) ; In Senate EEE First Reading	Support	Requiring the Department of Natural Resources and local governing bodies to construct communication boards in certain newly constructed public play areas; defining "communication board" as a device that displays photos, symbols, or illustrations to enable individuals with limited language skills to communicate; establishing the Maryland Recreation Communication Boards Pilot Program, subject to funding, to improve play area accessibility by covering the cost of purchasing and installing communication boards at State and local parks; etc.	
HB0336	SB00592	Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program - Materials for Individualized Education Program, Individualized Family Service Plan, and 504 Plan Meetings	Delegate Forbes et al.	Passed in House (139-0) ; In Senate EEE First Reading	Support with Information	Requiring a local school system to provide to parents at certain individualized education program meetings for children with disabilities certain written informational materials regarding the Maryland ABLE Program in a certain manner; requiring the State Treasurer to develop informational materials about the Maryland ABLE Program that may be distributed electronically or by hand; and requiring the State Treasurer to provide informational materials to the State Board of Education and county boards of education.	Bill passed the House with two amendments to add IFSP and 504 Plan Meetings
SB0592	HB0336	Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program - Materials for Individualized Education Program, Individualized Family Service Plan, and 504 Plan Meetings	Senator Zucker et al.	Passed in Senate (46-0) ; In House W&M Hearin 3/27 at 1 PM	Support with Information	See above	See above- same amendments as HB
HB00615	SB00512	Education - Prohibited Behavior on School Grounds and Property - Application	Delegate Ruth et al	Passed in House (94-38) ; In Senate EEE First Reading	Support	Specifying that provisions of law prohibiting and penalizing certain disruptive and threatening behavior on certain school grounds and property do not apply to students who commit offenses at the institution they attend or students who commit offenses at another institution while participating in or attending a sporting event or other extracurricular program sponsored at that institution.	This is a repeat bill from last session that did not make it through the legislative process. This bill would ensure that any person, other than a student, who enters a school and willfully disturbs the educational experience or school sponsored event will continue to be subject to a charge and penalty under the bill-referenced provision of the Education Article. This bill does not change law that says that students are subject to arrest and conviction for crimes contained elsewhere in the Criminal Law statute. This bill just removes the special crime of school disruption for students from the Education statute.
SB00512	HB00615	Education - Prohibited Behavior on School Grounds and Property - Application	Senator A. Washington	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/28 at 1 PM	Support	See above	see above

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HB0675		Primary and Secondary Education - Education Savings Account Program - Established (Maryland Universal School Choice Act)	Delegates Grammer et al.	In the House APP Hearing 3/6 at 1 PM	Oppose	Establishing the Education Savings Account program in the State administered by the State Department of Education to provide grants to the account of the parent of an eligible student in order to provide for the eligible student's education; requiring the parent of an eligible student to participate in a certain agreement with the Department; and allowing a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for deposits into an education savings account.	We prefer that any funds the state could gather for school choice grants instead be directed to public education enhancements. We are concerned this is being presented as a work-around to the BOOST program. If grants are going to be given by the state for use in non-public school admissions, there should be requirements for non-public schools who accept grant funding from parents of students with special education needs, to comply with the IDEA as if they were a public school, with all of the associated responsibilities and requirements.
SB0033	HB0837	More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024	Senator Rosapepe et al.	Passed in Senate (46-0) ; In House W&M Hearing 3/20 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring certain county boards of education to consider the pursuit of certain certificates, certifications, or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing postsecondary education and provide a method for a student or a student's parent or guardian to authorize the release of the student's personal information to certain apprenticeship sponsors and employers; requiring each public high school to inform students of certain employment and skills training opportunities in a certain manner; etc.	It is important for students to have opportunities and information about the trades. Fostering this, and providing these opportunities, we believe, will lead to enhanced work and postsecondary outcomes for students with disabilities upon exit from high school.
HB0837	SB0033	More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024	Delegate Wu et al.	In House W&M Hearing 2/14 at 1 PM	Support	See above	see above
SB0797	HB0903	Education - Access to Attorneys, Advocates, and Consultants for Special Education Program and Fund - Established	Senator Hester	In Senate Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Support	Requiring certain information to be provided to the parents of a child with a disability under certain circumstances; establishing the Access to Attorneys, Advocates, and Consultants for Special Education Program; establishing the Access to Attorneys, Advocates, and Consultants for Special Education Fund; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$2,000,000 to the fund beginning in fiscal year 2026; etc.	An eligible student is a student with a disability who comes from a household income not more than 150% of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation Guidelines (\$102,333 for a family). The eligible student must also meet one of the following criteria for situations that would deem the student eligible for access: On Page 10, lines 16-29 and page 11, lines 1-6: this includes the situations that require parental consent, and one situation left out of the parental consent law of 2017: a change in placement to which the parent disagrees. Also eligible would be a student who has been suspended or removed from school for more than 10 days, if a parent's native language is not English, and if a student has been restrained or placed in seclusion more than 10 times. The Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Services (MVL) would administer the program and have responsibilities to advertise the program, and seek attorneys advocates and consultants along with the criteria it will use to establish a person on their referral list is qualified. They also need to ensure school systems provide the information to families, and compile data. The funding for the Program includes an appropriation of \$2m in General Funds. Of note, 25% of the fund can be used for legal representation in due process hearings and court proceedings, and 75% can be used for consultation, representation, or advocacy. More of the fund is set aside to resolve problems before they go to due process and we appreciate the preventative nature in this structuring of the program.
HB0903	SB0797	Education - Access to Attorneys, Advocates, and Consultants for Special Education Program and Fund - Established	Delegates Atterbeary and Griffith et al.	Passed in House (136-2) ; In Senate EEE First Reading	Support	See above	

