



New Maryland Laws Take Effect October 1, 2024

To Our Valued Clients, Friends, and Colleagues:

The Maryland General Assembly passed more than 500 pieces of legislation in the 2024 Legislative Session, including several priority, statewide, and local bills impacting residents, businesses, and other organizations in Maryland. Below, please find summaries of some of the major legislation that will take effect October 1, 2024.

[SB156/HB375](#): Port of Baltimore - Renaming

This bill changes various references in State law that refer to the “Port of Baltimore” to instead refer to the “Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore.”

[SB476/HB584](#): Workers' Compensation - Occupational Disease Presumptions - First Responders (Caring for Public Employees in the Safety Professions - CAPES Act)

This Administration bill establishes additional occupational disease presumptions for specified public safety employees (generally firefighters) who contract thyroid, colon, or ovarian cancer that is caused by contact with a toxic substance encountered in the line of duty.

[SB628/HB819](#): State Finance – Catastrophic Event Account and Federal Government Shutdown Employee Assistance Loan Fund – Noncivilian Federal Employees

This bill expands the purposes of the Catastrophic Event Account and the Federal Government Shutdown Employee Assistance Loan Fund so that funds may be used to provide financial assistance to federal noncivilian employees, in addition to federal civilian employees as authorized under current law, in the event of a full or partial federal government shutdown due to a lapse in appropriations.

[SB275/HB231](#): Vehicle Laws - Special Registration Plates - Gold Star and Next of Kin Families

This departmental bill authorizes the recipient of a U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Next of Kin lapel button to apply for special registration plates after submitting specified documentation to the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), similar to DOD Gold Star recipients under current law. The bill also waives the one-time fee for the issuance of such special registration plates to recipients of either a Gold Star or Next of Kin lapel button.

[SB707/HB1026](#): Armed Forces – Support of Military Families and Addition of Space Force

This bill adds members of the U.S. Space Force to several provisions of State law that refer to members of the U.S. Armed Forces. The bill also expands existing statutory provisions to authorize military spouses and residents of the State who are members of the National Guard of another state or a part of a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces to terminate or suspend certain consumer-related contracts when called into military service. Finally, the bill authorizes the Governor to award a Maryland Defense Force commission, appointment, or promotion posthumously.

[SB183/HB342](#): State Procurement - Prompt Payment of Suppliers

This bill requires contractors on State contracts to promptly pay “suppliers” any undisputed amount that is owed, and otherwise adds suppliers to the State’s statutory prompt payment requirements. A “supplier” is defined as a person that has supplied labor or materials to a contractor in the prosecution of work provided for in a State procurement contract.

SB226/HB215: Human Services - Attendant Care Program - Ongoing Additional Supports

This departmental bill expands the purpose of the Attendant Care Program (ACP) in the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) to include providing financial assistance to an eligible individual for “ongoing additional supports.” The bill specifies that financial assistance provided under ACP must not duplicate any other State or federal assistance for attendant care services or ongoing additional supports that an eligible individual receives.

SB374/HB380: State Emergency Medical Services Board - Licenses and Certificates - Application Requirements

This bill prohibits the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board from requiring as a condition for licensure or certification that an applicant (1) provide proof of lawful presence in the United States or (2) have a Social Security number or individual taxpayer identification number. The bill authorizes the use of an individual taxpayer identification number or alternative documentation (as permitted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the federal Social Security Act) for licensing purposes. It does so by specifying that the EMS Board must require each applicant for a license to either disclose the applicant’s Social Security number (as generally required under statute) or individual taxpayer identification number or provide alternative documentation.

SB409/HB628: Health Occupations - Clinical Marriage and Family Therapists - Reciprocal Licensure Requirements

This bill requires the State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to waive the education, experience, and examination requirements for licensure as a clinical marriage and family therapist for an applicant that is licensed or certified to practice clinical marriage and family therapy in another state, territory, or jurisdiction if specified requirements are met. The board may not require the applicant to pass a national certification exam but may require that the applicant pass an examination of specified State law requirements.

SB219: Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program – Sunset Extension

This departmental bill extends the termination date of the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program (SPDAP) by six years through December 31, 2030.

SB222: State Board of Environmental Health Specialists – Quorum, Examination, and Apprenticeships

This departmental bill (1) authorizes applicants seeking licensure as an environmental health specialist (EHS) to complete an approved “apprenticeship” instead of an environmental health specialist-in-training (EHSIT) program; (2) clarifies that an EHSIT participating in an EHSIT program or an individual participating in an apprenticeship are exempt from the licensure requirement; (3) authorizes the State Board of Environmental Health Specialists (BEHS) to approve an examination provider to administer the licensure examination; and (4) clarifies what represents a quorum for BEHS. The board must adopt regulations that include the requirements for board approval of an apprenticeship and the minimum and maximum duration of an apprenticeship.

SB341/HB390: Commission on African American History and Culture - Museum Name Change

This bill alters the name of the Banneker-Douglass Museum to be the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum under specified provisions of State law governing the Commission on African American History and Culture.

SB444/HB634: Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center – Student Information – United States Census Bureau

This bill authorizes the governing board of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center to send student information to the U.S. Census Bureau.

SB255: Public Safety - Volunteer Company Assistance Fund - Alterations

This departmental bill transfers the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund (VCAF) from the Military Department to the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM).

SB268: Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Program - Enforcement

This departmental bill alters the enforcement and after-the-fact application approval procedures required as minimum elements of a local jurisdiction's Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Program to apply to all Critical Area violations. The bill also (1) repeals a 30-day waiting period before the chair of the Critical Area Commission (CAC) may refer certain enforcement matters to the Attorney General and (2) expands the authority of the Attorney General to take certain equitable actions to include Critical Area violations of an order, a permit, a plan, a local program, the Critical Area law, or regulations adopted, approved, or issued under the Critical Area law.

SB284/HB45: Natural Resources - Sale, Barter, or Exchange of Mounted Specimens From Decedent's Estate

This departmental bill establishes an exception to the existing prohibition against selling, offering for sale, bartering, or exchanging any game bird or mammal taken from the wild. Under the bill, the prohibition does not apply to a legally acquired mounted specimen of a game bird, excluding a migratory game bird, or game mammal, if the original owner is deceased and the specimen is part of the personal property of an owner whose estate is being liquidated or distributed.

SB281/HB109: Natural Resources - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation - Alteration or Removal Requirements

This departmental bill modifies requirements related to the removal of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).

SB305/HB117: Department of Natural Resources - Maryland Geological Survey Fund - Establishment

This departmental bill establishes the Maryland Geological Survey (MGS) Fund in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to finance the direct and indirect costs of administering MGS, including long-term budgeting and planning for survey projects, procurements, and equipment purchases.

SB253/HB235: Department of Natural Resources - Pay-For-Success Contracts - Procurement Exemption

This departmental bill exempts the negotiation and execution of "pay-for-success" contracts by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from most provisions of State procurement law.

SB274/HB17: Charter Counties - Comprehensive Plans - Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

This departmental bill establishes that charter counties (including Baltimore City) and certain code counties have a duty to affirmatively further fair housing through their housing and urban development programs. The bill also requires the counties to include an assessment of fair housing in the housing element of a comprehensive plan enacted or amended on or after January 1, 2025. The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) must provide specified technical assistance upon request.

SB309/HB225: Sustainable Growth Subcabinet and Repeal of the Office of Smart Growth

This departmental bill reorganizes and modifies provisions governing the Office of Smart Growth and the Smart Growth Subcabinet, including by repealing the Office of Smart Growth and transferring its powers and duties to the renamed Sustainable Growth Subcabinet.

SB295: Department of Planning - Inventory Responsibilities

This departmental bill repeals provisions that require the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) to prepare and periodically revise (and provide copies of, as specified) inventory lists of (1) the natural resources of the State and (2) major public works and private facilities that are important to the development of the State as a whole.

SB310: Department of Planning - State Repository and Clearinghouse for Federal and State Financial and Technical Assistance

This departmental bill repeals (1) a requirement that the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) serve as a repository and clearinghouse for information about federal and State grants, loans, and other financial and technical assistance and (2) a related requirement that MDP adopt specified regulations. The bill also requires MDP to annually publish information about State financial and technical assistance programs on the Maryland InfoPortal rather than in a catalog or catalogs of State assistance programs.

SB260/HB123: Division of Parole and Probation - Criteria for Earned Compliance Credit - Exception for Supervision Fees

This departmental bill alters the definition of “earned compliance credit” to exclude specified monthly supervision fees in order to allow an individual under the supervision of the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) to accrue earned compliance credit to reduce the period of active supervision of the individual without the individual being current on the payment of the supervision fee.

SB251/HB222: Correctional Services - Division of Pretrial Detention and Services - Facilities

This departmental bill updates obsolete references to facilities and positions within the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services (DPDS). Specifically, the bill repeals references to the Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC) and its warden and adds references to (1) the Youth Detention Center (YDC) and its facility administrators; (2) the centralized booking facility; (3) the Maryland Transition Center; and (4) the Chesapeake Detention Center. The bill further specifies that YDC is a pretrial detention facility for juvenile incarcerated individuals younger than age 18 who have been charged with a crime as an adult in Baltimore City.

