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The Arc Maryland

Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
2026 Bill Tracker- The Arc Maryland							
HB0390	SB0282	Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2027)	House Speaker by Request of Administration	In House APP First Reading	Support with Amendment	Making the proposed appropriations contained in the State Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, in accordance with Article III, Section 52 of the Maryland Constitution; etc.	M00M01.02 Community Services General Fund Appropriation ..... 1,721,177,226 Special Fund Appropriation ..... 2,500,000 Federal Fund Appropriation ..... 1,539,382,200 Total: 3,263,059,426. Also: To become available immediately upon passage of this budget to supplement the appropriation for fiscal 2026 to fund the community services fiscal 2025 shortfall. General Fund Appropriation ..... 189,841,412 Federal Fund Appropriation ..... 166,730,758 Total: 356,572,170. And: To become available immediately upon the passage of this budget to supplement the appropriation for fiscal 2026 to fund increased spending in community services. General Fund Appropriation ..... 190,000,000 Federal Fund Appropriation ..... 190,000,000 Total: 380,000,000. The MDH- DDA Budget Hearing is scheduled for 2/26/26 in the House at 1 PM
SB0282	HB0390	Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2027)	Senate President by Request of Administration	In Senate B&T First Reading	Support with Amendment	See above	See Above: MDH- DDA Budget Hearing is scheduled for 2/27/26 in the Senate at 11:30 AM
HB0392	SB0284	Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act	House Speaker by Request of Administration	In Senate B&T First Reading	Evaluating	Altering or repealing certain required appropriations; authorizing the use of certain funds for certain purposes; authorizing, requiring, or altering the distribution of certain revenue; altering eligibility for certain programs; providing certain modifications to federal adjusted gross income of an individual or federal taxable income of a corporation for Maryland income tax purposes relating to certain depreciation deductions allowed under the federal income tax; etc.	We are still evaluating. Noted are changes to the Sellinger Formula, used to fund institutes of Higher Education, and deleting funding for highschool drivers education programs
SB0284	HB0392	Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act	Senate President by Request of Administration	In House APP First Reading	Evaluating	See above	See above
Bill Positions by Topic							
Bill	**Crossfiled Bill**	**Title**	**Sponsor**	**Status**	**Position**	**Description**	**Notes**
Community Living & Working							
SB0022	HB0226	Department of Disabilities - Housing Programs and Affiliated Foundations – Establishment	Chair, FIN by Request of the Department	In Senate FIN Hearing 1/28 at 2 PM	Support	Requiring the Department of Disabilities to establish affordable and accessible housing programs; authorizing the Department to establish affiliated foundations to work with certain programs and units of the Department to solicit and accept funds, partner with individuals and entities, and promote certain activities that support certain projects; and generally relating to the establishment of housing programs and affiliated foundations by the Department of Disabilities.	Some of the programs and services provided by the Department of Disabilities are vulnerable to private, state, and federal funding source cuts. The creation of a foundation, to support these activities of the Maryland Department of Disabilities, will provide an opportunity and mechanism for other foundations, and corporate and individual donors to support the functions of the MDOD, enabling the department to continue to provider certain critical services, such as tech assistance and housing supports.
HB0226	SB0022	Department of Disabilities - Housing Programs and Affiliated Foundations – Establishment	Chair, APP by Request of the Department	In House APP First Reading	Support	See above	See above
SB0037		Maryland Service Animal Programs - Participant Disqualification - Revisions	Senator Simonaire	In Senate FIN Hearing 1/27 at 2:30 PM	Support	Revising provisions related to the disqualification of a program participant from the Maryland Children's Service Animal Program or the Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program; and generally relating to the Maryland Children's Service Animal Program and the Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program.	Clarifies criteria for disqualification of a participant in the program by stating the individual's behavior must post a "direct threat", referring to the definition in the ADA of Direct Threat. A nonprofit training entity may disqualify a Program participant from participation in the Program if the nonprofit training entity determines that the Program participant's involvement in the Program: (i) presents a danger to the Program participant's mental or physical well–being; (ii) (removing) [has caused or may potentially cause harm] (inserting) PRESENTS A DIRECT THREAT to others, etc.
SB0199		Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund - Eligible Companions	Senator Simonaire	In Senate FIN Hearing 1/28 at 2 PM	Support	Requiring a grant from the Individuals With Disabilities and Service–Disabled Veterans Boating Fund to provide opportunities to participate in certain water–dependent activities for eligible companions of individuals with disabilities or service–disabled veterans; and generally relating to the Individuals With Disabilities and Service–Disabled Veterans Boating Fund.	Provides for eligible companions to support veterans and other individuals with disabilities to participate in sailing and other water-based activities. "ELIGIBLE COMPANION" MEANS AN ACCOMPANYING FAMILY MEMBER OR DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF AN INDIVIDUAL WITH DISABILITIES OR OF A SERVICE–DISABLED VETERAN PARTICIPATING IN SAILING, BOATING, KAYAKING, CANOEING, PADDLEBOARDING, OR SURFING ACTIVITIES.