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HB0525	SB0513	Employment Discrimination – Use of Cannabis Products	Delegate Wilkins et al.	In House EMC Hearing 2/23 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	Prohibiting an employer from discriminating against an individual because of the individual's use of cannabis products under certain circumstances; establishing that certain provisions prohibiting employment discrimination do not prohibit an employer from taking certain actions against an employee under certain circumstances or authorize certain behaviors by an employee; and requiring certain employers to issue a drug policy under certain circumstances.	People who work in our field have to be able to provide quality, safe, reliable care to vulnerable adults. We have concerns with this section of the bill which creates a higher standard for employers to meet as they evaluate the employment of a caregiver post accident or for other cause: (2) UNLESS THE EMPLOYER HAS ESTABLISHED BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE THAT AN UNLAWFUL USE OF CANNABIS HAS IMPAIRED AN INDIVIDUAL'S ABILITY TO PERFORM THE INDIVIDUAL'S JOB RESPONSIBILITIES, TAKE AN ADVERSE EMPLOYMENT ACTION AGAINST THE INDIVIDUAL BECAUSE OF: (I) THE INDIVIDUAL'S USE OF CANNABIS PRODUCTS THAT IS LAWFUL UNDER THE LAWS IN THE STATE THAT OCCURS OFF THE EMPLOYER'S PREMISES DURING NONWORK HOURS; (II) THE INDIVIDUAL'S POSITIVE DRUG TEST FOR CANNABINOIDs OR CANNABIS METABOLITES, UNLESS THE INDIVIDUAL USED, POSSESSED, OR WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF CANNABIS ON THE PREMISES OF THE PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT; OR (III) THE INDIVIDUAL'S PRIOR ARREST OR CONVICTION FOR A NONVIOLENT CANNABIS OFFENSE THAT DOES NOT INVOLVE DISTRIBUTION TO A MINOR. We submitted testimony asking for an amendment to pull out "Safety Sensitive Positions." Similar to DC law.
SB0513	HB0525	Employment Discrimination – Use of Cannabis Products	Senator A. Washington	In Senate FIN Hearing 2/22 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	See above	see above
SB0552	HB0791	Operating Budget - Funding - Scholarships for Nonpublic School Students	Senator Corderman et al.	In Senate B&T Hearing 2/7 at 2 PM	Letter of information with EAC or Oppose	Requiring the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2026, to include in the annual budget bill General Fund appropriations of certain amounts for the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today Program.	We have a concern about this as we are trying to fund a world class public education system and believe funds should go into that first. That said, if the program moves forward, there should be a requirement that the non public schools that accept these grant funds have to ensure that students with disabilities are not excluded through admissions policies, and they will provide support and accommodations to ensure a student with a disability still has access to an appropriate education tailored to meet their needs.
HB0791	SB0552	Operating Budget - Funding - Scholarships for Nonpublic School Students	Delegate Ghrist et al.	In House APP Unfavorable Report	Letter of information with EAC or Oppose	See above	See above
HB1076	SB1091	Education - Blind and Visually Impaired Students - Textbook Equity	Delegates Roberts and Toles et al.	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Support with EAC	Requiring each county board of education, on or before January 15 each year, to determine the instructional materials that will be used in the upcoming school year and to coordinate with the Instructional Resources Center to provide the materials in a specialized format to blind or visually impaired students; requiring the State Department of Education to cover the cost to produce materials that are not available in a specialized format; requiring certain textbook publishers to provide an electronic file of certain textbooks; etc.	Some students wait months or longer to receive a textbook in a format they can read. This is in violation of federal law. This bill would make it easier for students to receive a timely remedy to these problems without having to go through the federal process which can take years. We support the added amendments.
SB1091	HB1076	Education - Blind and Visually Impaired Students - Textbook Equity	Senators Watson and West et al.	Passed in Senate (44-0) ; In House W&M First Reading	Support with EAC	See above	see above
HB1317		Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Use of Reimbursement Funds by Schools	Delegate Atterbeary	In House W&M Hearing 2/28 at 1 PM	Support with EAC	Requiring elementary schools, secondary schools, and county school systems to use certain funds received for services provided under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program or the Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program to provide certain positions, internships, and stipends.	EAC testimony emphasises that it is still a choice for families to decide if they are going to allow schools to bill their medical assistance for services (in case they need certain services in the community and do not want to max allows monthly amounts of something they need) and that funds from medicaid should remain with the schools, not revert to the general fund.
HB1027		Education - Primary and Secondary Schools - Alternative School Options (Right to Learn Act)	Delegate Fisher et al.	In House W&M Hearing 2/21 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	Requiring, on or before January 1 each year, each county board of education to provide certain information to the parents or legal guardians of students who attend a failing school; requiring a failing school to retain the failing school designation until the school receives a certain rating; requiring students who are attending a failing school to be provided the opportunity to attend an alternative school; establishing the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today Program; etc.	This would expand BOOST without requirements for schools to accept and accommodate students with IEPs and 504 Plans and funnel money out of the public school system which has disparate impacts on students with disabilities. We signed on to a Letter of Information with EAC

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HB1432	SB1062	Education – Prekindergarten and Withholding of County Board Funding (Blueprint Accountability and Flexibility Act of 2024)	Delegate Miller et al.	In House APP Hearing 3/6 at 1 PM and W&M First Reading	Oppose with EAC	Altering certain dates related to the family share for Tier II children in publicly funded prekindergarten; altering certain dates related to the proportion of eligible private provider prekindergarten slots; repealing the authorization for the State Department of Education to exclude by annual waiver Tier I children who are 4 years old from a certain prekindergarten slot calculation; establishing a process for the Accountability and Implementation Board to withhold certain funding from a county board under certain circumstances; etc.	
SB1062	HB1432	Education – Prekindergarten and Withholding of County Board Funding (Blueprint Accountability and Flexibility Act of 2024)	Senator Hershey	In Senate EEE Hearing 3/6 at 1 PM	Oppose with EAC	See above	
Healthcare							
SB0124	HB0400	Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits - Coverage and Reimbursement	Senator Augustine	In Senate FIN Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and certain health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage and certain reimbursement for annual behavioral health wellness visits.	
HB0400	SB0124	Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Annual Behavioral Health Wellness Visits - Coverage and Reimbursement	Delegate Woods et al.	In House HGO Hearing 2/8 at 1 PM	Support	See above	
SB0388	HB0340	Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority for Upper Payment Limits and Funding (Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Act of 2024)	Senators Gile and Feldman et al.	In Senate FIN Hearing 2/7 at 2 PM and First Reading B&T	Support	Requiring the Governor in fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of at least \$1,000,000 for the Prescription Drug Affordability Fund which provides funding for the Board; and requiring the Board, under certain circumstances, to establish a process for setting upper payment limits for all purchases and payor reimbursements of prescription drug products in the State that the Board determines have led or will lead to affordability challenges.	
HB0340	SB0388	Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority for Upper Payment Limits and Funding (The Lowering Prescription Drug Costs For All Marylanders Now Act)	Delegates Cullison and White Holland	In House HGO Hearing 2/8 at 1 PM	Support	See above	
HB0353	SB0445	Maryland Department of Health - 2-1-1 Maryland - Oversight	Delegate Cullison	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Support	Defining the term "Health and Human Services Referral System" for the purposes of certain provisions of law governing the System to mean a certain coordinated system for health and human service resources that is accessible to State residents, rather than a certain telephone service; repealing the requirement that the Maryland Department of Health evaluate the performance of certain call centers and make certain recommendations regarding the quality of service provided by call centers; etc.	Amends 2-1-1 responsibilities from just providing information to also providing behavioral health coordination services for those who call in for help.
SB0445	HB0353	Maryland Department of Health - 2-1-1 Maryland - Oversight	Senators Zucker and Augustine	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/8 at 1 PM	Support	See above	See above
HB0354		Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program and Advisory Committee - Establishment	Delegate Cullison	In House HGO Hearing 2/6 at 1 PM	Support	Establishing the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program in the Maryland Department of Health; requiring the Secretary to establish a pilot program at community colleges in at least two geographically diverse areas in the State that offer licensed practical nursing programs before implementing the Program statewide; requiring an annual report by to the Governor and the General Assembly on implementation of the Program; and establishing the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Advisory Committee to assist in the development of the Program.	This would help increase the stock of nurses we have in Maryland.
SB0600	HB0103	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Dental Services - Coverage and Rate Study	Senator Kramer	Passed in Senate (46-0) ; In House HGO First Reading	Support	Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to study the feasibility of including removable full and partial dentures and setting adequate reimbursement rates for providers on a per-patient basis for house calls and extended care facility calls among the coverage offered by the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program; and requiring the Department to report its findings from the study to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee by December 1, 2024	