SB273: State and Local Correctional Facilities - Operation of Unmanned Aircraft - Image Recording and Delivery of Contraband

This departmental bill prohibits a person from intentionally operating an “unmanned aircraft” (UA) over a correctional facility for the purpose of photographing or recording images of the correctional facility through the use of the UA unless authorized by the managing official of the correctional facility or the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services. The bill also prohibits a person from using a UA to deliver any contraband to a person detained or confined in a place of confinement. A violator of either of these prohibitions is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to maximum penalties of imprisonment for three years and/or a \$1,000 fine. A correctional facility must post signage warning of the bill’s provisions on the exterior of the property in an area visible to the public.

HB251: Unemployment Insurance - Covered Employment - Employees of Governmental Entities or Charitable, Educational, or Religious Organizations

This departmental bill specifies 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, even if the service is provided exclusively for a governmental entity or a charitable, educational, religious, or other organization.

SB224: Cemeteries - Burial-Transit Permits - Required Information

This departmental bill requires the person in charge of a cemetery (which includes a crematory or other place for final disposition) to write the name and physical address of the cemetery on the burial-transit permit. In addition, the person in charge must also include on the burial-transit permit either (1) the burial, inurnment, or scattering section and the lot and space number or (2) if the body or fetus was cremated and an authorizing agent takes control of the cremains, the name and address of the authorizing agent and the authorizing agent's relationship to the deceased or fetus.

SB297: State Board for Professional Engineers - Engineer Members - Qualifications

This departmental bill reduces the number of years (from 12 to 10) that an engineer member of the State Board of Professional Engineers must have practiced engineering.

SB299: Coast Smart Council - Duties and Authority

This departmental bill expands the duties of the Coast Smart Council to include developing eligibility criteria, standards, and procedures for categorical exemptions from Coast Smart requirements for specified proposed capital projects. The projects must have been designed to include adaptation and resiliency features to prevent or mitigate damage to the maximum extent practicable. The bill also authorizes the council to recommend regulations for adoption by the Secretary of Natural Resources.

SB300: Natural Resources - Wildland Areas - Belt Woods Wildland

This departmental bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to authorize within the Belt Woods Wildland (1) archeological inventories, studies, and research that involve surface examination or limited subsurface sampling; (2) salvage and excavation of archeological sites; and (3) stabilization and restoration of historic structures existing as of December 1, 1985. Any such authorization may only take place with prior approval of the Maryland Historical Trust and after an internal departmental review. In addition, prior to undertaking any activities on the Seton Belt Barn, DNR must consult with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).

SB217/HB30: Health Insurance - Conformity With Federal Law

This departmental bill aligns Maryland health insurance law and regulations with existing federal rules and regulations, including consumer protection measures under the federal No Surprises Act (NSA). The bill alters the material errors that trigger special enrollment periods in the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Exchange and permits the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) to adopt an expanded open enrollment period and alternate effective dates of coverage. The bill requires that specified regulations adopted by the Insurance Commissioner be consistent with federal regulations in effect December 1, 2023, and updates the definition of "grandfathered plan."

SB229/HB67: Insurance - Penalties - Unauthorized Insurers, Insurance Producers, and Public Adjusters

This departmental bill increases the maximum civil penalty that the Insurance Commissioner may impose on an unauthorized insurer or person engaging in the business of insurance in the State from \$50,000 to \$125,000 per violation. The maximum civil penalty for an insurance producer or public adjuster who violates provisions of the Insurance Article is increased from \$500 to \$5,000 per violation. The minimum penalties that may be assessed for these violations remain the same.

HB252: Insurance - Holding Companies - Group Capital Calculation and Liquidity Stress Test

This departmental bill alters Maryland insurance law to reflect revisions made to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) Model Act #440 "Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory

Act” and Model Act #450 “Insurance Holding Company System Model Regulation with Reporting Forms and Instructions.” The bill generally requires insurers to participate in a Group Capital Calculation (GCC) and Liquidity Stress Test (LST) and establishes related processes and requirements.

HB693: Renters' Rights and Stabilization Act of 2024

This departmental bill increases a certain surcharge assessed in civil cases in the District Court and the circuit courts and alters the distribution of surcharge revenues in certain landlord-tenant cases. The bill also establishes the Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs (OTLA) in the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). In addition, among other provisions, the bill (1) extends the period between granting judgment for possession in favor of a landlord and the execution of the warrant of restitution; (2) establishes a tenant’s right of first refusal (and an exclusive negotiation period) prior to the sale of certain residential rental property; and (3) expands the categories of eviction data that must be collected by the Judiciary and provided to DHCD.

HB1117: Landlord and Tenant - Failure to Repair Serious and Dangerous Defects - Tenant Remedies (Tenant Safety Act of 2024)

This bill generally (1) establishes that a landlord that offers a dwelling unit for rent is deemed to warrant the dwelling “fit for human habitation”; (2) establishes remedies if a landlord breaches the warranty of habitability; and (3) establishes additional remedies if a landlord fails to repair serious and dangerous defects, as required under existing statute. Remedies created by the bill include authorizing multiple tenants to join as plaintiffs in actions based on a breach of the warranty of habitability or the failure of a landlord to repair serious and dangerous defects.

HB602: Employment Discrimination – Sexual Orientation

This bill expands the State’s Equal Pay for Equal Work law by prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The bill incorporates the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation into existing prohibitions against workplace discrimination under the Equal Pay for Equal Work law. Thus, an employer may not discriminate between employees in any occupation by providing less favorable employment opportunities based on sexual orientation or by paying a wage to employees of one sexual orientation at a rate less than the rate paid to employees of another sexual orientation, as specified under current law

SB192/HB260: State Personnel - Collective Bargaining - Supervisory Employees

This bill repeals the statutory exclusion from collective bargaining for most supervisory State employees in Executive Branch agencies, excluding higher education institutions, thereby establishing collective bargaining rights for those employees. Eligible supervisory employees must be defined by regulations, adopted by the Secretary of Budget and Management, and are subject to the Maryland Public Employee Relations Act. Generally, supervisory employees must have a separate bargaining unit. Additionally, the bill excludes managerial or confidential employees of the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) from collective bargaining.

HB1002: Office of the Attorney General - Investigative Authority - Health Care Fraud

This bill authorizes the Attorney General, a deputy Attorney General, or an assistant Attorney General designated by the Attorney General to issue a subpoena for the limited purpose of furthering an ongoing health care fraud investigation. A subpoena may require a person to (1) produce documentary material for inspection, copying, or reproduction; (2) answer, under oath and in writing, written interrogatories; (3) give sworn oral testimony; or (4) provide any combination of these items. A subpoena may be served in the same manner as a subpoena issued by a circuit court. If a person fails to obey a lawfully served subpoena issued under the bill, the Attorney General may report a failure to obey the subpoena to the circuit court with jurisdiction over the matter; the Attorney General must provide a copy of the subpoena and proof of service to the circuit court. After a hearing at which the person who allegedly failed to

comply with a subpoena has an opportunity to be heard and represented by counsel, the court may grant appropriate relief. The bill may not be construed to allow the contravention, denial, or abrogation of a privilege or right recognized by law.

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HB1034: Baltimore City Sheriff - Staffing

This bill increases, from one to three, the number of assistant sheriffs that must be appointed by the Baltimore City Sheriff. The bill also specifically authorizes the Sheriff to appoint up to two social workers and, subject to existing provisions relating to collective bargaining, any additional sworn or civilian personnel if the funding for the personnel is provided in the ordinance of estimates or any other source.

SB643: Public Information Act - Surveillance Images - Illegal Dumping in Baltimore City

This bill (1) alters provisions under the Public Information Act (PIA) to require a custodian of a surveillance image to allow employees or agents of the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to inspect surveillance images of illegal dumping in Baltimore City (rather than employees or agents of the Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW), as specified under existing statute); (2) authorizes the Baltimore City DHCD to publicly disseminate surveillance images of illegal dumping in Baltimore City as part of an investigation; and (3) makes conforming and technical changes.

SB1033/HB926: Maryland Building Performance Standards - Local Requests for Guidance - Religious Considerations

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL), on request by a local jurisdiction and in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), to provide guidance for the implementation and enforcement of the Maryland Building Performance Standards (MBPS) in relation to any religious observance, practice, or belief.

SB250: County Public Libraries - Minors, Children, and Teens - Prohibited Practices

This departmental bill prohibits a public library from charging an overdue fine or a “reserve fee” (i.e., any amount charged by a public library to an individual for failure to collect materials that have been placed on hold or reserved) to minors (or for library materials that are intended for children or teens). With regard to previously borrowed materials that were borrowed by a minor (or intended for children or teens), a public library may not prohibit an individual from borrowing library materials because the individual failed to return previously borrowed materials until 21 days or more after the date the materials were due. A public library may not charge a replacement fee to a minor (or for library materials intended for children or teens) until 21 days after the date on which the library materials were due. If overdue library materials borrowed by a minor (or intended for children or teens) are returned in a nondamaged condition after a replacement fee has been charged, the public library must cancel the replacement fee. If the materials are returned in a nondamaged condition within six months after a replacement fee has been

paid, the public library must refund the replacement fee. The bill does not apply to special collections, as defined by the bill.