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Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
HB0015		Public Information Act – Public Records – Nonprofit Organizations	Delegate M. Morgan et al.	In House GVC First Reading	Letter of Information	Altering the definition of a "public record" under the Public Information Act to include certain documentary material made by certain nonprofit organizations; altering the applicability of certain rules and limitations under the Public Information Act to include certain nonprofit organizations; and generally relating to nonprofit organizations and the Public Information Act.	While transparency is important, we have concerns that this bill would not require the same transparency of both for profit AND nonprofit organizations that receive contracts and funds from the state.
HB0122		State Aid – Nonprofits – Status	Delegate Szeliga et al.	In House GVC Hearing 1/27 at 2 p.m.	Letter of Information as part of Maryland Nonprofits	Prohibiting a unit of State government or other State entity that provides State aid from providing State aid to a nonprofit entity unless the nonprofit satisfies certain requirements; and generally relating to State aid and nonprofits.	As wtih HB0015, we are unclear as to why there is a focus on NPOs and not all entitities doing business with the state. It is reasonable that organizations receiving money should be in good standing and in compliance with the IRS, but the limit of this scope to nonprofits has us scratching our heads.
HB0129		Public Funding - Nonprofit Entities - Reporting	Delegate M. Morgan et al.	In House APP First Reading	Letter of Information	Requiring a nonprofit entity that receives at least 50% of its funding each year from a grant from the State, a county, or a municipality, the State capital budget, or certain local impact grants to report certain information to the Comptroller; etc.	Again, why is this limited to NPOs. Reporting to the comptroller is not an issue, but other parts of the bill would require each organization to have a custodian to maintain and respond to requests for all emails, recordings, photographs, documents, salaries for all, board records, board documents, etc. This also does not capture procurements. This is a serious overreach and would create costly and unnecessary administrative burden.
SB0003	HB0188	Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2026	Senator Kramer	In Senate FIN First Reading	Evaluating	Repealing and establishing the methodology used to calculate the weekly benefit amount; altering the taxable wage base used to determine employer contributions to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and the amount of earned wages subtracted from a weekly benefit amount; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor, on or before a certain date each year, to determine and make available online the State annual average wage applicable to the rate of contribution; requiring the Secretary of Labor to set the taxable wage base and the maximum weekly benefit amount in a certain manner for certain years; and generally relating to unemployment insurance.	The Maryland Unemployment Insurance Fund is reaching insolvency, and an intention of this bill is to restore the solvency of the fund, however we have questions on the manner in which this bill is structured. We are concerned it may disparately impact small for-profit organizations, small non-profits, and other organizations that cannot offer, in wages, what larger and for-profit organizations may be able to offer, yet all will be equally subject to paying unemployment premiums based on the new formula that is based on average wages of all organizations. There is a question of whether this change would remove incentives to manage rates based on an experience quotient: Specifically, this is the section of concern:THE SECRETARY SHALL ANNUALLY SET THE TAXABLE WAGE BASE AS AN INCREASING PERCENTAGE OF THE AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE UNTIL THE TAXABLE WAGE BASE PROVIDED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH IS IN EFFECT. 2. BEGINNING CALENDAR YEAR 2029 AND EACH CALENDAR YEAR THEREAFTER, THE TAXABLE WAGE BASE SHALL BE 16% OF THE AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE. We will seek clarification from the Sponsor's office for future evaluation of position.
HB0188	SB0003	Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2026	Delegate Charkoudian	In House ECM First Reading	Evaluating	See above	See above
HB0152		Consumer Protection - Electronic Funds Transfers - Regulations (Elder Fraud Prevention Act of 2026)	Delegate Stewart	In House ECM Hearing 2/10 at 1 PM	Support	Providing that consumer wire transfers involving electronic fund transfers made ancillary to bank-to-bank transfers via a wire service are subject to certain provisions of the federal Electronic Funds Transfer Act of 1978.	Elderfraud is a continuing and significant issue, and state laws and regulations need to be substantially strengthened to protect consumers from fraud. Criminals target older adults for fraud using a variety of financial products including electronic payments, wire transfers, and cryptocurrencies. According to the AARP, the FBI found that in 2021, nearly 168,000 people ages 50 and older reported being victims of fraud, losing a total of nearly $3 billion. The average amount lost by a person 50 and older was over $17,500. This bill would enable banks to place a hold on electronic fund transfers such as ACH, to provide time for additional thought and potential intervention to prevent victimization.
HB0315	SB0335	Human Relations - Discrimination in Housing - Income-Based Housing Subsidies	Delegate Stewart	In House ECM Hearing 2/5 at 1 PM	Support	Providing that a certain landlord may not refuse to rent to a prospective tenant who pays rent with the assistance of an income-based housing subsidy under certain circumstances; providing that a certain landlord may collect financial information from a perspective tenant under certain circumstances; and providing that a violation of the Act is a discriminatory housing practice and is subject to enforcement by the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights.	The aim of this legislation is to address source of income discrimination which disperately impacts people with IDD who often have Social Security benefits, and may need housing subsidies to live.
SB0335	HB0315	Human Relations - Discrimination in Housing - Income-Based Housing Subsidies	Senator Love et al.	In Senate JPR First Reading	Support	See above	