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HB0103	SB0600	Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Dental Services - Coverage and Rate Study	Delegate Bagnall	Passed in House (137-2); In Senate FIN First Reading	Support	see above	
HB0767		Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Adult and Pediatric Dental Services - Reimbursement Rates	Delegate Kipke	In House HGO Hearing 2/14 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring the Maryland Department of Health, on or before January 1 each year, beginning in 2025, to conduct a certain review of billed charges and reimbursement rates for adult and pediatric dental services and report the findings to certain committees of the General Assembly; and requiring the Department, based on the data obtained from the review, to revise the rates for adult and pediatric dental services provided under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to ensure sufficient access to care for Program recipients.	
HB0784		Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times	Delegate Bhandari	In House HGO Hearing 2/28 at 1 PM	Oppose	Establishing the Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times to monitor, discuss, and make recommendations for reducing emergency department wait times including legislative, regulatory, or other policy initiatives; and requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1, 2026.	We understand the workgroup was not effective in making progress on this issue, and we do not think additional time will result in a better outcome. There is another bill by this delegate that we believe has a better chance of reaching the outcomes of producing solutions to this issue. That is HB1143
HB0403	SB0443	End-of-Life Option Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act)	Delegates Hill and Pena-Melnik et al.	In House HGO Hearing 2/16 at 1 PM and JUD Hearing 2/16 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	Authorizing an individual to request aid in dying by making certain requests; establishing requirements and prohibitions governing aid in dying, including requirements related to requests for aid in dying, consulting physicians, mental health assessments, the disposal of drugs prescribed for aid in dying, health care facility policies, and the effect of aid in dying on insurance policies; authorizing a pharmacist to dispense medication for aid in dying only to certain individuals under certain circumstances; etc.	The Arc Maryland submitted a letter of information regarding our memberships experiences with historic equity and access denials to quality healthcare as a lens through which this bill must be considered. We also acknowledged that views on the creation of this option are split amongst our membership and IF this passes in Maryland, there must be safeguards to ensure a person is receiving accurate information through which they are basing their decisions (Second opinions) and there is a data collection component to determine if use of this option is greater amongst people with low incomes, people with disabilities, black and brown people, LGBTQIA+ communities and other historically disenfranchised groups.
SB0443	HB0403	End-of-Life Option Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act)	Senators Waldstreicher and Lam et al.	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/8 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	See above	see above
HB1143		Emergency Medical Services - Maryland Emergency Department Wait Time Reduction Commission and Standardized Protocols - Establishment	Delegate Bhandari et al.	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Support	Establishing the Maryland Emergency Department Wait Time Reduction Commission in the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems to enhance the overall effectiveness and responsiveness of emergency medical services; requiring the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, with the advice of the Commission, and in consultation with certain entities, to develop certain standardized operational protocols and establish a system for monitoring certain emergency department performance; etc.	The ED Wait Time Reduction Commission will consist of nine members, one of whom will be a patient advocate, and it has a clear focus on reducing ED wait times. Amendments were added to expand the scope of work to look at the entire system and capacity that impacts ER Wait times, not just look at the ER in isolation.
HB0822		Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Employed Individuals With Disabilities	Delegate Cullison	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Support	Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to provide Maryland Medical Assistance Program services for qualified applicants who are at least 16 years old and for existing Program recipients under the Employed Individuals with Disabilities Program in accordance with certain requirements; prohibiting the Department from limiting eligibility to receive services under the EID Program based on certain criteria; etc.	See amendments added in the House.
SB0790		Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Employed Individuals With Disabilities	Senator Klausmeier	In Senate FIN Favorable with Amendments Report	Support	Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to provide Maryland Medical Assistance Program services for individuals under the Employed Individuals with Disabilities Program in accordance with certain requirements; prohibiting the Department from limiting eligibility to receive services under the EID Program based on certain criteria; repealing certain provisions of law relating to the Employed Persons with Disabilities Program; etc.	
HB0982	SB0142	Genetic Testing - Prohibitions on Disability, Life, and Long-Term Care Insurance (Genetic Testing Protection Act of 2024)	Delegate Kipke	In House HGO Hearing 2/15 at 1 PM	Support	Prohibiting insurance carriers that offer life insurance, long-term care insurance, and disability insurance policies or contracts from taking certain action regarding coverage based on whether an applicant or a policy or contract holder has requested or undergone genetic testing or the results of the genetic testing.	
SB0142	HB0982	Genetic Testing - Prohibitions on Disability, Life, and Long-Term Care Insurance (Genetic Testing Protection Act of 2024)	Senator Klausmeier	In Senate FIN Hearing 1/31 at 1 PM	Support	See above	