HB131: Housing Development Permit Applications - Local Reporting Requirements

This bill requires each local jurisdiction with at least 150,000 residents to annually report to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) specified information relating to building or development permit applications considered by the local jurisdiction that include a residential housing component as part of the development. A local jurisdiction must make the report publicly available on its website.

SB430: Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program and Fund - Establishment

This bill codifies the existing Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program and establishes a related special fund within the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance in the form of grants for eligible projects that improve the quality of life within, and economic potential of, Maryland communities by making targeted investments in crime prevention strategies, as specified. DHCD must administer the program and adopt regulations to carry out the program.

SB171/HB139: Landlord and Tenant - Notice of Utility Bills in Residential Leases - Gas and Electric Services

This bill generally (1) extends statutory provisions requiring landlords to provide certain notice and documentation to tenants that are required to make payments to the landlords for specified utility services to be applicable to gas and electric services; (2) restricts the aforementioned provisions to landlords of buildings with six or more residential dwelling units; and (3) establishes specific notice and documentation requirements for landlords of buildings with five or fewer residential dwelling units.

HB137: Civil Actions - Civil Immunity - Educator Intervention

This bill establishes that a member of the administrative, educational, or support staff of any public, private, or parochial school acting in an official capacity is immune from civil liability for any personal injury or property damage resulting from an intervention in an altercation between students or other student disturbance if (1) the member intervened in a reasonably prudent manner and (2) the member's actions do not constitute grossly negligent, willful, wanton, or intentionally tortious conduct.

SB466/HB702: Wage and Hour Law - Minor League Baseball Players - Exemption

This bill exempts a minor league baseball player who is compensated in accordance with the terms of a collective bargaining agreement that expressly states the wages and working conditions of employees from the Maryland Wage and Hour Law.

HB860: Housing and Community Development - Community Action Boards

This bill requires that a community action board meet the requirements for a tripartite board under provisions of federal law governing the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program. The bill also repeals existing provisions governing the composition of community action boards under State law.

SB517/HB624: Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program - Program Administrator - Alterations

This bill transfers primary responsibility for the administration of the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program (NGS) from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). Even so, MSDE must assist MHEC with the review of applications, and MHEC must work in collaboration with MSDE to publicize the program, as specified.

The bill also establishes that MSDE remains responsible for identifying eligible school systems and clarifies what constitutes financial aid literacy assistance. The bill is applicable beginning in fiscal 2026.

SB1169/HB697: Real Estate Brokers - Commercial Transactions - Buyer's Rights

This bill requires each real estate contract submitted to a party by a real estate broker, a nonresident real estate broker, an associate real estate broker, a real estate salesperson, or a nonresident real estate salesperson for use in the sale of a commercial real estate to contain, in bold-faced type, a statement that the buyer has the right to select the buyer's own (1) title insurance company; (2) settlement company; (3) escrow company; or (4) title lawyer. The required statement must also contain, in bold-faced type, a statement that a seller may not be prohibited from offering owner financing as a condition of settlement. The bill establishes similar requirements for commercial real estate transactions.

SB116/HB528: Orphans' Court Judges - Restriction on Practicing Law

This bill modifies an existing prohibition (that does not apply equally in all counties and Baltimore City) against an orphans' court judge practicing law during a term of office. The bill narrows the prohibition and makes it equally applicable to all counties and Baltimore City.

SB206/HB216: Condominiums - Common Elements - Clean Energy Equipment

This bill establishes a specific procedure by which the board of directors of a condominium may grant a lease in excess of one year, or a similar interest affecting the common elements of the condominium, for the installation and use of leased "clean energy equipment."

SB15/HB309: Cooperative Housing Corporations - Dispute Settlement

This bill alters procedures for the dispute settlement mechanism under the Maryland Cooperative Housing Corporation Act and makes other technical and clarifying changes. The bill applies prospectively and may not be interpreted to have any effect on or application to any complaint or demand formally arising under the rules of a cooperative housing corporation or the provisions of a member's proprietary lease before its October 1, 2024 effective date, unless the bylaws of the cooperative housing corporation or the proprietary lease of the member states otherwise.

SB76/HB68: Continuing Care Retirement Communities - Transparency, Grievances, and Unit Reoccupancy

This bill requires providers to (1) post the most recent disclosure statement on their website; (2) hold a meeting open to all of the provider's subscribers at least quarterly; (3) provide an aggregated, deidentified summary of internal grievances at the last quarterly meeting of the year; and (4) provide specified information to a subscriber or the subscriber's beneficiary regarding entrance fee refunds if the refund is conditioned on the reoccupancy of the subscriber's unit. The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) must collect specified information from providers regarding internal grievances and report on the data received by December 1 each year to specified committees of the General Assembly. The bill must be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to any cause of action arising before the effective date of the bill.

SB50/HB394: Human Relations - Commission on Civil Rights - Appeal of Final Orders

This bill expands the judicial review available when there is a finding of no probable cause by the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR) by establishing that (unless otherwise specified) such a finding is a final order appealable in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

SB485/HB571: Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications

This bill modifies the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Program by altering key administrative deadlines, definitions, and components of the program's administration, and authorizing the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to adopt regulations that establish fees for private employer

plans. The start dates are delayed by nine months to July 1, 2025, for required contributions and six months to July 1, 2026, for benefit payments

SB465/HB159: Common Ownership Communities - Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment (Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Act of 2024)

This bill establishes standards relating to the installation and use of electric vehicle recharging equipment in cooperative housing corporations. The bill also (1) extends existing procedures related to electric vehicle recharging equipment in condominiums and homeowners associations (HOAs) to include electric bicycles and (2) requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to include additional information on its website related to common ownership communities (COC). Furthermore, the bill alters standards and procedures for insurance coverage related to the installation and use of electric vehicle recharging equipment in condominiums and HOAs.

HB475: Education - Open-Source Phonics Matching Grant Program - Establishment (Open-Source Phonics Matching Grant Program Act)

This bill establishes the Open-Source Phonics Matching Grant Program within the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to provide matching funds to open-source phonics organizations to provide free, open-source phonics learning materials to be used by adults to tutor students in the State. MSDE must (1) distribute grants to open-source phonics organizations; (2) periodically review the materials, as specified; and (3) by December 1, 2025, and every other year thereafter, collect statistics and other information and report to the General Assembly on the effectiveness of the program. For each fiscal year, the Governor must include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$150,000 to the program.

SB525/HB649: Labor and Employment – Equal Pay for Equal Work – Wage Range Transparency

This bill expands the applicability, requirements, and penalties of the State's Equal Pay for Equal Work Law. Generally, an employer must disclose specified wage, benefit, and any other compensation information in public or internal job postings and to applicants to which the job posting was not made available. The proactive disclosures have additional specified requirements and replace the existing requirement to disclose a wage range to an applicant on request. The wage range must be set by the employer in good faith. The Commissioner of Labor and Industry must develop and make available to employers a form that an employer may use as specified to comply with the bill. Existing retaliation provisions are updated to incorporate employee promotions or transfers. Employers must keep records of compliance with the updated requirements for at least three years, as specified.

HB506: Sexual Harassment Prevention Training - Morgan State University and St. Mary's College of Maryland - Training Format

This bill authorizes Morgan State University and St. Mary's College of Maryland, for the sexual harassment prevention training that is required under current law for State employees, to provide training that consists of webinar, computer-based, or online training. If the training is delivered using one of these methods, it must also include an evaluative component that ensures employee engagement in the training and assesses employee comprehension of training objectives.

SB843/HB669: Workers' Compensation - Benefits - Hearing Loss

This bill modifies the way occupational deafness and hearing loss must be calculated and determined for purposes of workers' compensation benefits by (1) requiring hearing loss to be calculated at an additional frequency when determining occupational deafness; (2) specifying that an employer must provide compensation to a covered employee for hearing loss due to industrial noise in the additional frequency except under specified circumstances; and (3) altering how age-related nonoccupational deafness is calculated.

SB199/HB13: Residential Property - Affordable Housing Land Trusts - Authority to Establish Condominium Regimes

This bill authorizes a condominium regime to be established on a leasehold estate owned by an affordable housing land trust.

SB162/HB93: Landlord and Tenant - Termination of Residential Lease - Limitation of Liability for Rent

This bill generally expands the circumstances under which a tenant's liability for rent may be limited when vacating a premises due to medical reasons by (1) specifically extending applicability to individuals with a mental disorder who meet certain requirements and (2) authorizing psychologists to complete the necessary certification that a tenant must provide to the landlord.

SB46/HB143: Condominiums - Sales Contracts - Asbestos Disclosure

This bill establishes that a contract for the sale of a condominium unit is unenforceable if the contract does not contain specified notices related to the presence of asbestos.