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SB0274		Fair Housing and Housing Discrimination - Regulations, Intent, and Discriminatory Effect	Senator Sydnor	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/3 at 1 PM	Support	Authorizing the Department of Housing and Community Development to adopt certain regulations related to affirmatively furthering fair housing; providing that certain discriminatory housing practices may be committed without intent; prohibiting a person from acting in a certain manner that has a discriminatory effect; and providing that certain conduct necessary to achieve certain nondiscriminatory interests does not constitute a certain violation.	This bill clarifies what is meant by discriminatory effect to remove the requirement that discrimination be proven intentional for protections under the law. If the act has a discriminatory effect on a protected class, it is considered discrimination under this clarification in the law."DISCRIMINATORY EFFECT" MEANS AN EFFECT THAT ACTUALLY OR PREDICTABLY HAS A DISPARATE IMPACT ON A GROUP OF PERSONS OR CREATES, INCREASES, REINFORCES, OR PERPETUATES SEGREGATED HOUSING PATTERNS BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, DISABILITY, MARITAL STATUS, FAMILIAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SOURCE OF INCOME, OR MILITARY STATUS.
HB0458		General Provisions - Commemorative Months - Water Safety Month	Delegate Patterson et al.	In House GVE First Reading	Support	Requiring the Governor to annually proclaim the month of May as Water Safety Month; and requiring the proclamation to urge certain activities designed to raise awareness about drowning prevention and to promote safe practices around all bodies of water.	Children with autism are160 times more likely to experience fatal or nonfatal drowning compared to the general pediatric population. Drowning is the leading cause of death among children with autism. These incidents frequently involve wandering, often occurring in nearby ponds, lakes, or residential pools. Awareness, wandering prevention, and water safety skill development are all key to our work to keep people safe.
Education & Childcare							
HB0026	SB0350	Public Schools - Open Enrollment - Policies and Funding	Delegate Toles et al	In House W&M Hearing 2/5 at 1 PM	Letter of Information with the EAC	Authorizing a county board of education to adopt an open enrollment policy to authorize certain students to attend, free of charge, a public school in a county other than the county where the student is domiciled with the student's parent or guardian, subject to certain requirements; requiring county boards to include certain students in full-time equivalent enrollment counts; and directing certain funding to the county in which certain students are enrolled in a public school under an open enrollment policy.	Cross-district open enrollment as treated in this bill raises several issues with significant implications for students with disabilities who receive special education services and supports. First, and foremost the bill would allow a receiving school in an open enrollment district to deny an enrollment application **if the school does not offer appropriate programs or is not structured or equipped with the necessary facilities to meet any special needs of the child**. Local schools in the system are public entities, and bound to ensure all students have access to a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment- whenever possible, a neighborhood school where students can attend class with their local peers. Allowing receiving schools to be relieved of their obligations to comply with IDEA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the ADA is unacceptable and would jeopardize federal funding as well for failed compliance with these Acts.
SB0350	HB0026	Public Schools - Open Enrollment - Policies and Funding	Senator A. Washington	In Senate EEE First Reading	Letter of Information with the EAC	see above	see above
SB0051		Public Schools - Self-Contained Special Education Classrooms - Use of Video Recording Devices	Senator Folden	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/4 at 2 PM	Support with Amendment	This bill would require the installation of at least one video recording device in each self-contained special education classroom by the beginning of the 2026-27 school year. Access to video has the potential to protect some of the most vulnerable children and would enable parents to understand what may have occurred during the school day, particularly when, because of young age, trauma, or disability, their children are unable to share details of their day.	This year's bill is based on a similar piece of legislation introduced in 2021, which was eventually withdrawn by the Senate sponsor in response to advocates' concerns that it did not include safeguards for students and families to protect them from the use of video footage to be used to discipline students or justify changes in placement. The next year, 2022, another version of the bill included this critical section. Unfortunately, this critical section is missing from the 2026 version of the bill, and The Arc will advocate to get the bill amended to include this safeguard: The department, a county board, a school, or a principal may not use a video recording device made in accordance with this section: As evidence in a complaint against a student or school employee that is not related to a criminal complaint; or In the observation or evaluation of a student for student placement decisions.
SB0070	HB0297	Adult Education - High School Diploma Pathways - GED Option Pilot Program and MDiplomaWorks Pathway	Chair, EEE at the request of the Department	In Senate EEE Hearing 1/28 at 10 AM	Letter of Information	Establishing the GED Option Pilot Program; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor, in consultation with certain entities, to establish criteria to select certain local school systems to participate in the Pilot Program; establishing qualifications for certain students selected to participate in the Pilot Program;establishing the MDiplomaWorks pathway as an alternative method of earning a high school diploma in the State; and generally relating to adult education and high school diploma pathways.	We believe this is an innovative, needed initiative. We wonder about selection criteria, and if this could be expanded to include students with disabilities who have exited with a certificate within a certain time frame, who want a second chance at a Diploma.
HB0297	SB0070	Adult Education - High School Diploma Pathways - GED Option Pilot Program and MDiplomaWorks Pathway	Chair, W&M at the request of the Department	In House W&M First Reading	Letter of Information	see above	see above