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Justice & Civil Rights							
HB0142		Election Law - Polling Places - Establishing Voter Identity (Voter Privacy Act of 2024)	Delegate R. Long	In House W&M Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM	Oppose	Authorizing a voter to establish the voter's identity at the request of an election judge at a polling place by presenting the voter's registration card, a valid Maryland driver's license, or certain other identification that contains a photograph.	We believe this would present barriers to people with IDD and interfere with the exercise of their voting rights.
HB0169		Custodial Interrogation of Minors - Admissibility of Statements	Delegate Acevero	In House JUD Hearing 2/8 at 1 PM	Support	Establishing a certain rebuttable presumption that a statement made by a minor during a custodial interrogation is involuntary and is inadmissible in a juvenile or criminal proceeding against the minor if the law enforcement officer intentionally used information known by the officer to be false in order to elicit the statement.	Repeat legislation from last year
HB0192		Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity	Delegate R. Long	In House W&M Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM	Oppose	Requiring an election judge to establish a voter's identity by requiring the voter to present a valid government-issued photo identification or a valid nongovernment-issued photo identification, and a current bill, statement, or check that states the voter's name and address as proof of identity; requiring a voter to vote a provisional ballot if the voter is unable to provide certain proof of identity; and prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully voting or attempting to vote under a false form of identification.	We believe this would present barriers to people with IDD and interfere with the exercise of their voting rights.
HB0202		Election Law - Absentee Ballots - Signature Requirements and Verification	Delegate R. Long	In House W&M Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM	Oppose	Prohibiting a local board of elections from removing an absentee ballot from a return envelope or ballot/return envelope or counting the ballot unless the return envelope or ballot/return envelope is signed by the voter and, except under certain circumstances, a witness and the local board verifies the voter's signature; and providing that the witness signature requirement does not apply to active duty uniformed services members serving overseas or their spouses or dependents who live overseas.	We believe this would present barriers to people with IDD and interfere with the exercise of their voting rights.
HB0164		Election Law - Voter Registration List - Absentee Voters (Absentee Ballot Transparency Act of 2024)	Delegate R. Long	In House W&M Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM	Oppose	Requiring the State Board of Elections or a local board of elections, on request of a candidate, to provide the candidate with a list of registered voters who have requested an absentee ballot for an upcoming election; and requiring that the list of absentee voters provided include the email address and telephone number of each voter on the list, if the information is available.	Voter privacy concerns and protections are needed for voters with disabilities to avoid unwarranted scrutiny of their absentee vote.
SB0061		Higher Education - Disciplinary Records - Use in Admissions and Disciplinary Proceedings	Senator A. Washington	In Senate EEE Hearing 1/24 at 2 PM	Support with Amendment	Prohibiting an institution of higher education from using an admissions application that contains questions about an applicant's disciplinary record, subject to certain exceptions; and authorizing an institution of higher education to make inquiries into and consider information about a student's disciplinary record for discipline related to academic dishonesty.	Students with disabilities who experienced behavior disqualification in school may have faced discipline for their behavior. Often with time and treatment/positive behavioral intervention, once concerning behavior may resolve prior to the student exiting high school. They should not have their futures hindered by something that was the result of a behavioral health or other disabling condition.
SB0252		Public Safety - 9-1-1 Trust Fund - Alterations	Chair EEE by request of Dept. of Emergency Management	Passed in Senate (44-0) ; In House HGO Hearing 3/19 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	Altering the 9-1-1 Trust Fund to authorize the use of certain allocated funds for the payment of the salary of certain personnel.	Letter of information to encourage the full implementation of Next Gen 911 and voluntary disclosure modules so first responders have critical information, provided by the individual, when responding to a call for help.
HB0359		Petition for Guardianship of the Property of Alleged Disabled Person - Stay of Civil Actions and Proceedings	Delegate J. Long et al.	Passed In House (135-0) ; In Senate JPR Hearing 3/21 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring an automatic stay of certain civil actions or proceedings on the filing of a petition for guardianship of the property of an alleged disabled person; and requiring, to effectuate service of process for certain civil actions against an alleged disabled person, the temporary or permanent guardian of the property of the disabled person to be served.	Include protections for the filing of a petition for a change in guardianship
HB0432		Courts and Judicial Proceedings and Criminal Procedure - Technical Corrections - References to Intellectual Disability	Delegate Kaufman et al.	Passed in House (138-0) ; In Senate JPR Hearing 3/21 at 1 PM	Support	Replacing references to mental retardation with references to an intellectual disability in certain provisions of law.	Supporting as a continuation of Rosa's Law that was passed in 2009 but did not address courts and judicial proceedings statutes at the time.
SB0495	HB1343	Election Law - Petitions and Ballot Questions - Plain Language Requirement	Senator Kagan	Passed in Senate (40-7) ; In House W&M Hearing 3/26 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring that a certain statement included on the signature page of a petition seeking to place a question on the ballot and a certain statement about the purpose of a question on the ballot be written in plain language reasonably calculated to be understood by an individual who has attained not higher than a grade 6 level of reading comprehension.	Coalition testimony
HB1343	SB0495	Election Law - Petitions and Ballot Questions - Plain Language Requirement	Delegate Attar	In House W&M Hearing 2/27 at 1 PM	Support	See above	See Above

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Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
HB0641		Election Law - Curbside Voting	Delegate Williams and Wilkins	Passed in House (116-20); In Senate EEE First Reading	Support	Requiring each local board of elections, at least 6 months prior to each statewide primary election, to designate an outside location for curbside voting, subject to the approval of the State Board; requiring a local board to take into account certain factors when determining a location for curbside voting; and establishing requirements governing curbside voting, including requirements related to the designation of curbside voting locations and how to vote at a curbside voting location.	Similar to a bill filed last year with slight differences to account for concerns raised with privacy, notifications, and access. Curbside voting would make it easier for people who have ambulation and mobility disabilities to vote from the comfort of a car.
HB0318	SB0373	Criminal Law - Theft - Mail and Mail Depository Key	Delegate Solomon et al.	In House JUD Hearing 1/30 at 1 PM	Support	Prohibiting the theft of mail from a mail depository owned by the United States Postal Service; prohibiting the theft of a device used to open a mail depository owned by the United States Postal Service; prohibiting the theft of mail with intent to commit identity theft; prohibiting the theft of mail from an elderly person or a vulnerable adult with intent to commit identity theft; and establishing penalties for violations of the Act.	Individuals with IDD and other disabilities fall victim to identity theft and mail fraud to a greater degree than people without disabilities, and often have greater difficulty addressing the identity theft and resolving it. We support increasing penalties for these crimes.
SB0373	HB0318	Criminal Law - Theft - Mail and Mail Depository Key	Senator Waldstreicher	Passed in Senate (45-0); In House JUD First Reading	Support	See above	See Above
SB0054	HB0175	Occupational Licensing and Certification – Criminal History – Prohibited Disclosures and Predetermination Review Process	Senator Carter	In Senate FIN Hearing 2/6 at 1 PM and EEE First Reading	Support with Amendment	Altering certain provisions of law regarding the prohibition on certain departments of State government from denying an occupational license or certificate to an applicant solely on the basis of the criminal history of the applicant by prohibiting a department from requiring disclosure of certain actions on an application and establishing a predetermination review process; authorizing a department to change a criminal history review fee of no more than \$100 or to waive the fee under certain circumstances; etc.	We have some concerns with lack of protections in this legislation for occupations that would be working with vulnerable adults. Joint testimony with MACS
HB0175	SB0054	Occupational Licensing and Certification – Criminal History – Prohibited Disclosures and Predetermination Review Process	Delegate Harrison	Passed in House (123-13);	Support with Amendment	See above	See above. See proposed House Amendments here.
HB0775	SB0802	Election Law - Voters With Disabilities - Electronic Ballot Return	Delegate Feldmark et al.	In House W&M Hearing 2/20 at 1 PM	Support with Amendment	Requiring the State Board of Elections to establish a process by which an individual with disabilities may return a marked absentee ballot to a local board of elections electronically.	This bill creates a requirement for the State BOE to establish a process through which a person with disabilities can return their absentee ballot electronically. Sponsor amendments ensure ballot privacy if a person exercises this option as a voting accommodation.
SB0802	HB0775	Election Law - Voters With Disabilities - Electronic Ballot Return	Senator Brooks et al.	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/21 at 1 PM	Support with Amendment	See above	See above
HB0987		State Government - Equal Access to Public Services for Individuals With Limited English Proficiency - Modifications	Delegate Acevero et al.	In House HGO Hearing 3/5 at 1 PM	Support	Altering provisions of law relating to equal access to public services for individuals with limited English proficiency by establishing certain requirements for certain State departments, agencies, or programs, including establishing certain positions, establishing a certain language access plan, and developing certain guides and offering certain services; and requiring the Office of the Attorney General to provide oversight, monitoring, investigation, and enforcement of certain language access provisions.	
HB0758	SB0927	Criminal Law – Crime of Violence – Second Degree Assault of a School Employee or Subcontractor (School Assault Reduction and Prevention Act)	Delegate Hutchinson et al.	In House JUD Hearing 2/20 at 1 PM	Oppose	Establishing second degree assault of an employee or a subcontractor of a public or private elementary or secondary school as a crime of violence for certain purposes.	We have concerns about how students with disabilities, including Behavioral Health conditions, might be considered if a behavioral incident results in injury to school personnel.
SB0927	HB0758	Criminal Law – Crime of Violence – Second Degree Assault of a School Employee or Subcontractor (School Assault Reduction and Prevention Act)	Senator Mautz	In Senate JPR Hearing 3/5 at 1 PM	Oppose	See above	
HB00698	SB0759	Estates and Trusts - Guardianship of the Person of a Disabled Person - Expedited Proceedings	Delegates Bartlett and Pena-Melnyk	In House JUD Unfavorable Report; Withdrawn	Oppose	Requiring a court to rule on petitions to appoint a guardian of the person of a disabled person in order to seek transfer or discharge of a disabled person from a hospital within 10 days; and requiring that hearings to appoint a guardian of the person of a disabled person be held virtually unless the party seeking appointment requests that the hearing be held in person	We agree that hospital overstays are an issue, but disagree that this is the remedy for people with IDD. Guardianship reviews are important and should be done in the time needed to gather all pertinent information. To mandate that reviews should be expedited for people with disabilities could result in more people with IDD remanded to guardianships, instead of having the opportunity to exercise alternatives to guardianship such as Supported Decision Making, exhausting these options prior to the consideration of a guardianship appointment. We will be discussing our concerns with the Sponsors in hopes we can arrive at a solution to the problem they seek to resolve.