HB1227: Condominiums - Mandatory Insurance Coverage - Detached Units

This bill generally alters statutory provisions that govern insurance coverage for condominiums.

SB446/HB280: Local Government - Condominium and Homeowners Associations - Repair and Rehabilitation Funds

This bill authorizes counties and municipalities to establish a local trust fund or other appropriate fund for the purpose of repairing or rehabilitating infrastructure within communities that are subject to the Maryland Condominium Act or the Maryland Homeowners Association Act.

SB38/HB385: Wage Payment and Collection - Pay Stubs and Pay Statements - Required Information

This bill expands information that an employer must give to an employee for each pay period. The notice required under current law of the employee's rate of pay, regular paydays, and leave benefits that an employer must provide to a new employee at the time of hiring must be a written notice. The Commissioner of Labor and Industry must create and make freely available to employers a pay stub template that employers may use to comply with the bill. The bill specifies enforcement provisions, which include authorizing the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to (1) issue orders to comply with the bill; (2) impose an administrative penalty of up to \$500 for each employee who was not provided a pay stub or online pay statement in accordance with the bill; and (3) bring an action to enforce the orders under specified conditions. An employer may request an administrative hearing under specified conditions.

HB465: Workplace Fraud and Prevailing Wage - Violations - Civil Penalty and Referrals

This bill increases the maximum civil penalty from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for each employee that an employer is found to have knowingly failed to properly classify under the Workplace Fraud Act. On a showing of clear and convincing evidence that a relevant Workplace Fraud Act or State Prevailing Wage Law violation has occurred, the Commissioner of Labor and Industry must refer any complaint that alleges a violation of specified tax withholding and tax fraud provisions in the Tax-General Article to the Comptroller, the State's Attorney with jurisdiction over the alleged violation, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), and the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

SB147/HB498: Real Property - Access to Counsel in Evictions Program - Mandated Reports

This bill alters the annual reporting requirements for the Access to Counsel in Evictions (ACE) Program that is administered by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC).

SB75/HB324: Maryland Uniform Transfers to Minors Act - Transfers as Custodian for the Benefit of a Minor - Authorization of Court

This bill increases the threshold monetary amount – from \$10,000 to \$25,000 – above which specified transfers by a personal representative, trustee, or conservator to a custodian under the Maryland Uniform Transfers to Minors Act require court authorization.

SB164/HB325: Estates and Trusts - Interested Person - Definition

This bill alters the definition of an “interested person” in the Estates and Trusts Article by (1) establishing that a legatee ceases to be an interested person if the legatee’s interest has been fully adeemed; (2) adding as interested persons a surviving spouse who has timely filed an election to take an elective share and a person who timely files a petition to caveat a will; and (3) establishing that an assignee of a legatee or an heir is not an interested person.

HB326: Estates and Trusts - Appointment of Personal Representative - Objections

This bill alters a provision in the notice of appointment of the personal representative of an estate, published by the register of wills, by limiting those whom the notice indicates may object to the appointment to “all interested persons or unpaid claimants” rather than “all persons.”

SB413/HB598: Discrimination - Military Status - Prohibition

This bill generally prohibits discrimination based on an individual’s “military status” in regard to housing and employment. The bill’s provisions may not be applied or interpreted to limit the authority granted to the Attorney General under Title 20, Subtitle 10, Part III of the State Government Article.

SB1044/HB1302: Cosmetologists - Esthetic Services - Definition

This bill alters the definition of “provide esthetic services” to include specified services; however, the bill explicitly excludes from the definition (1) the diagnosis of illness, disease, or injury or (2) performing ablation of the dermis or hypodermis.

SB629/HB1362: State Board of Cosmetologists - Membership - Alteration

This bill alters the membership of the State Board of Cosmetologists to include one licensed esthetician; the bill also reduces the number of consumer members of the board (from two to one).

SB27/HB383: Cosmetology Licensure Compact

This bill enters Maryland into the interstate Cosmetology Licensure Compact for cosmetologists and establishes (1) membership requirements for member states; (2) eligibility criteria for cosmetologists seeking a multistate license; (3) procedures for renewing a multistate license; (4) authority and duties of the Compact Commission and member state licensing authorities; (5) disciplinary procedures; and (6) related processes for the governance of the compact. The bill is contingent on the enacting of substantially similar legislation in six other states.

SB564: Real Estate Brokers - Licensing - License Renewals and Continuing Education

This bill makes numerous technical and procedural changes to licensing and continuing education requirements for real estate brokers, associate real estate brokers, and real estate salespersons.

SB462/HB709: Licensed Real Estate Brokers - Branch Offices - Designation of Managers

This bill authorizes a licensed real estate broker to designate himself or herself as the manager of a branch office maintained by the licensed real estate broker.

SB461/HB520: State Real Estate Commission - Complaints - Advertising Violations

This bill establishes that a complaint filed with the State Real Estate Commission alleging an advertising violation may be made anonymously and not under oath (but must be accompanied by documentary or other evidence).

HB424: Montgomery County - Housing Opportunities Commission - Alterations MC 3-24

This bill repeals the requirement that the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) of Montgomery County (1) hold a public hearing on any assisted family housing it proposes; (2) report in writing the findings and conclusions from the hearing; and (3) give notice of the hearing 15 days prior to the hearing by display advertisement in two newspapers of general circulation in the county. The bill also repeals the requirement that HOC publish a summary of its annual financial report in at least two newspapers of general circulation in the county.

SB665: Maryland Condominium Act - Amendments to the Declaration

This bill reduces, from 80% to 66 2/3%, the threshold of unit owners listed on the current roster of a condominium needed to consent to an amendment of the condominium's declaration once all units have been sold by a developer. However, the existing threshold of 80% is still applicable if any of the units of the condominium are owned by the developer.

SB666: Maryland Commission on Civil Rights - Monetary Relief

This bill alters statutory provisions that authorize the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR) to seek civil penalties if it finds that a respondent has engaged in a discriminatory act in regard to public accommodations or persons licensed or regulated by the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL). The bill replaces references to "civil penalties" with "monetary relief," and requires monetary relief be paid directly to the complainant (instead of the general fund). Additionally, the bill (1) authorizes MCCR to seek increased monetary relief under specified circumstances; (2) prohibits MCCR from seeking an order awarding monetary relief under certain conditions; and (3) sets forth factors for administrative law judges (ALJ) to consider when determining the amount of monetary relief to award. Finally, the bill creates temporary reporting requirements for MCCR.

SB668/HB542: Department of Human Services - Children in Foster Care - Luggage

This bill requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide "new luggage" to a child in foster care who is (1) entering foster care; (2) moving from one foster care placement to another; or (3) exiting foster care. DHS may not use disposable bags or trash bags to transport any items of a child in foster care. By December 1 each year, DHS must report to the General Assembly on (1) the number of instances in which a disposable bag or trash bag was used to transport the personal belongings of a child in foster care and the reason DHS failed to provide the child with new luggage; and (2) the supply and inventory management procedures for the new luggage supply. DHS may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations of any kind and from any source to carry out the bill.

SB550/HB508: Children - Labor Trafficking

This bill alters, in statutory provisions that govern child in need of assistance (CINA) proceedings and the reporting and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect, the definition of "abuse" to include "labor trafficking" of a child by any individual. The bill also expands statutory provisions related to the Safe Harbor Regional Navigator Grant Program to apply to child victims of labor trafficking. "Labor trafficking" means knowingly (1) taking, placing, harboring, persuading, inducing, or enticing a child by force, fraud, or coercion to provide services or labor or (2) receiving a benefit or thing of value from the provision of services or labor by a child that was induced by force, fraud, or coercion.

SB125/HB486: Residential Property Sales - Contract Disclosures - Superfund Sites

This bill requires the seller of any residential property located within 1.0 mile of a National Priorities List (NPL) Superfund site to provide a specified addendum to the contract of sale. The addendum must include (1) the identification of the Superfund site that is within 1.0 mile of the property; (2) the definition of an NPL Superfund site under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines; (3) information regarding specific EPA websites; and (4) a notice that within five days after signing and dating the contract (and on written notice to the seller), the buyer may void the contract and, on recession, receive a full refund of any money paid to the seller.

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SB542: Real Estate Brokers - Brokerage Agreements - Requirements

This bill requires certain provisions to be included in a brokerage agreement between a real estate broker and a seller or lessor or a buyer or lessee.

SB92/HB426: Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning

This bill requires a place of public accommodation that is a motion picture house to provide access to fully operational and well-maintained “closed movie captioning” technology for the general public for each screening of a motion picture that is produced and available with closed movie captioning, as required by Title III of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. If a motion picture is produced and available with “open movie captioning,” a place of public accommodation that controls, operates, owns, or leases a motion picture house with eight or more screens in the State must provide open movie captioning for at least two screenings for each motion picture it screens each week; this requirement does not apply to motion pictures screened fewer than five times during a seven-day period, as specified, and is applicable only to the first three weeks after premiering in the motion picture house. Beginning three weeks after the premiere, a place of public accommodation that controls, operates, owns, or leases a motion picture house with eight or more screens in the State may provide open movie captioning with reasonable notice.