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SB0079	HB0163	County Boards of Education - Student Technology Use Policy - Requirements	Senator Benson	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/4 at 2 PM	Letter of Information (note amended position)	Requiring a county board of education to develop and adopt a policy on the use of personal electronic devices during school hours; requiring the policy to restrict or limit the use of personal electronic devices by students during school hours, except under certain circumstances; and generally relating to county boards of education and a student technology use policy.	Although the electronic communication device (cell phone) policy bill attempts to carve out an exception for students with disabilities (and this understanding is appreciated), we have learned in speaking with fellow advocates that carve-outs like this have the potential to amplify stigma and unconsious bias of students with disabilities that create obsticles to inclusion and belonging for students with disabilities. One way IEP and 504 teams work together to identify best assistive technology options for students with disabilities is to identify devices and tech that students are already using. When students use existing technology such as smart phones as communication devices, organizational tools, timers, etc., they often feel more comfortable utilizing their accommodations and assistive technology. If school systems restrict cell phone use for students without disabilities but allow use for students with disabilities, this could increase the stigma students with disabilities can encounter utilizing accommodations in classrooms.
HB0163	SB0079	County Boards of Education - Student Technology Use Policy - Requirements	Delegate Wu et al.	In House W&M Hearing 2/5 at 1 PM	Letter of Information	see above	see above
HB0073		Public Schools - Water Safety and Swimming Course - Established	Delegate Toles	In House W&M Hearing 2/5 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content standards for a course on water safety and swimming for public school students in certain grades; requiring county boards of education to implement the water safety and swimming course for students in certain grades in certain schools in the county; requiring each county board to ensure the provision of reasonable accommodations necessary to provide students with disabilities equal opportunity to participate, to the fullest extent possible, in the water safety and swimming course; and generally relating to a course on water safety and swimming in public schools.	The bill would require the following: ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS FOR A COURSE ON WATER SAFETY AND SWIMMING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 8. - and - EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL ENSURE THE PROVISION OF REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES EQUALOPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, IN THE WATER SAFETY AND SWIMMING COURSE. Many states have introduced bills recently to have this educational requirement, including Minnesota, New York, and New Jersey. We believe this is essential for helping to prevent accidental drowning deaths of children and adults with disabilities.
HB0123		School Systems – Reportable Offenses – Alterations	Delegage Griffith	In House W&M Hearing 2/5 at 1 PM	Evaluating	Including institutions and programs of higher education in which a student is enrolled as part of a dual enrollment program in the definition of "school system"; adding certain offenses to the list of offenses a law enforcement agency must report to certain school personnel under certain circumstances; authorizing State's Attorneys to make a certain notification if a student is arrested for certain offenses; and generally relating to reportable offenses in school systems.	We are evaluating the proposed expansion of violations that would need to be reported to law enforcement by a school system and potential impact to students with disabilities
HB0128	SB0299	County Boards of Education - Therapy Dogs - Policy for Handling and Use in Schools	Delegate Vogel	In House W&M Hearing 2/5 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring each county board of education to allow, subject to certain requirements and policies, the use of therapy dogs in public schools in the county; and generally relating to therapy dogs in public schools.	This was introduced in a prior session but stalled. Therapy animals have been found to be beneficial to students in educational settings. Research on animal-assisted interventions in educational settings, find that therapy dogs encourage the development of reading abilities, including reading rate, accuracy, fluency, and comprehension, enhance primary skills such as object recognition and categorization, reduce stress, and provide a source of motivation, and focus on learning.
SB0299	HB0128	County Boards of Education - Therapy Dogs - Policy for Handling and Use in Schools	Senators Hester and West et al.	In Senate EEE First Reading	Support	see above	see above
HB0311		Public Schools - Individuals With Disabilities - Accessibility and Emergency Planning	Delegate Kaufman	In House W&M First Reading	Support	Requiring each local school system to identify, in its regular safety evaluation, issues of accessibility for individuals with disabilities; requiring local school systems to include in a certain confidential annual report instances in which a public school facility became inaccessible for a student with a disability in a manner that could impede evacuations or emergency response; and requiring a certain annual report to be confidential and limiting disclosure of the report to certain individuals.	
SB0311		Education - The Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Revisions	Senate President By Request of Accountability and Implementation Board	In Senate First Reading EEE	Evaluating	Repealing a requirement that county boards of education submit a certain technology report each year; extending the time period during which a certain method is used to calculate compensatory education enrollment through fiscal year 2027; repealing a termination date for the use of funds under the Concentration of Poverty Grant Program for the purpose of providing certain programs; altering the qualifications for an initial teacher certificate; etc.	