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SB0759	HB00698	Estates and Trusts - Guardianship of the Person of a Disabled Person - Expedited Proceedings	Senatord Kelly and Beidle	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/20 at 1 PM	Oppose	See above	See above
SB0819		Public Schools - School Resource Officers - Firearms Required	Senator Jennings et al.	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/28 at 1 PM	Oppose	Requiring a Baltimore City school police officer and a school resource officer to carry a firearm while present on the premises of the school to which the officer is assigned.	Arming SROs could pose a danger to students with disabilities and behavioral conditions who may come into contact with school police who are often called upon to help in Behavioral incidents.
HB1342		Elections – Ballot Questions – Publication of Proposed Laws and Plain Language Summary	Delegate Feldmark	In House W&M Hearing 2/27 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring the State Board of Elections and each applicable local board of elections to post the complete text and a plain language summary of certain proposed language or enactments relating to certain ballot questions for at least 65 days before the general election; requiring that a statement of purpose of a ballot question be written in plain easily understandable language; and prohibiting the questions from appearing on the ballot unless the proposed language or the enactment has been written.	
HB1359		Facilities - Disabilities and Juveniles - Community Relations Plans	Delegates Rosenberg, Attar, and Ruff	In House HGO Hearing 3/1 at 2 PM	Oppose	Requiring that certain regulations adopted by the Department of Juvenile Services governing juvenile care facilities and juvenile detention facilities include a requirement for the establishment, implementation, and review of certain community relations plans that include descriptions of certain processes and procedures; and requiring certain State residential centers and private group homes to establish, implement, and revise certain community relations plans.	This legislation violates Maryland Statute (Health General Article 7-603) and that it likely violates the Federal Fair Housing Amendments Act.

Monitored Bills by Topic

Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
Community Living & Working							
HB0571	SB0485	Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications	Delegate Qi et al.	Passed in House (99-39); In Senate FIN First Reading	Monitoring	Modifying provisions of law governing application, administration, and enforcement of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, including provisions related to the payment of contributions, the calculation of the average weekly wage, the submission of claims for benefits, the application of the Program to self-employed individuals, the satisfaction of Program requirements through private employer plans or insurance, and the use of contributions or other funding by the Secretary of Labor.	This bill moves the timeline back for implementation of the FAMLI insurance program back 6 months. It is our understanding that this change, if passed, will also trigger a removal of the appropriation for Medical provider reimbursement for the 6 months as well.
SB0485	HB0571	Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications	Senator Hayes	Passed in Senate (33-11); In House EMC First Reading	Monitoring	see above	see above
SB0070	HB1507	Transportation - Change in Bus Service - Impacts Report	Senator McCray	Passed in Senate (46-0); In House E&T Hearing 3/20 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Requiring the Maryland Transit Administration, before announcing any reduction or cancellation of an existing bus route or line, to compile a report on the impacts of the proposed service reduction or cancellation; requiring the Administration to publish the report on its website at least 30 days before the required public hearing on the proposed service change; and requiring the Administration to distribute the report to certain officials and entities.	
HB1507	SB0070	Transportation - Change in Bus Service - Impacts Report	Delegate Addison	In House E&T Hearing 3/20 at 1 PM	Monitoring	see above	
SB0086	HB0218	Income Tax - Credit for Long-Term Care Premiums (Long-Term Care Relief Act of 2024)	Senator Klausmeier	In Senate B&T Hearing 1/18 at 12 PM	Monitoring	Limiting eligibility for a credit against the State income tax for certain long-term care insurance premiums paid by a taxpayer for long-term care insurance purchased before January 1, 2005, to taxpayers who are at least 65 years old with a Maryland adjusted gross income of less than \$100,000 for an individual or \$200,000 for a joint filer; altering the maximum amount of the credit; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.	
HB0218	SB0086	Income Tax - Credit for Long-Term Care Premiums (Long-Term Care Relief Act of 2024)	Delegate Stewart	In House W&M Hearing 2/1 at 1 PM	Monitoring	See above	