SB423: Real Property - Recordation - Procedures

This bill requires (1) the treasurer, tax collector, or director of finance for a county to provide upon request a certificate clearly enumerating taxes, assessments, and charges due to the county or municipality against a property, as specified, and (2) counties to adopt procedures to facilitate the issuance of the certificate (including procedures for obtaining a statement on a certificate of all taxes, assessments, and charges due to a municipality on the transfer of ownership of a property). The certificate bars any charge or assessment against the property levied on a bona fide purchaser for value with no notice of the charge or assessment prior to the purchase of the property. Furthermore, the bill authorizes a county or municipality to collect a fee of up to \$55 for the issuance of a certificate. The bill requires (rather than authorizes) local clerks of circuit courts and the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) to coordinate, as specified, on procedures to facilitate the electronic satisfaction of prior approvals and conditions precedent to recording documents or the electronic payment of fees or taxes.

SB657/HB541: Anne Arundel County - Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Educators - Established

This bill authorizes Anne Arundel County to establish a Student Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Educators employed by Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS). The purpose of the program is to attract, recruit, and retain a diverse cadre of qualified educators in AACPS that reflects the student population within county schools. For purposes of the program, an “educator” includes classroom teachers, education support professionals, education-related service providers, and specialists eligible for certification from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The program must be administered by AACPS. Funds for the program must be as provided on an annual basis in the county budget in an appropriation separate from the county’s appropriation to the operating budget of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education. Funds for the program may be used to cover administrative expenses of the program.

SB873: Courts - Immunity From Liability - Maryland Safe Haven Program

This bill extends, from 10 to 60 days after the birth of a newborn, the timeframe during which a person can leave an unharmed newborn with a responsible adult without the intent to return for the newborn, without being subject to civil liability or criminal prosecution. A person is also authorized to leave an unharmed newborn at a “designated facility.” The bill authorizes a designated facility to receive a newborn in a newborn safety device, as specified. Subject to existing funding, the Secretary of Human Services must develop, implement, and maintain a public information program about the Maryland Safe Haven Program. By December 31, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Secretary must provide a report to the General Assembly on program metrics, as specified.

HB1308: Real Property - Recordation of Instrument With False Information - Penalties and Actions to Quiet Title

This bill prohibits a person from recording a deed or other instrument that the person knows contains false information, including information related to the ownership of the property. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a maximum penalty of a \$500 fine; prosecution must be initiated within three years after the offense was committed. Additionally, unless otherwise prohibited under § 14-607(b) of the Real Property Article, the bill authorizes a court to award either party costs and reasonable attorney’s fees in an action to quiet title, if a claim or defense in the case is related to an alleged recordation of a deed or other instrument with false information.

HB833: Parents in Substance Use Disorder Treatment - Children in Need of Assistance and Treatment Facilities

This bill establishes a presumption, for purposes of child in need of assistance (CINA) matters, that if a parent is receiving treatment in a residential substance use disorder (SUD) treatment program that has beds or services for patients’ children and the child is in the presence of the child’s parent for the duration of the parent’s treatment (1) placement with the child’s parent is in the best interest of the child and there is not an emergency situation that requires the removal of the child and (2) a child is receiving proper care and attention. In addition, the bill requires a local department of social services to file a report with the court in certain cases when a parent is receiving residential SUD treatment, as specified. The Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) may require a facility that provides treatment for SUD to (1) provide beds and services for patients’ children and (2) allow a patient’s child to be in the presence of the child’s parent for the duration of the child’s parent’s treatment.

HB838: Prince George’s County Family Child Care Home Expansion Grant Program - Establishment PG 505-24

This bill establishes the Prince George’s County Family Child Care Home Expansion Grant Program, administered by the Prince George’s County Public School System (PGCPS), to increase the number of

registered family child care providers, family child care homes, and large family child care homes in low-income communities in the county.

SB35/HB666: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - State Supplement

This bill lowers the age, from 62 to 60, that an individual must be for their household to receive the State supplemental benefit under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The bill also increases the supplemental benefit to ensure that households with an individual age 60 or older receive a total benefit of \$50 per month.

HB1304: Maryland Department of Health and Department of Aging - Earned Income Tax Credit - Distribution of Information and Training

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to develop a process for providing information about the availability of the State's earned income tax credit to enrollees and potential enrollees in specified programs and other individuals receiving specified services. The bill further requires the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) to provide periodic training to the Maryland Access Point network to increase awareness of the availability of the State's earned income tax credit.

SB809/HB589: Dorchester County - County Applicants - Polygraph Examination

This bill exempts an applicant for employment as (1) a paramedic or an emergency medical technician with the Emergency Medical Services Division in the Dorchester County Department of Emergency Services or (2) a 9-1-1 specialist at the Dorchester County 9-1-1 Center in the Dorchester County Department of Emergency Services from the prohibition against an employer requiring or demanding, as a condition of employment, prospective employment, or continued employment, that an individual submit to or take a polygraph examination.

SB290: Certified Local Farm and Fish Program - Annual Waiver Reports - Alterations

This departmental bill alters annual reporting deadlines related to waivers granted under the Certified Local Farm and Fish Program. The deadline for the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to submit a report to the Board of Public Works (BPW) on waivers requested and waivers granted is altered from July 31 to October 31 of each year. In addition, the deadline for BPW to submit a record of each waiver requested to the General Assembly is altered from October 1 to December 31 each year.

HB228: Natural Resources - Maryland State Parks - Funds and Plan Alterations

This departmental bill grants additional flexibility to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in spending funds allocated to the department under Chapter 39 of 2022 (the Great Maryland Outdoors Act) by (1) extending the deadline by which DNR must spend certain funds in the Park System Critical Maintenance Fund; (2) authorizing DNR to make certain expenditures from the Park System Critical Maintenance Fund without prior approval of the Department of General Services (DGS); and (3) expanding the purposes and authorized uses of the Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund and the Great Maryland Outdoors Fund. The bill also clarifies the intent of the use of money expended from the Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund and requires DNR to report on expenditures from the fund. Finally, the bill extends the deadline for DNR to develop and publish a Comprehensive Long-Range Strategic Plan for the State park system by one year, from December 1, 2023, to December 1, 2024.

SB227/HB161: Vehicle Laws - Driver's Licenses, Learner's Instructional Permits, and Identification Cards

This departmental bill exempts certain applicants for identification cards who present appropriate documentation to the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) from paying the required fee. The bill also extends the term of a learner's instructional permit from 180 days to one year. Finally, the bill establishes

that a driver's license issued to certain U.S. government contractors (and any dependents) must remain in full force and effect during an absence from the State if specified criteria are met.

SB267/HB230: Motor Vehicle Administration and Local Health Departments - Death Certificates - Issuance of Copies

This departmental bill authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to (1) access and issue copies of death certificates and (2) set and collect corresponding fees. The bill also clarifies that local health departments (LHDs) have this same authority.

SB109/HB52: State Employees - Parental Bereavement Leave

This bill entitles all State employees in the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches, including temporary employees, to use up to 10 days of paid parental bereavement leave within 60 days after the death of the employee's child, who is at least six months old but younger than 27. An employee may use up to 60 days of paid parental bereavement leave within 60 days after the employee experiences a stillbirth or the death of the employee's infant younger than six months of age. In either case, an employee must notify the employee's appointing authority of the employee's intention to use parental bereavement leave prior to taking leave. An employee's appointing authority may not require an employee to use any other paid leave available to the employee. The Secretary of Budget and Management must adopt regulations governing parental bereavement leave.

HB250: Financial Institutions - Third-Party Service Providers - Examinations

This departmental bill authorizes the Office of Financial Regulation (OFR) to examine a "third-party service provider" as to services and activities performed on behalf of an entity licensed or chartered by OFR within the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL).

HB233: Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program – Climate, Equity, and Administrative Provisions

This departmental bill modifies the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program to incorporate climate resilience, environmental justice, and equity measures. The bill also extends the requirement that Critical Area maps be updated on a regular interval and makes various technical, conforming, and administrative changes. Provisions related to Critical Area maps take effect upon notification of completion of a statewide base map project required by Chapter 119 of 2008.

HB435: Child Support - Incarcerated Obligor

This departmental bill alters statutory provisions that determine the calculation and modification of child support for incarcerated obligors by (1) specifying that a court may determine that a material change of circumstances has occurred if a party becomes incarcerated, provided that the party's ability to pay child support is sufficiently reduced due to incarceration; (2) establishing that a parent who is incarcerated may not be considered to be voluntarily impoverished; (3) prohibiting a determination of potential income for a parent who is incarcerated; and (4) repealing provisions that limit the circumstances under which a child support payment may not be considered past due and arrearages may not accrue during (and for a specified time after) a period of an obligor's incarceration.

SB270: Adult Protective Services - Review Boards - Membership and Terms

This departmental bill alters statutory provisions regarding adult public guardianship review boards, including reducing (from 11 to 8) the number of required members and altering membership qualifications.