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HB0396		Residential Child Care Programs - Education of Children and Training of Child and Youth Care Practitioners	Delegates Pasteur et al.	In House First Reading W&M	Evaluating	Requiring operators of certain residential child care programs to ensure that the children of whom they have legal custody or care and control are provided with regularly scheduled time to study to support the children's academic work, assistance with home assignments, projects, and test preparation, and support for participation in extracurricular activities; and requiring that applicants to be child and youth care practitioners undergo certain training.	One of The Arc organizations has a residential child care program and we are evaluating for impact.
HB0525		County Boards of Education - Student Electronic Communication Device Use Policy - Establishment (Maryland Phone-Free Schools Act)	Delegates Boafo et al.	In House First Reading W&M	Letter of Information	2026 Bill Text not yet available. Last year, this was the description: Requiring each county board of education to develop and implement, not later than the 2026-2027 school year, a policy limiting the use of a cellular phone by a student during the school day; and prohibiting the policy from restricting a student's use of a cellular phone for any purpose documented in the student's individualized education program, to monitor or address a student's documented health issue, during an emergency event, or when directed by an educator or administrator for educational purposes.	Although the electronic communication device (cell phone) policy bill attempts to carve out an exception for students with disabilities (and this understanding is appreciated), we have learned in speaking with fellow advocates that carve-outs like this have the potential to amplify stigma and unconsious bias of students with disabilities that create obsticles to inclusion and belonging for students with disabilities. One way IEP and 504 teams work together to identify best assistive technology options for students with disabilities is to identify devices and tech that students are already using. When students use existing technology such as smart phones as communication devices, organizational tools, timers, etc., they often feel more comfortable utilizing their accommodations and assistive technology. If school systems restrict cell phone use for students without disabilities but allow use for students with disabilities, this could increase the stigma students with disabilities can encounter utilizing accommodations in classrooms.
HJ0003		Elementary and Secondary Education - Curriculum - Importance of Diversity	Delegates Fair et al.	In House First Reading Rules and Exec. Nom	Support	Acknowledging the importance of teaching a culturally diverse curriculum in elementary and secondary schools in the State; providing that curricula taught in elementary and secondary schools should include the history of communities that have experienced discrimination; and affirming the State of Maryland's commitment to a complete education.	Repeat legislation from last session (HJ005): The Arc Maryland and DD Council co-authored testimony to support that curriculum should embrace diversity and include history of historically marginalized communities, such as the community of people with IDD, while also highlighting the many important contributions of advocates with IDD to make our world better (Section 504, IDEA, the ADA, etc.)
Healthcare							
HB0058		Transportation – Paratransit Services – Interjurisdictional Routes	Delegate Healey	In House E&T Hearing 2/5 at 1 PM	Support	Requiring a county that submits an application to the Secretary of Transportation for funding for certain transportation services to identify certain interjurisdictional paratransit service routes in the application; requiring the Secretary to adopt procedures to ensure counties cooperate in establishing certain interjurisdictional paratransit service routes; requiring a county that receives funding for certain transportation services to establish certain interjurisdictional paratransit service routes; and generally relating to interjurisdictional paratransit service routes.	While we are still evaluating this bill, we support the intention that seeks to expand interjurisdictional transportation availability for people with disabilities, to address equity and access to critical healthcare. The bill adds: (I) THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIES A COUNTY–ADMINISTERED PARATRANSIT SERVICE THAT PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION FOR ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED RESIDENTS WITHIN DESIGNATED SERVICE AREAS, INCLUDING INTERJURISDICTIONAL ROUTES BETWEEN COUNTIES AND THE FACILITIES WITHIN THOSE COUNTIES IN THE FOLLOWING NETWORKS OF PROVIDERS: 1. ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE; 2. JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE; 3. LIFEBRIDGE HEALTH; 4. LUMINIS HEALTH MARYLAND; 5. MEDSTAR HEALTH; AND 6. UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM;
HB0147	SB0069	Nonprofit Organizations Navigator – Termination Provision – Repeal	Delegate Guzzone	In House GVC Hearing 1/27 at 2 PM	Support	Repealing a termination provision relating to provisions of law establishing a nonprofit organizations navigator within the Department of Commerce; and generally relating to the nonprofit organizations navigator.	Repeals the sunset of this service, allowing it to continue
SB0069	HB0147	Nonprofit Organizations Navigator – Termination Provision – Repeal	Senator Kagan	In Senate FIN Hearing 1/29 at 3 PM	Support	see above	see above

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Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
SB0240		Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council - Establishment	Senator Karen Lewis Young	In Senate FIN Hearing 2/3 at 2 PM	Letter of Information with Coalition Partners	Establishing the Office of Health Care Quality Stakeholder Advisory Council to provide feedback to the Office of Health Care Quality regarding maintaining oversight of health care facilities and to notify the Secretary of Health if the Office is negligent in providing oversight of health care facilities; and requiring the Advisory Council, beginning in 2027, and by December 1 annually, to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.	For the last decade, the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) lagged in oversight of Maryland's health care facilities by limiting their actions to response to written complaints and licensing surveys. Nationally, Maryland has consistently been in the bottom 10% of hospital patient satisfaction, the worst in ER wait time (hopefully this dial has moved with legislation passed last year), and the second to worst in nursing home inspections. With new leadership in place, there is hope that OHCQ will return to its vital function of providing pro-active oversight of our health care facilities and improve our key metrics of quality of care. A Stakeholder Advisory Council for OHCQ may help to restore public trust and provide constructive feedback to the agency. The Council will be structured similarly to hospital Patient Family Advisory Councils and Federal agency advisory committees. These advisory groups serve a non-regulatory function, but instead promote engagement and transparency. The Council will provide feedback from a diverse group of stakeholders, and members could raise red flags if they see that OHCQ is experiencing mission drift away from providing oversight of Maryland's health care systems.
HB0316		Confidentiality of Medical Records - Definition of Medical Record	Delegates Kaufman et al.	In House HLT Hearing 2/3 at 3 PM	Evaluating for Possible Support with Amendments	Altering the definition of "medical record" for purposes of law governing the confidentiality of medical records to require that certain information be recorded by a health care provider through certain means, instead of entered into the record of a patient or recipient, and to include certain electronic messages.	Why we understand the positive intention of this legislation, we have questions about the inclusion of any and all communications, related to the care of an individual, becoming a part of the individual's medical record per the definition below of what constitutes a health record. Healthcare professionals frequently communicate with eachother regarding a person in care, discuss possible- not confirmed- diagnosrs, and possible effective treatment plans, including care provided in DDA HCBS. These informal conversations should continue to be allowed and we do not believe they should be subject to mandatory inclusion in a person's permanent medical record, but these types of communication would be captured in this definition change: "(i) Is [~~entered in the record of a patient or recipient~~] RECORDED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER THROUGH WRITTEN, ELECTRONIC, OR OTHER MEANS, INCLUDING AUDIO OR VIDEO MEANS;-and- (V) ELECTRONIC MESSAGE SENT OR RECEIVED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER THAT IDENTIFIES OR MAY READILY BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE IDENTITY OF A PATIENT."
SB0244	HB0529	Code Revision – Health – Maryland Medical Assistance Program	Senate President By Request of Dept of Legislative Services	In Senate FIN Hearing 1/27 at 2:30 PM	Evaluating	Revising, restating, and recodifying the laws of this State relating to the Maryland Medical Assistance Program. Here is the new section on page 26 of the bill: 15–103.1. (A) AS PERMITTED BY FEDERAL LAW OR WAIVER, THE SECRETARY MAY ESTABLISH A PROGRAM UNDER WHICH PROGRAM RECIPIENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ENROLL IN MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS. (B) (1) THE BENEFITS REQUIRED BY THE PROGRAM DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE: (I) ADOPTED BY REGULATION; AND (II) AT LEAST EQUIVALENT TO THE BENEFIT LEVEL REQUIRED BY THE PROGRAM ON JANUARY 1, 1996 (2) FOR ANY POPULATIONS OR SERVICES EXCLUDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE SECRETARY MAY AUTHORIZE A MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES OR PROVIDE FOR THE POPULATION, INCLUDING AUTHORIZATION OF A SEPARATE DENTAL MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION OR A MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO PROGRAM RECIPIENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.	
HB0529	SB0244	Code Revision – Health – Maryland Medical Assistance Program	House Speaker by Request of Dept of Legislative Services	In House First Reading Health	Evaluating	Bill Text not yet available	
HB0440		Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Individuals With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities - Provider Reimbursement	Delegates Kaufman et al.	In House Health Hearing 2/10 at 2:00 PM	Evaluating	Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to establish an enhanced reimbursement structure for Maryland Medicaid Assistance Program providers that deliver medical services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and providing the Act is contingent on the availability of federal funds through the federal Health Equity for Adults with Disabilities (HEADs UP) Act or any other federal law or funding stream supporting health care equity for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.	This bill would have created the possibility for healthcare providers accepting medicaid payments to have the flexibility for enhanced rates when providing care to a person who required additional appointment time and accommodations due to communication or other special needs. Due to certain issues with the HEADs UP Act funding, there may be issues with the implementation of this bill.