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SB0197	HB0039	Residential Service Agencies - Reimbursement - Personal Assistance Services	Senator Ellis	Passed in Senate (33-13); In House HGO Hearing 3/20 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Authorizing the Maryland Department of Health to reimburse a residential service agency for personal assistance services only if the personal assistance services are provided by an individual classified as an employee.	
HB0039	SB0197	Residential Service Agencies - Reimbursement - Personal Assistance Services	Delegate R. Lewis	Passed in House (101-37); In Senate FIN First Reading	Monitoring	See above	
SB0200		Counties - Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks - Safe Alternative Routes to Public Schools	Senator Ellis	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/7 at 2 PM	Monitoring	Requiring a county board of education each year to prepare and post to the county's website a report that identifies pathways that public school students may use to travel to school using only safe alternative routes under certain circumstances; requiring the governing body of a county each year to review a certain report and construct any sidewalks and crosswalks necessary to create safe alternative routes for public school students under certain circumstances; etc.	
HB0032		Income Tax - Caregiver Tax Credit	Delegate Harrison	In House W&M Hearing 2/1 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Allowing certain caregivers a credit against the State income tax equal to 30% of certain qualified expenses paid or incurred during the taxable year that exceed \$2,000 to provide care or support to certain qualified family members; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.	
HB0189		Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Provider Agencies and Personal Care Aides - Reimbursement and Wage Reports (Homecare Workers Employment Act of 2024)	Delegate R. Lewis	Passed in House (106-30); In Senate FIN Hearing 3/20 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Requiring provider agencies to submit certain reports to the Maryland Department of Labor regarding wage rates for personal care aides on or before September 1 each year, beginning in 2025; and requiring, by September 30, 2026, and every 2 years thereafter, the Maryland Department of Health to submit reports to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee regarding reimbursement rates for provider agencies and any recommended regulatory or legislative changes.	EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION. THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER COMMUNITY FIRST CHOICE, COMMUNITY OPTIONS, COMMUNITY PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES, AND ANY OTHER HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT. (2) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO PERSONAL CARE SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION.
HB0251		Unemployment Insurance - Covered Employment - Employees of Governmental Entities or Charitable, Educational, or Religious Organizations	Chair EMC by request of Dept. of Labor	In House Second Reading Passed	Monitoring	Specifying that certain limitations on the payment of benefits to employees of governmental entities or charitable, educational, or religious organizations do not apply with respect to service in other covered employment, including covered employment for a for-profit employing unit, even if the service is provided exclusively for a governmental entity or a charitable, educational, religious, or other organization.	
SB0169	HB0660	Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund	Senator Kagan	Passed in Senate (44-0); In House EMC First Reading and APP First Reading	Monitoring	Establishing the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program in the Maryland Energy Administration to provide financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans to nonprofit organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of qualifying energy systems; establishing the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Fund; authorizing, in fiscal year 2026, the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the Fund; etc.	Amendments in passed legislation include changing the strength of the requirement for an annual appropriation to the fund. The Governor "may" include an appropriation instead of The Governor "shall" include an appropriation.
HB0660	SB0169	Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund	Delegate Charkoudian	In House EMC Hearing 2/8 at 1 PM and APP First Reading	Monitoring	See above	
SB0328	HB0462	Funding for Wages and Benefits for Nursing Home Workers (Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding Act of 2024)	Senator Rosapepe	In Senate B&T hearing on 1/24 at 1 PM	Monitoring	For the purpose of requiring that the Governor's proposed budget for certain fiscal years include a certain percentage reimbursement rate increase for providers of certain health care services under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, the Maryland Children's Health Program, and the Community First Choice program; requiring nursing homes to annually submit a certain cost report to the Maryland Department of Health; requiring that a certain percentage of the funding increase for certain fiscal years be used to fund wages and benefits for certain workers; and generally relating to the reimbursement of service providers under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, the Maryland Children's Health Program, and the Community First Choice program.	While the bill refers to designation of a portion of the rates for certain services (M00Q01.03 and .07) be designated for wages of staff, and includes mandates for 8% funding increases for those services, the definition of "provider" includes "home and community based services". While other parts of the bill make fairly clear this would not apply to the DDA Waivers and HCBS, we do have concerns about a precedent for requiring that a certain percentage of the rate be designated to wages without a full examination of other operating costs and wage related expenses (benefits, payroll taxes, etc.) in a system that must also be covered through a rate. This examination is necessary to ensure legislation intended to resolve a workforce crisis and stabilize services does not have an opposite impact.

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HB0462	SB0328	Funding for Wages and Benefits for Nursing Home Workers (Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding Act of 2024)	Delegate Martinez et al.	In House HGO Hearing 2/1 at 1 PM	Monitoring	See above	see above
SB0328		Funding for Wages and Benefits for Nursing Home Workers (Nursing Home Staffing Crisis Funding Act of 2024)	Senator Rosapepe	In Senate B&T hearing on 1/24 at 1 PM	Monitoring	For the purpose of requiring that the Governor's proposed budget for certain fiscal years include a certain percentage reimbursement rate increase for providers of certain health care services under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, the Maryland Children's Health Program, and the Community First Choice program; requiring nursing homes to annually submit a certain cost report to the Maryland Department of Health; requiring that a certain percentage of the funding increase for certain fiscal years be used to fund wages and benefits for certain workers; and generally relating to the reimbursement of service providers under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, the Maryland Children's Health Program, and the Community First Choice program.	While the bill refers to designation of a portion of the rates for certain services (M00Q01.03 and .07) be designated for wages of staff, and includes mandates for 8% funding increases for those services, the definition of "provider" includes "home and community based services". While other parts of the bill make fairly clear this would not apply to the DDA Waivers and HCBS, we do have concerns about a precedent for requiring that a certain percentage of the rate be designated to wages without a full examination of other operating costs and wage related expenses (benefits, payroll taxes, etc.) in a system that must also be covered through a rate. This examination is necessary to ensure legislation intended to resolve a workforce crisis and stabilize services does not have an opposite impact.
SB0084	HB0116	Teacher Degree Apprenticeship	Senator Rosapepe	In Senate Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Monitoring	Establishing the Teacher Apprenticeship Startup Grant Program in the Department of Labor to provide high school and college students, and career changers opportunities to begin a career in education; requiring the establishment of apprenticeships that develop career paths and to pay apprentices certain compensation; authorizing the Department of Labor to award up to \$500,000 to develop and launch a teacher apprenticeship program; requiring a sponsor to coordinate with the CTE Committee to develop a high school-level program; etc.	While this would be good to expand the Educator workforce, we need to ensure that apprentice students do not end up primarily in Special Education as a way to fill the critical positions there with qualified teachers.
HB0116	SB0084	Teacher Degree Apprenticeship	Delegate Kerr	In House W&M Hearing 1/31 at 1 PM and EMC First Reading	Evaluating	See above	see above
SB1057	HB1176	Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver – Eligibility	Senator Kramer	In Senate FIN Unfavorable Report; Withdrawn	Evaluating	Altering the financial eligibility criteria for the home- and community-based services waiver submitted by the Maryland Department of Health to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to include categorically needy individuals with an income disregard up to 300% of the Supplemental Security Income monthly benefit amount and a certain community spouse resource allowance; requiring the Department to adopt regulations to establish a timeline within which the Department is required to approve or deny the application of an applicant; etc.	We understand there are some issues with the way this bill is written. We are monitoring for now.
HB1176	SB1057	Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver – Eligibility	Delegate Cullison	In House HGO Hearing 3/1 at 1 PM	Evaluating	See above	

Education & Childcare

SB0180	HB0086	Public and Nonpublic Schools - Auto-Injectable Epinephrine and Bronchodilators - Use, Availability, Training, and Policies	Senator Hester	Passed in Senate (45-0) ; In House W&M Hearing 3/20 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Requiring each county board of education and authorizing nonpublic schools to update their policies to require school nurses and school personnel to complete certain training before they are authorized to administer auto-injectable epinephrine to certain students and to establish a policy to obtain, administer, and train school personnel to administer bronchodilators to certain students; and requiring the State Department of Education to develop training for school personnel in identification of respiratory distress in students.	
HB0086	SB0180	Public and Nonpublic Schools - Auto-Injectable Epinephrine and Bronchodilators - Use, Availability, Training, and Policies	Delegate Boyce et al.	Passed in House (137-0) ; In Senate EEE First Reading	Monitoring	See above	
HB0065		Public Schools - Medical and Psychological Treatment in School-Based Health Centers and Public Schools - Parental Notice	Delegate Miller	In House HGO Hearing 3/13 at 1 PM and W&M First Reading	Evaluating	Requiring a school health practitioner, health care practitioner, or certified school psychologist employed by or under a contract with a school-based health center, local school system, or local health department to provide school health services at a public school to provide certain information to a certain student's parent or guardian about any consultation, diagnosis, or treatment provided to the student.	We have concerns that this added requirement will present a barrier to ensuring students are seeking out help from a trusted adult during crisis or to prevent a crisis.