SB708: Family Law - Kinship Care

This departmental bill generally alters statutory provisions relating to the kinship care program within the Department of Human Services (DHS) to further prioritize placing children in need of out-of-home

placement with kinships caregivers. Notably, among other provisions, the bill (1) expands the definition of a “kinship caregiver” by including a kinship parent and other individuals (related or unrelated) who have specified bonds or connections with the child or have otherwise been identified by the child’s parent; (2) requires the placement of a child with a kinship caregiver if a kinship caregiver is located subsequent to the child’s placement in a foster care setting; and (3) specifies, if a kinship caregiver cannot be located, considerations that must be taken into account when placing a child in out-of-home care. The bill also alters the definition of “relative” in Title 3, Subtitle 8 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article (generally pertaining to child in need of assistance proceedings) to mean a “kinship caregiver,” as defined in the bill.

HB622: Consumer Reporting Agencies - Records of Criminal Proceedings - Prohibition

This bill prohibits a consumer reporting agency from including in a consumer report any record of a criminal proceeding concerning the consumer (1) in which the consumer was falsely accused, acquitted, or exonerated; (2) in which a nolle prosequi was entered as to a charge concerning the consumer; or (3) that did not result in a guilty verdict for (or guilty plea by) the consumer. A consumer reporting agency is also prohibited from including any criminal records concerning the consumer that have been expunged. A consumer reporting agency may not rely on the information contained in the aforementioned records when making a determination regarding the creditworthiness of a consumer.

SB375: State Contracts - Prohibited Provisions

This bill prohibits State contracts from including specified provisions that generally restrict the power and rights of the State. If a contract includes a prohibited provision, the provision is void and the contract remains enforceable as if it did not contain the provision. A State contract that includes a prohibited provision is governed by and must be construed in accordance with State law, regardless of any term or condition to the contrary within the contract. The bill applies prospectively only and may not be applied to or interpreted to have any effect on or application to contracts executed before its effective date (or to renewals or extensions of such contracts). However, contingent on the enactment of House Bill 1524 of 2024, the bill does not apply to a State contract relating to the purchase, redevelopment, or operation of a “racing facility” or “training facility site.”

SB669: State Government - Attorney General - Reports

This bill repeals the requirement that the Attorney General, by December 1 of each year, report to the Governor and the Legislative Policy Committee on any action taken under the Maryland Defense Act regarding the investigation, prosecution, or defense against any action or inaction by the federal government that threatens the public interest and welfare of the State’s residents, as specified. The bill also repeals the requirement that the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) annually publish its annual report and opinions of the Attorney General from the preceding year in a bound volume; instead, OAG must publish the information on its website. Finally, the bill (1) repeals a requirement for the annual report to include an itemized statement of the receipts and disbursements of the Attorney General during the preceding fiscal year and (2) specifies that the annual report must also be submitted to the General Assembly.

HB432: Courts and Judicial Proceedings and Criminal Procedure - Technical Corrections - References to Intellectual Disability

This bill generally replaces the term “mental retardation” with “intellectual disability” in the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article and the Criminal Procedure Article. All related references are also replaced.

SB808: Anaerobic Digestion Technology - Coordination and Guidance

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to coordinate with the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the Department of Commerce, the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UMD AGNR), the

University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), electric companies, farmers, and industry to ensure anaerobic digestion technology projects are appropriately coordinated. In addition, MDA, in coordination with MEA, MDE, and Commerce, must establish guidance for farmers regarding the development and implementation of anaerobic digestion technology; the guidance must include specified information.

HB840: Vehicle Laws - Annual Vehicle Shows - Motor and Trailer Homes

This bill specifies that all new vehicle dealers of Class M motor homes and Class G trailers (and any licensed salespersons employed by them) may participate in three annual vehicle shows. Further, the shows do not have to be limited to Class M motor homes or Class G trailers.

HB1203: Economic Development - Strategic Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program and Tax Increment Financing

This bill establishes the Strategic Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program and Fund in the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) to make loans for targeted investments in real estate and infrastructure projects to support specified economic, community development, inclusion, and equity objectives. MEDCO may set the terms and conditions for loans made under the program. The bill does not mandate funding, nor does it specify an intended level of discretionary funding. The bill also allows MEDCO, with local approval, to pledge specified alternative revenues under the Tax Increment Financing Act; pledged funds may be used for specified purposes, including to support the Strategic Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund. MEDCO must adopt implementing regulations.

HB882: Business Regulation - Sale of Motor Fuel - Pricing Signage (Gas Price Clarity Act)

This bill requires a specified sign at all retail service stations to prominently display the credit and debit price (if higher than the cash price) or the credit and debit price and the cash price for a whole measurement unit of regular gasoline sold on the premises. All numerals on the sign must be the same size. An exemption from the existing signage requirement for retail service station dealers who operate with up to three dispensing units and six combined nozzles is repealed, thus making the new requirement apply to all retail service station dealers. The bill also makes a conforming change to a provision related to optional signage for diesel and other motor fuel products. Finally, the bill specifies that provisions governing signage at retail service stations supersede any inconsistent local law.

HB1032: Highways – Tourist Area and Corridor Signage Program

This bill codifies and alters the Tourist Area and Corridor (TAC) Signage Program administered by the State Highway Administration (SHA). Under the bill, SHA must administer the program in collaboration with the Department of Commerce. The bill (1) establishes various requirements for SHA and Commerce regarding the administration of the program, including the preparation and review of signage plans; (2) requires an attraction to pay a fee to SHA for the review of signs; (3) authorizes SHA to charge an attraction a reasonable annual administrative fee; and (4) establishes provisions regarding program amendments, eligibility for signage, and limitations on the content of signs.

SB571/HB603: Consumer Protection – Online Products and Services – Data of Children (Maryland Kids Code)

This bill requires a “covered entity” that provides an online product reasonably likely to be accessed by children to complete a “data protection impact assessment” of the online product. The bill establishes numerous rules, procedures, and prohibitions related to the assessments. A covered entity that violates the bill’s requirements is subject to a civil penalty of up to (1) \$2,500 per affected child for each negligent violation and (2) \$7,500 per affected child for each intentional violation. A data protection impact assessment is protected as confidential and must be exempt from public disclosure, including under the Maryland Public Information Act. Violation of the bill is an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act (MCPA), and subject to MCPA’s civil and criminal penalty provisions. However, a violator is not subject to specified MCPA penalty provisions related to merchants.

SB1056: Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices - Revisions (Tobacco Retail Modernization Act of 2024)

This bill makes various changes regarding how cigarettes, electronic smoking devices (ESD), and other tobacco products (OTP) may be sold in the State and alters related enforcement provisions. Generally, cigarettes, ESD, and OTP may not be displayed at retail unless the products are located behind a counter. The bill also (1) increases fees for specified licenses; (2) imposes additional requirements related to the display of tobacco products, ESD, and OTP; (3) requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) or its designee to conduct at least one unannounced inspection of certain license holders annually; (4) expands the grounds by which civil citations may be issued related to the display of ESD or tobacco products and the sale of such without age verification; (5) increases the criminal penalties associated with the sale of tobacco products to minors; (6) repeals various provisions that authorize the sale of cigarettes, ESD, or OTP to a person who is at least age 18 and an active-duty member of the military; and (7) requires the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC), in conjunction with specified entities, to submit a specified report by October 1, 2025.

SB315/HB337: Vehicle Laws - Bike Lanes and Shoulders - Yielding Right-of-Way (Sarah Debbink Langenkamp Memorial Act)

This bill establishes increased penalties for a driver of a vehicle who fails to yield the right-of-way in a designated bike lane or shoulder to a person lawfully riding a bicycle, an electric personal assistive mobility device (EPAMD), or a motor scooter if the driver contributes to the serious physical injury or death of a person riding a bicycle, EPAMD, or motor scooter. A violator is subject to imprisonment for up to two months and/or a maximum fine of \$2,000.

SB42/HB113: Vehicle Laws - Horse Riding - Helmet Requirement for Minors

This bill generally prohibits an adult who is present and directly supervising a minor from allowing the minor to ride a horse in specified areas unless the minor is wearing – properly secured – a helmet that meets or exceeds the standards of the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) for protective headgear used in equestrian riding.

HB193: Anne Arundel County - Speed Limits - Establishment

This bill authorizes Anne Arundel County and municipalities within the county to decrease the maximum speed limit to no less than 15 MPH on a highway after performing an engineering and traffic investigation; however, they may not implement a new speed monitoring system to enforce speed limits on any portion of a highway for which the speed limit has been decreased pursuant to this authorization.