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Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
Justice & Civil Rights							
SB0004	HB0514	Charitable Organizations – Charitable Donation and Tax–Exempt Status – Revocation (Keeping Charities Nonpartisan Act of 2026)	Senator Kagan	In Senate EEE and B&T First Reading	Support	Altering, for the purpose of certain provisions of law that regulate charitable organizations, the definition of "charitable organization" to include a certain person that is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service to receive donations that are deductible from federal income tax; prohibiting certain charitable organizations from participating in or intervening in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate for public office; authorizing the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, acting jointly, to order the revocation of certain tax–exempt statuses of a charitable organization under certain circumstances; requiring the Comptroller and the Director of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to revoke certain tax–exempt statuses under certain circumstances; providing that a charitable organization whose tax–exempt status is revoked does not qualify for certain income, sales and use, and property tax exemptions; requiring the Attorney General to monitor action by the federal government for a certain purpose; and generally relating to charitable organizations.	Contingent on the Keeping Charities Nonpartisan Act taking effect, it would embed in Maryland's tax statutes the precise language of the existing prohibition (as applied and interpreted by the Internal Revenue Service as of January 19 of 2025) in Maryland's applicable tax statutes and provide for enforcement by the Secretary of State and Attorney General. The Act authorizes enforcement, subject to administrative hearings and appeals consistent with the administrative procedures act, by 'cease and desist' orders for violations, imposition of civil penalties to the levels under the charitable solicitations law, and when necessary, revocation of tax exemptions. The Act would take effect only after a determination by the Attorney General that action by the President of the United States or the Internal Revenue Service, or a change in federal law, that prevents the enforcement of or renders null and void the Johnson Amendment.
HB0514	SB0004	Charitable Organizations – Charitable Donation and Tax–Exempt Status – Revocation (Keeping Charities Nonpartisan Act of 2026)	Delegate Rosenberg	In House ECM FIrst Reading	Support	See above	See above
SB0029	HB0044	Election Law - Petitions and Ballot Questions - Contents, Plain Language Requirement, and Procedures	Senator Kagan	In Senate EEE Hearing 1/21 at 11 AM	Support	Altering the information that is required to be included on the signature page of a petition seeking to place a question on the ballot and with a question on the ballot; requiring that a certain summary included on the signature page of a petition seeking to place a question on the ballot and a certain statement about a question on the ballot be written in plain language; requiring certain boards of elections to post the text of ballot measures for at least 90 days before the general election; etc.	This bill was introduced last session, but stalled in the House. We support as this bill requires ballot questions and descriptions to appear in plain language, and for measures to be provided to the public at least 90 days before elections.
HB0044	SB0029	Election Law - Petitions and Ballot Questions - Contents, Plain Language Requirement, and Procedures	Delegate Feldmark	In House GVC Hearing 2/4 at 2 PM	Support	See above	See above
SB0073		Election Law - Polling Place Procedures - Voting by Elderly Voters and Voters With Disabilities (Accessible and Expedited Voting Act of Maryland)	Senator Ellis	In Senate EEE Hearing 2/11 at 11 AM	Support	Requiring the State Board of Elections to establish guidelines for the local boards of election to implement a process to accommodate and expedite voting for elderly voters and voters with disabilities at each early voting center and polling place; requiring the local boards to implement the guidelines and collect feedback on the process from elderly voters and voters with disabilities and make immediate adjustments to the process; requiring the training program for election judges to include instruction on best practices for assisting elderly voters and voters with disabilities; and generally relating to in–person voting by elderly voters and voters with disabilities.	House Version last year (HB0781) passed the house but stalled in the Senate
SB0182	HB0282	Adult Protective Services - Modifications	Chair, JPR by Request from the Department	In Senate JPR Hearing 1/21 at 11 AM	Letter of Information	Altering provisions relating to the reporting and investigation of abuse, neglect, self–neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults; and generally relating to adult protective services.	The bill expands the statuatory definition of abuse to include psychological harm and sexual abuse by a person in a relationship of trust with an individual, and includes other provisions. Many changes are positive, but the interpretation of some of the definitions may be more subjective. For example, measuring psychological harm is very difficult and may be compounded or amplified by a person's prior traumas. Also, "nonconsensual" use of a vulnerable adult's funds would need to be further explained. How will "risk of harm" be evaluated: people frequently balance, with support, risk as they navigate life decisions.This is known as the dignity of risk, and essential for growth and we would want to ensure a person with IDD and their freedoms are upheld in addition to their protections.
HB0282	SB0182	Adult Protective Services - Modifications	Chair, JUD by Request from the Department	In House JUD Hearing 2/5 at 2 PM	Letter of Information	See above	See above