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HB0137		Civil Actions - Civil Immunity - Educator Intervention	Delegate Grammer	Passed in House (138-1); In Senate JPR Hearing 3/21 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Providing that a member of the administrative, educational, or support staff of any public, private, or parochial school, acting in an official capacity, is not civilly liable for personal injury or property damage resulting from intervention in a student altercation or other student disturbance if the staff member intervened in a reasonably prudent manner and the actions taken do not constitute grossly negligent, willful, wanton, or intentionally tortious conduct.	It is not clear if this legislation is needed as educators already have protections for conditions under which they are intervening without excessive force and in good faith. We will be gathering more information from our partners on possible consequences of this legislation we have not thought of.
SB0112		County Boards of Education - Student Cellular Phone Use - Policy Required	Senator Salling	In Senate EEE Hearing 1/17 at 3 PM	Monitoring	Requiring county boards of education to develop and adopt a policy that prohibits students from using a cellular phone during instructional time unless a teacher expressly directs the student to use a cellular phone for educational purposes; and exempting a county board that has an existing policy on the student use of cellular phones during school hours from the requirement to develop and adopt a new policy.	Some students rely on their smartphone for communication, note taking, and other school/education related needs. We must ensure there will be accommodations for students with disabilities who use devices as AAC. All Counties should already have a policy of their own in the place which makes us question the need for the bill.
HB0890		Public Schools - Discipline-Related Data - Collection and Publication	Delegate Kaufman et al.	In House W&M Hearing 2/21 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Requiring the State Department of Education to disaggregate certain discipline-related data in an electronic spreadsheet format for the Department's website, make the data available to the public, and report certain discipline-related information each year; requiring the Department to maintain a risk ratio and State comparison threshold of 2.0 to be used to identify a school's disproportional disciplinary practices; and requiring the Department to report disproportionality data for high-suspending schools.	
HB0902		Prekindergarten - Ulysses Currie Head Start Program - Eligibility for State Funds	Delegate Ghrist et al.	In House Second Reading Passed	Monitoring	Authorizing a provider in the Ulysses Currie Head Start Program to receive certain State funds under certain circumstances; and exempting providers in the Program from certain State requirements for eligible prekindergarten providers.	
HB1237		State Department of Education - Task Force to Study the Maryland Online IEP System	Delegate Miller et al.	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Evaluating with EAC	Establishing the Task Force to Study the Maryland Online IEP System; requiring the Task Force to consider the effectiveness, functionality and usability of the System and make recommendations to maintain and upgrade the system or to replace it with another platform; and requiring the Task Force to report its recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by June 1, 2025.	
HB1336	SB1077	Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - School Security Employees	Delegate Ghrist	In House APP Hearing 2/27 at 12 pm	Monitoring	Increasing a certain annual appropriation for certain school safety expenditures for fiscal year 2026 and further increasing the annual appropriation for certain school safety expenditures beginning in fiscal year 2027; altering the allocation of certain grant funds to be based on student enrollment; and authorizing local school systems to use certain funds for school security employees.	
SB1077	HB1336	Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - School Security Employees	Senator Corderman	Passed in Senate (45-0);	Monitoring	See above	
HB1441		Early Childhood Education - Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Programs - Alterations	Delegate Atterbeary	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Monitoring	Establishing certain requirements for a teacher's certificate in early childhood education; altering the teaching credentials required for staff of qualified providers for prekindergarten services for purposes of the Prekindergarten Grant Program; repealing certain requirements for county boards of education to ensure that a certain percentage of publicly funded prekindergarten slots are provided by eligible private providers; etc.	See proposed House Amendments here.
Healthcare							
SB0208		Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Provider Agencies and Personal Care Aides - Reimbursement and Wages	Senator Benson	In Senate FIN Unfavorable Report; Withdrawn	Monitoring	Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to increase the hourly reimbursement rate for certain personal assistance services under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to a minimum of \$25 per hour; requiring provider agencies to pay the greater of \$16 per hour or 64% of the hourly reimbursement rate to personal care aides and to provide a written notice regarding the wage to personal care aides; requiring provider agencies to submit annual cost reports to the Department; etc.	While this doesn't appear to apply to DDA Waiver services, we have concerns about legislation that mandates a certain component of the rate be designated for wages, without a full examination into all of the costs of operating, including wage related expenses that accompany increases in wages such as unemployment, taxes, and benefits. The \$25 increase mandated in the bill will not cover the costs that would be incurred by residential service agencies to pay a \$16/wage.

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SB0212	HB1048	Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access - Alterations	Chair FIN by request of Dept. of Health	Passed in Senate (46-0); In House HGO Hearing 3/20 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Altering the membership and terms of members of the Behavioral Health Advisory Council; requiring the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access to meet jointly with the Council; and requiring the Commission, in coordination with the Council, to make recommendations regarding the financing structure and quality oversight necessary to integrate somatic and behavioral health services in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.	
HB1048	SB0212	Behavioral Health Advisory Council and Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access - Alterations	Chair HGO by request of Dept. of Health	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Monitoring	See above	
SB0371		Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Provider Agencies and Personal Care Aides - Reimbursement and Wage Reports (Homecare Workers Livable Wage Act of 2024)	Senator Lam	Passed in Senate (34-12); In House HGO First Reading	Monitoring	Requiring provider agencies to submit certain reports to the Maryland Department of Labor regarding wage rates for personal care aides on or before September 1 each year, beginning in 2025; and requiring, by September 30, 2024, and every 2 years thereafter, the Maryland Department of Health to submit reports to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee regarding reimbursement rates for provider agencies and any recommended regulatory or legislative changes.	
SB0825		Health Facilities – Delegation of Inspection Authority – Related Institutions and Nursing Homes	Senator Kramer	Passed in Senate (45-0); In House HGO Hearing 3/28 at 1 PM	Evaluating	Requiring the Secretary of Health, on request of a unit of local government, to delegate to the unit of local government the authority to inspect and to conduct site visits and full surveys of related institutions and nursing homes; and requiring related institutions and nursing homes to report certain information to a unit of local government if the Secretary has delegated inspection authority.	
SB0863	HB0723	Office of the Attorney General - Rights of Residents of Health Care Facilities - Injunctive Relief and Penalties	Senate President by request of Attorney General	In Senate FIN Hearing 3/1 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Authorizing the Attorney General to seek injunctive relief on behalf of the State on the basis of an imminent or ongoing violation of certain rights of residents of certain health care facilities; authorizing the Attorney General to request a court to impose a certain civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 on an assisted living program for certain violations; and requiring that the resident bill of rights for assisted living program residents include certain rights.	
HB0723	SB0863	Office of the Attorney General - Rights of Residents of Health Care Facilities - Injunctive Relief and Penalties	Speaker of the House by Request of Attorney General	In House Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Monitoring	See above	
SB0945	HB1043	Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Individuals With Intellectual Disabilities - Study	Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Individuals With Intellectual Disabilities - Study	In Senate FIN Unfavorable Report; Withdrawn	Monitoring	Requiring the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland Insurance Administration jointly to conduct a study of Maryland Medical Assistance Program and commercial health insurance coverage to measure the number and percentage of individuals who have been denied health coverage for the treatment of an intellectual disability from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2025, both inclusive; and requiring the Department and the Administration to jointly report their findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2025.	We believe the intent of this was to look at the number of people with Autism who have not been approved for access to the Medicaid Waivers
HB1043	SB0945	Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Individuals With Intellectual Disabilities - Study	Delegate Cullison	In House HGO Unfavorable Report	Monitoring	See above	See above
HB1277	SB0729	Security Guards – Use of Force Reporting – Health Care-Related Physical Interventions	Delegate Embry and Amprey	In House EMC Hearing 3/6 at 1 PM	Evaluating	Providing that a health care-related physical intervention does not constitute use of force for purposes relating to a certain report required to be made to the Secretary of State Police; and prohibiting a certain report from including information that is prohibited from disclosure by State or federal law.	
SB0729	HB1277	Security Guards – Use of Force Reporting – Health Care-Related Physical Interventions	Senator Carter	In Senate Second Reading Passed with Amendments	Evaluating	See above	