HB809: Members of Boards, Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, or Workgroups – Removal or Suspension

The bill establishes, except as otherwise provided by law, that a member of a board, committee, commission, task force, or workgroup created by State law may be removed or suspended for misconduct, incompetence, neglect of duties, or other good cause by the individual or entity that appointed the member. An individual or entity that appointed a member may remove or suspend the member only after (1) consultation with the chair of the board, committee, commission, task force, or workgroup (unless the member being removed is the chair), and (2) the member has been given notice and an opportunity to be heard regarding the reason for removal or suspension. The bill does not apply to a standing committee of the General Assembly or a committee established under Title 2 of the State Government Article (“General Assembly”). Nothing in the bill is intended to limit the rights of a member to express the member’s views on matters of public concern to the fullest extent protected for a public official by the U.S. Constitution or by the Maryland Constitution.

HB573: Citizens Committee for the Enhancement of Communities Surrounding Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport - Membership

This bill increases the number of members on the Citizens Committee for the Enhancement of Communities Surrounding Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) Thurgood Marshall Airport from 11 members to 12 members. Instead of 1 member of the committee being recommended to the Secretary of Transportation for appointment by the delegates representing district 12, the bill requires 1 member of the committee to be recommended by the delegates representing district 12A and 1 member of the committee to be recommended by the delegate representing district 12B.

SB55/HB178: Vehicle Laws - Disabled Veteran Registration Plates - Issuance

This bill authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to issue a special disabled veteran registration plate to an individual who is between 50% and 99%, inclusive, service-connected disabled, as designated or classified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). MVA is authorized to adopt regulations to govern the issuance of the special disabled veteran registration plates.

SB959/HB1256: Electricity - Tariffs, Distributed Energy Resources, and Electric Distribution System Support Services (Distributed Renewable Integration and Vehicle Electrification (DRIVE) Act)

This bill requires each investor-owned electric company to file with the Public Service Commission (PSC) one or more time-of-use (TOU) tariffs to be available for appropriate customer classes on an opt-in basis and an enrollment target to achieve by January 1, 2028. PSC must also (1) adopt regulations to establish an expedited process for interconnecting bidirectional electric vehicle systems to the grid and (2) develop a program for each investor-owned electric company to establish a pilot program or temporary tariff to compensate owners and aggregators of “distributed energy resources” for “electric distribution system support services.” PSC may also approve or require an investor-owned electric company to offer upfront incentives or rebates to customers to acquire and install “renewable on-site generating systems.” The bill also addresses cost recovery, municipal and cooperative participation, and low- or moderate-income customers.

SB337/HB323: Environment - Commission on Climate Change Membership - Additions

This bill adds the Chair of the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Secretary of Emergency Management, or their designees, to the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC).

SB573/HB756: General Provisions - State Flag - Casket of an Eligible Decedent

This bill requires the Secretary of State, on request, to furnish a State flag to drape the casket of an eligible decedent, as defined under the bill. The Secretary of State must adopt regulations establishing a process to submit a request for a State flag to drape on the casket of an eligible decedent and verify that a request is being made on behalf of an eligible decedent. After the burial of an eligible decedent, the State flag must be (1) claimed by and provided to the eligible decedent’s next of kin, or (2) provided to a close friend or an associate, if it is not claimed by the eligible decedent’s next of kin. The bill specifies that only one State flag may be provided for the death of an eligible decedent. The Secretary of State may not procure any State flag as required under the bill unless it is wholly produced in the United States; however, the Secretary of State may waive this requirement if it cannot be met reasonably.

HB996: Consumer Protection - Consumer Council - Name Change

This bill renames the Consumer Council in the Division of Consumer Protection in the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to the Consumer Protection Commission.

HB871: Business Regulation - Detached Catalytic Converters - Record-Keeping Requirements

This bill requires a licensed automotive dismantler, scrap metal processor, or junk dealer that acquires all or part of a detached catalytic converter from a person to record and keep in the person's records the vehicle identification number of the vehicle from which the catalytic converter was obtained.

HB1097: State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners - Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Assistants

This bill authorizes (1) a "veterinary assistant" to perform specified duties under the "direct supervision" or "immediate supervision" of a veterinary practitioner or veterinary technician, as specified and (2) a "veterinary technician" to perform specified duties under the direct supervision or "indirect supervision" of a veterinary practitioner, as specified.

HB1147: Environment - Playground Surfacing Materials - Prohibitions

This bill prohibits, beginning October 1, 2024, a person from installing, supplying, selling, soliciting, or offering for sale in the State playground surfacing materials that contain (1) more than 90 parts per million of lead or (2) a component product, material, or substance to which "PFAS chemicals" were previously intentionally added in the formation of that component where the continued presence of the PFAS chemicals was desired in the component to provide a specific characteristic. The bill establishes provisions relating to (1) certificates of compliance by manufacturers; (2) enforcement; and (3) the ability of local governments to adopt ordinances, rules, or regulations related to playground surfacing materials that contain PFAS chemicals or lead. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) may adopt regulations to carry out the bill. The bill must be construed to apply only prospectively, as specified.

SB316/HB43: Motor Vehicle Registration - Exceptions for Golf Carts - Authorization

This bill authorizes a person to operate a golf cart equipped with approved lighting on county or municipal highways between dawn and dusk if the maximum posted speed limit does not exceed 30 miles per hour. The golf cart must be kept as far to the right of the roadway as feasible, and the driver must have a valid driver's license. A golf cart operating pursuant to the bill's authorization is exempt from the general requirement that each motor vehicle driven on a highway in the State be registered. The governing body of a county or municipality may designate the highways under their respective jurisdictions on which a golf cart may be operated. The bill's statewide authorization replaces similar authorizations that only apply in certain jurisdictions (Smith Island, the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls in St. Mary's County, the Town of Vienna in Dorchester County, Hoopers Island or Taylors Island, and the City of Crisfield in Somerset County). Under the bill, the operation of a golf cart on Smith Island between dusk and dawn is prohibited. The operation of golf carts in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls on highways on which the maximum posted speed limit does not exceed 35 miles per hour is expressly authorized under the bill, consistent with current statutory provisions.

HB990: Environment - Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions - Manufacturers

This bill makes State greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction requirements apply to the production of cement by altering the definition of "manufacturing" for purposes of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act (GGRA). The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) must make specified considerations and consult with specified stakeholders related to the regulation of the production of cement. The bill also alters provisions related to the regulation of GHG emissions reductions by other manufacturers under the Act, as described below.

SB683/HB561: Tree Expert Licenses - Application and Renewal Fee Alterations and Insurance Requirements

This bill allows the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to set fees for licensed tree experts that, instead of being limited to the costs of processing an application, may be up to \$45 for an examination, \$55 for initial licensure, and \$100 for license renewal. A related annual report required under current law

must also be submitted to the General Assembly. The bill also authorizes DNR to permanently revoke or temporarily suspend a tree expert license if the license holder fails to maintain liability, property, or workers' compensation insurance as required by law. Finally, the bill explicitly authorizes DNR to adopt regulations to implement the statutory provisions related to tree experts.

HB613: Natural Resources - Recreational Catching of Oysters or Clams - Requirements

This bill repeals and modifies existing provisions authorizing recreational catching of oysters and clams and establishes a recreational oyster license available only to residents, with a portion of license application fee revenues used to replenish public fishery oyster bars.

SB838/HB782: Vehicle Laws - Lighting - Privately Owned Vehicles

This bill authorizes specified officers of a volunteer fire company and the fire police of a volunteer fire company to equip their privately owned vehicles with red or red and white lights or signal devices, in accordance with existing provisions relating to the equipping and use of such lights and signal devices on these vehicles. Under the bill, the fire police of a volunteer fire company may also choose to equip their privately owned vehicles with red and green lights or signal devices.

SB196/HB1465: Soil Conservation Districts - Small Ponds - Plan Review Fees

This bill authorizes a soil conservation district to recommend a fee system to a local governing body to cover the cost of the district's review of small pond plans and establishes procedures for the development and enactment of a fee system.

SB504/HB605: Motor Vehicles – Recreational Vehicle Dealer Agreements

This bill establishes a new regulatory framework that applies to recreational vehicle manufacturers, distributors, factory branches, and dealers. Among other things, the framework includes licensing requirements for recreational vehicle manufacturers, distributors, and factory branches. Existing laws that apply to vehicle manufacturers, distributors, and factory branches no longer apply to manufacturers and distributors of, or factory branches for, recreational vehicles. The bill establishes procedures, timelines, and requirements that govern written dealer agreements, warranties on recreational vehicles, and when damages or unreasonable miles are apparent on delivery of a recreational vehicle. The bill also establishes enforcement provisions.

SB806/HB738: Business Regulation – Licensed Home Improvement Contractors – Liability Insurance

This bill increases (from \$50,000 to \$500,000) the amount of general liability insurance that a licensed home improvement contractor (or an applicant for a home improvement contractor license) must maintain.

SB653/HB1101: Standing - Environmental and Natural Resources Protection Proceedings (Clean Water Justice Act of 2024)

This bill establishes standing, for a person that meets the threshold standing requirements under federal law, in civil claims arising under specified standards relating to (1) nontidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to surface water and (2) discharges of pollutants affecting ephemeral streams or intermittent streams. The bill authorizes a person that has standing pursuant to the bill to bring a civil action against any person or political subdivision that is alleged to be in violation of those standards. The bill also authorizes a person that meets the threshold standing requirements under federal law to intervene in a civil action brought by the Secretary of the Environment relating to nontidal wetlands (similar authority already exists, and is reestablished under the bill, with respect to a civil action relating to the discharge of pollutants to waters of the State).