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Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
HB0310	SB0268	Correctional Services - Restrictive Housing - Individuals With Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities	Delegates Kaufman et al.	In House JUD First Reading	Letter of Information	Authorizing an incarcerated individual to undergo a certain assessment at intake at a State correctional facility by a certain clinical professional; authorizing a certain clinical professional to make a certain recommendation about a certain incarcerated individual; and prohibiting a State correctional facility from putting a certain incarcerated individual in restrictive housing for more than 15 consecutive days in a 30-day time period unless the individual commits a certain prohibited act.	While we support that limits must be placed on the number of days a person with IDD could be placed in restrictive housing, **we believe the threshold is too high: not "for more than 15 consecutive days in a 30-day time period." In practice, this could mean that a person could be placed in restrictive housing for half of every month they are incarcerated.** We appreciate the effort to curtail the use of restrictive housing however, as this has been a longstanding issue-- Resources: https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/COR-%C2%A7-9-614b_-GOCPP_-Restrictive-Housing-2023-2024-Report.pdf, https://disabilityrightsmd.org/drm-investigation-prompts-prison-reform-efforts-across-maryland/#:~:text=Subsequent%20to%20the%20interviews%20surrounding,prison%20segregation%20practices%20can%20cause.
SB0268	HB0310	Correctional Services – Restrictive Housing – Individuals With Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities	Senator Henson	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/4 at 11 AM	Letter of Information	See above	See above
HB0216	SB0140	Criminal Law - Benefits Exploitation	Delegates Kaufman et al.	In House JUD Hearing 1/27 at 2 PM	Support	Prohibiting a person from knowingly recruiting, harboring, transporting, or obtaining an individual for the purpose of appropriating the government benefits of an individual for the benefit of the person or another through deception, coercion, exploitation, isolation, or any other means; prohibiting a person from aiding, abetting, or conspiring with one or more persons to violate a certain provision of the Act; establishing that a violation of the Act is a felony; etc.	Benefits exploitation (or benefits trafficking) is a national problem, and several other states have passed similar legislation to protect older adults and people with disabilities who rely on public benefits and may be vulnerable to this type of abuse. When this bill came up in a prior session, Maryland Legal Aid shared the case of a woman with disabilities in her 80s whose family member brought her to Maryland from another state and then proceeded to isolate her, hide her government identification documents, and steal her benefits, pension, and rental income. This exploitation occurred over an 18-month period before it was discovered upon the family member's petition for guardianship and interview with the exploited person. In addition to penalties, more must be done in oversight in our systems of care so we can unveil and respond to these situations.
SB0140	HB0216	Criminal Law - Benefits Exploitation	Senator West	In Senate JPR Hearing 1/20 at 1 PM	Support	See above	See above
HB0426		Petition for Guardianship of the Property of Alleged Disabled Person - Stay of Civil Actions and Proceedings	Delegate J. Long et al.	In House JUD First Reading	Support with Amendment	Authorizing a party to the guardianship of the property of an alleged disabled person to request a stay of certain civil actions or proceedings on the filing of a petition for guardianship of the property of an alleged disabled person; requiring a certain party to the guardianship of the property of an alleged disabled person to provide certain notice to a court granting a stay and to parties to a civil action or proceeding; applying the Act prospectively; etc.	This bill states that "ON THE FILING OF A PETITION FOR GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PROPERTYOF AN ALLEGED DISABLED PERSON, A PARTY TO THE GUARDIANSHIP MAY FILE A REQUEST FOR THE STAY OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CIVIL ACTIONS OR PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE ALLEGED DISABLED PERSON WITH THE COURT PRESIDING OVER THE CIVIL ACTION OR PROCEEDING (including) AN ACTION AGAINST THE PROPERTY OF THE ALLEGED DISABLED PERSON (and that) A STAY UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION MAY REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR NOT MORE THAN 90 DAYS AFTER THE FILING OF THE PETITION. This bill is good because in many instances, patients are unable to be transported to post-acute settings due to financial issues including a lack of access to bank accounts and other assets. These barriers can delay a patient from receiving necessary care. HB426 would delay any actions against a patient's personal property until a guardian (if necessary) is appointed, giving the patient time and opportunity to retain assets while the guardianship petition is considered in the judicial system. We agree with the Maryland Judiciary that it may not be feasible for some courts to hear and rule on a petition within 90 days dur to extenuating circumstances. The hard 90 day "deadline" could undermine the goals of the legislation and we support the recommendation of **adding language to this provision that would provide courts with more flexibility to extend a stay beyond 90 days "for good cause."**