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Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
SB0052	HB0319	Juvenile Justice Restoration Act of 2024	Senatore Folden et al.	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Altering the jurisdiction of the juvenile court to establish that the juvenile court has exclusive original jurisdiction over a child who is at least 10 years old alleged to have committed a crime involving the use or possession of a firearm; and altering a certain provision of law authorizing a law enforcement officer to conduct an otherwise lawful custodial interrogation of a child if the child's parent, guardian, or custodian consents to the custodial interrogation of the child without the child's consultation with an attorney.	
HB0319	SB0052	Juvenile Justice Restoration Act of 2024	Delegates Kipke and Szeliga et al.	In House JUD Hearing 2/8 at 1 PM	Monitoring	See above	
SB0120		Juvenile Law - Custodial Interrogation - Parental Consultation	Senator Watson et al.	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Authorizing a child to consult with the child's parent, guardian, or custodian instead of an attorney before a law enforcement officer may conduct a custodial interrogation of the child.	
SB0314		Juvenile Law - Willful Misconduct of a Minor - Civil Liability of a Parent, Legal Guardian, or Custodian (Parental Accountability Act)	Senator Benson	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/13 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Establishing the joint and several civil liability of a parent, guardian, or custodian of a minor who commits an act of willful misconduct that results in the death or injury of an individual or damage to property, subject to a certain exception; requiring the Administrative Office of the Courts to periodically adjust and publish certain maximum liability amounts; and limiting the liability of an insurance provider under the Act.	We have concerns about the application of the term "willful misconduct," and how this would be operationalized as it will impact students with disabilities who may, as a function of their disability, damage property or injure another. Their parents should not be held accountable for the child's behavior if or when that happens. There is no exclusion for students with disabilities. We will share these concerns with the Sponsor asap.
HB0308		Public Safety - Missing Person Reports - Collection and Publication	Delegate Healey	In House JUD Unfavorable Report	Monitoring	Requiring the Department of State Police to compile and report on its website information on missing person reports that is disaggregated by age, race, and reporting county, and provide the number of resolved missing persons reports in the preceding month; requiring a local law enforcement agency to provide certain information on missing person reports as required by the Department of State Police; and requiring the Department of State Police to adopt procedures for the collection of information from local law enforcement agencies.	
SB0381	HB0047	Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation Based on Sex (Fairness In Girls' Sports Act)	Senator Carozza et al.	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/7 at 2 PM	Monitoring	Requiring certain interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams or sports sponsored by certain schools to be expressly designated based on biological sex; prohibiting certain entities from taking certain adverse actions against a school for maintaining separate interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams and sports for students of the female sex; and providing that certain individuals have the right to bring a civil action under certain circumstances.	
HB0047	SB0381	Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams - Designation Based on Sex (Fairness In Girls' Sports Act)	Delegate Szeliga et al.	Unfavorable Report by W&M	Monitoring	See above	
HB0368	SB0666	Human Relations - Discrimination by a Place of Public Accommodation	Delegate Cullison	Passed in House (101-34); In Senate JPR First Reading	Monitoring	Authorizing certain persons or the Commission on Civil Rights to elect to have the claims asserted in a complaint alleging discrimination by a place of public accommodation determined in a civil action brought by the Commission; expanding the remedies available for certain discrimination; clarifying the remedies available for an unlawful employment practice; authorizing a complainant alleging certain discrimination to bring a civil action under certain circumstances; etc.	
SB0666	HB0368	Human Relations - Discrimination by a Place of Public Accommodation	Senator Charles	Passed in Senate (45-0); In House HGO First Reading	Monitoring	See above	
SB0772		Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity	Senator Ready et al.	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/16 at 9 AM	Monitoring	Requiring an election judge to establish a voter's identity by requiring the voter to present a valid government-issued photo identification or a valid nongovernment-issued photo identification, and a current bill, statement, or check that states the voter's name and address as proof of identity; requiring a voter to vote a provisional ballot if the voter is unable to provide certain proof of identity; and prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully voting or attempting to vote under a false form of identification.	We understand this is not likely to pass

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Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
HB0788		Human Relations - Protections Against Discrimination - Criminal Records	Delegate Alston et al.	In House JUD Hearing 2/20 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Prohibiting discrimination based on an individual's criminal record in public accommodations, commercial leasing, housing, and employment and by certain licensed or regulated persons; establishing certain exceptions to certain prohibitions established under the Act; and establishing that certain crimes are not included in the definition of "criminal record" for the purposes of certain provisions prohibiting discrimination.	This would exempt organizational employers that hire people to support vulnerable individuals and the aging community.
SB1031		Civil Actions - Lead Poisoning - Liability and Statute of Limitations (Maryland Lead Poisoning Compensation Act)	Senator Carter	In Senate JPR Hearing 3/7 at 1 PM	Evaluating	Establishing that an action against the owner or manager of certain property to recover certain damages arising from injuries suffered as a result of lead poisoning may be filed at any time; establishing strict liability for the owner or manager of a property with lead-based paint hazards resulting in lead poisoning of another; establishing that limitations on certain damages awarded to a prevailing plaintiff do not apply to a claim under the Act; etc.	

[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	Mark S. Chang
EMC	Economic Matters	C.T. Wilson	Brian M. Crosby
E&T	Environment and Transportation	Marc Korman	Regina T. Boyce
HGO	Health and Government Operations	Joseline Pena-Menlyk	Bonnie Cullison
HRU	Rules and Executive Nominations	Anne Healey	Marvin E. Holmes, Jr.
JUD	Judiciary	Luke Clippinger	J. Sandy Bartlett
W&M	Ways and Means	Vanessa E. Atterbeary	Jheanelle Wilkins

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	Antonio Hayes	Clarence Lam
FIN	Finance	Pamela Beidle	Katherine Klausmeier
JPR	Judicial Proceedings	William C. Smith, Jr.	Jeff Waldstreicher
SRU	Rules	Shelly Hettleman	C. Anthony Muse

LEADERSHIP

Click each Name for Details and Contact Information

House Leadership

Title	Representative
Speaker of the House	Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker Pro Tem	Dana Stein
Majority Leader	David Moon
Majority Whip	Jazz Lewis
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