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Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
HB0462		Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity	Delegates R. Long et al.	In House GVE First Reading	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 non-government-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.	This legislation would require a voter to prove their identity by presenting either: 1. A government-issued photo ID that includes a signature; or 2. A valid photo ID not from the government with a signature AND an official document with their name and address (e.g., current utility bill, pay check, etc.). It would also require a voter to provide a written signature at the time of voting that matches the signature on the identification This a problem because it will make voting more difficult and cumbersome and it would disproportionately affect voters with disabilities because they are nearly twice as likely not to have government-issued photo identification. It creates barriers for people with developmental disabilities because people with disabilities are more likely to vote by absentee ballot due to existing voting, and location accessibility issues. People with disabilities are more likely not to be able to provide a written signature. Voters with developmental disabilities want and need access to participate effectively in the electoral process and this bill would take us another step in the wrong direction.
HB0499		Election Law - Registered Voter List and Petitions (Ballot Petition Modernization Act)	Delegates Ruth et al.	In House GVE First Reading	Support	Requiring the State Board of Elections to adopt regulations for the secure storage and use of voter data from the list of registered voters and specifying procedures and requirements relating to electronic signatures; establishing and altering certain provisions governing the petition process, including provisions regarding the collection and invalidation of signatures, the use of electronic signatures, and attestations by petition circulators; etc.	This bill would modernize and simplify rules surrounding petition signatures and provide for electronic signature options. Currently, the rules for collection are complex. Minor errors that are easy to make can invalidate a voter's signature entirely. For example, the voter must either sign their name in full exactly as it appears on their voter registration, or they must include their surname as it appears on the registration along with at least one full given name and the initials of any other names. Failure to meet these name requirements exactly results in the signature not being counted. Also in other states, esignatures have found to be an easy way to expand accessibility to petitions, and validate signatures, with existing technology. This would improve access to some voters with disabilities who already utilize an esignature for other official documents and agreements.

Monitored Bills by Topic

Bill	Crossfiled Bill	Title	Sponsor	Status	Position	Description	Notes
Community Living & Working							
SB0151		Income Tax – Credit for Individuals Residing With and Caring for Elderly Parents	Senator Folden	In Senate B&T Hearing 1/21 at 10 AM	Monitoring	Allowing a credit against the State income tax for an individual who resides with and provides care for a certain elderly parent during the taxable year under certain circumstances; making the credit refundable; and generally relating to a State income tax credit for individuals who reside with and provide care for elderly parents.	Could have implications for disability care credits- There is not a definition of "provide care" in the bill, needed by the Comptroller to evaluate and determine the validity of a claim for this credit. Operationalizing this tax credit would also require additional review and enforcement, creating a financial impact to the state that extends beyond the credit, and this must be considered in our tight budget year along with other priorities.
SB0259	HB0435	Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning	Senator Jackson	In Senate JPR Hearing 2/3 at 1 PM	Monitoring	Decreasing from eight to four the number of screens in a motion picture house above which the motion picture house is required to provide open movie captioning.	This would capture more motion picture houses with the requirement that they provide open moving captioning on at least two screenings for each motion picture screened each week. "If a motion picture is produced and available to motion picture houses with open movie captioning, a place of public accommodation that controls, operates, owns, or leases a motion picture house with [eight] FOUR or more screens in the State shall provide open movie captioning for at least two screenings for each motion picture it screens each week." This change is being requested as there are very limited numbers of motion picture houses with 8 screens in some parts of the state, making access inequitable.
HB0435	SB0259	Places of Public Accommodation - Open Movie Captioning	Delegage Bhandari	In House GVE First Reading	Monitoring	See above	See above
Education & Childcare							
SB0359		Child Care Facilities - Criminal History Records Check - Requirement	Senator Henson	In Senate EEE First Reading	Evaluating	Requiring individuals who will have direct contact with children in certain child care facilities to submit to a criminal history records check; requiring the State Department of Education to establish a centralized unit for the processing and management of information about criminal history records checks; altering the applicability of probationary employment qualifications for first-time child care teachers in child care centers in the State that serve children who are at least 2 years old; etc.	

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The Arc Maryland

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Healthcare							
Justice & Civil Rights							
HB0526		Employment Discrimination - Reasonable Accommodations - Disabilities Due to Childbirth, Menopause, and Related Medical Conditions	Delegate Smith et al.	In House GVE First Reading	Evaluating	Bill Text not yet available	
SB0346	HB0332	Civil Actions - Violation of Constitutional Rights (No Kings Act)	Senators Waldstreicher and Smith	In Senate First Reading JPR	Evaluating	Establishing certain civil liability for an individual who, under color of law, deprives another of a right, a privilege, or an immunity secured by the U.S. Constitution.	We are evaluating for what is precisely different from current law and would be substantively different in practice. "AN AGGRIEVED PARTY MAY BRING AN ACTION AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL WHO, UNDER COLOR OF LAW, DEPRIVES THE AGGRIEVED PARTY OR CAUSES OR ALLOWS THE AGGRIEVED PARTY TO BE DEPRIVED OF A RIGHT, A PRIVILEGE, OR AN IMMUNITY SECURED BY THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. (2) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IN AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION, AN AGGRIEVED PARTY MAY SEEK DAMAGES AND DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF."
HB0332	SB0346	Civil Actions - Violation of Constitutional Rights (No Kings Act)	Delegate Charkoudian	In House JUD First Reading	Evaluating	See above	See above

To find contact information for your representatives, click here.

COMMITTEES

Click each committee or Name for Details and Contact Information

House Committees

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

Senate Committees

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

LEADERSHIP

Click each Name for Details and Contact Information

House Leadership

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

Senate Leadership

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

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