HB1393: Electric System Planning - Scope and Funding

This bill modifies provisions related to electric distribution system planning established in the Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) of 2022 by (1) broadening the scope of the State policy goals beyond the electric distribution system and making conforming changes; (2) broadening references to federal funds available for electric companies to meet the State's policy goals, including references in related labor requirements; and (3) delaying and modifying a related requirement for the Public Service Commission (PSC) to adopt regulations or issue orders for electric distribution system planning, subject to specified considerations.

SB7/HB973: Public Safety - Law Enforcement Agencies - Positive Community Feedback

This bill requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) to develop a uniform citizen positive community feedback process to be adopted and followed by each law enforcement agency. The process must be (1) simple and (2) posted on MPTSC's website and on the website of each law enforcement agency that maintains a website. Each law enforcement agency must maintain a record of positive community feedback for all law enforcement officers within the agency. A record of positive community feedback that was not solicited by the police officer who is the subject of the feedback is not considered a personnel record under the Maryland Public Information Act (PIA). Notwithstanding any other provision of law, records of positive community feedback are subject to public inspection in accordance with PIA.

SB133/HB62: State Employee Rights and Protections - Personnel Actions and Harassment - Investigation of Complaints

This bill extends the timeframe for an investigation to be conducted and a written decision issued – from within 30 days to within 60 days – after a complaint alleging harassment or discrimination is received from an Executive Branch employee or an applicant for employment. The timeframe may be extended up to an additional 30 days if the employee or applicant who filed the complaint grants written authorization to the equal employment officer investigating the complaint.

HB457: Environment - Synthetic Turf - Disclosure and Study

This bill requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), in consultation with the Synthetic Turf Council and other specified stakeholders, including local governments, county school systems, and higher education facilities, to conduct a study on synthetic turf, existing synthetic turf fields in the State, and the synthetic turf industry in the State. MDE must submit a report of its findings to specified committees of the General Assembly by July 1, 2026. The bill also requires a producer or seller of synthetic turf to disclose the following information to the customer before the sale of synthetic turf: (1) the maintenance that is typically performed throughout the lifespan of synthetic turf; and (2) the typical cost for removing, replacing, and disposing of synthetic turf.

SB207: Natural Resources - Northern Snakehead - Common Name

This bill establishes the common name of the northern snakehead as “Chesapeake Channa” under specified provisions of State law and renames the commercial northern snakehead license to be the commercial northern snakehead or Chesapeake Channa license. The bill also requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to, by January 1, 2025, (1) adopt regulations establishing the common name of the northern snakehead as the “Chesapeake Channa” and (2) refer to the northern snakehead as the “Chesapeake Channa” on all applicable material published by the department.

HB737: Vehicle Laws - Slow Moving Vehicles - Right-Hand Lane

This bill requires a driver traveling slower than the general speed of traffic on any roadway (rather than just an interstate highway located in a rural area under existing statute) to drive in the right-hand lane or lanes, if the driver determines it is practicable to do so.

SB194: State Procurement - Preferred Provider Requirements - Waiver

This bill authorizes the Pricing and Selection Committee for Preferred Providers to grant a waiver, under specified conditions, to a State or State-aided or -controlled entity from the statutory requirement to purchase supplies or services first from Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE). It also requires MCE to report annually on the length of time between each order and delivery of supplies and services. The Department of General Services (DGS) must adopt regulations to implement the bill.

SB673/HB962: State Procurement - Small Business Reserve Program - Goals and Outreach Program

This bill raises the goal, from 15% to 20%, for the percentage of the total dollar value of contract awards made to small businesses under the Small Business Reserve (SBR) Program and allows all contract awards made to small businesses to count toward achievement of the goal, not just those designated as SBR contracts. The bill also requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to develop an outreach program to increase the participation of small businesses in the SBR program, and to report on the status of the outreach program. Finally, the bill alters reporting requirements for agencies participating in SBR.

SB1014: State Procurement - Procurement Forecast and Outreach

This bill requires each State procurement unit, by June 30 of each year, to submit to the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs (GOSBA) a procurement forecast for all procurement contracts valued at more than \$100,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. It also requires each unit, by August 15 of each year, to submit a reconciliation of the prior year's forecast with specified information about actual procurements carried out during the fiscal year. GOSBA, in consultation with primary procurement units, must (1) identify potential contracting opportunities for and increase outreach efforts to small businesses; (2) identify and increase awareness of procurement opportunities for small businesses for services and supplies; and (3) assist small businesses with procedures for bidding on a procurement contract or responding to a request for proposals. A new staff position must be created in GOSBA to implement the bill.

SB672/HB552: Vehicle Laws - Automated Enforcement Citations and Notices - Mailing Addresses

This bill requires that citations and notices issued as a result of automated enforcement under the Maryland Vehicle Law be sent to (1) the current mailing address on file with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) or (2) the current residential address on file with MVA if a mailing address is unavailable.

SB507/HB562: Special Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License - Nonresidents - License Fee

This bill increases the annual fee for a special Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license, for nonresident applicants, from \$50 to \$100.

SB547/HB379: Wildlife - Traveling Animal Acts - Prohibition

This bill prohibits, with specified exceptions, a person from allowing for the performance of a "covered animal" in a "traveling animal act". A person who violates this prohibition is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 per violation. The bill may be enforced by (1) a State or local law enforcement officer or (2) the local animal control authority for the jurisdiction where the violation occurs.

SB1028/HB1168: Human Remains - Alkaline Hydrolysis and Natural Organic Reduction (Green Death Care Options Act)

This bill requires the Office of Cemetery Oversight (OCO), in conjunction with the State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors, to adopt regulations establishing a process for regulating (1) crematories that use "alkaline hydrolysis"; (2) "reduction facilities" that use "natural organic reduction";

and (3) “registered reduction operators.” The bill conforms the definitions of “cremation” and “crematory” across the Business Regulation, Health-General, and Health Occupations articles. The bill exempts a funeral establishment, crematory, or reduction facility from the requirement to maintain a body in a manner that provides for complete coverage of the body and prevents leakage or spillage during placement inside a contained chamber or vessel without an external visual exposure during the process of alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction.

SB149/HB176: Vehicle Towing or Removal – Insurer of Record – Electronic Notification

This bill authorizes a person who undertakes the towing or removal of a vehicle from a parking lot to notify the insurer of record electronically, as specified, if that form of notice is agreed to by the tower and the insurer of record in writing or by electronic communication.

SB345: Transportation - Vision Zero - Implementation

This bill expands the responsibilities of the Vision Zero coordinator within the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) with respect to implementing Vision Zero. The bill also (1) requires the coordinator to hold a quarterly public meeting on the implementation of Vision Zero with specified individuals and establishes requirements for specified meeting participants; (2) subjects MDOT, with respect to those meetings, to specified enhanced Open Meetings Act requirements; (3) requires each quarterly public meeting to be live streamed; and (4) requires MDOT to maintain on its website a complete and unedited archived video recording of any such meeting for a minimum of five years after the date of the meeting. Finally, the bill requires the annual report submitted by MDOT by December 31 each year on the status of Vision Zero to also include the activities and any findings and recommendations of the coordinator as well as a summary of each quarterly public meeting held in the previous year.

SB544/HB888: Corporations and Associations - Ratification of Defective Corporate Acts - Alterations

This bill generally alters statutory provisions under the Corporations and Associations Article regarding the ratification of defective corporate acts.

SB344/HB382: Criminal and Civil Trespass - Professional Land Surveyors - Exception

This bill creates exceptions to criminal prohibitions against trespass on property under Title 6, Subtitle 4 of the Criminal Law Article and the common law tort of trespass for a “professional land surveyor” or an agent or employee of a professional land surveyor who enters the property of another to “practice land surveying.”

SB400/HB749: Corporations and Associations – Definitions, Emergencies, and Outstanding Stock – Revisions

This bill generally (1) authorizes a corporation to adopt emergency bylaws and establishes related provisions applicable to an “emergency” (as defined in the bill); (2) clarifies statutory provisions related to a corporation’s acquisition of its own stock; and (3) alters specified definitions.

HB261: Unemployment Insurance - Benefits - Election Judges

This bill prohibits any payment to an individual as compensation for serving as an election judge for a local board of elections in the State from reducing the individual’s unemployment insurance (UI) weekly benefit amount. Under current law, only the first \$50 of most income sources in any week does not reduce the weekly benefit amount. The bill also prohibits the denial of UI benefits for failure to meet the general requirement that an individual be able to work, available to work, and actively seeking employment if the failure results from service as an election judge for a local board of elections in the State.

SB41/HB262: Consumer Protection - Consumer Reporting Agencies - Information in Consumer Credit Reports

This bill alters statutory provisions that generally prohibit a consumer reporting agency from including specified information in a consumer credit report, subject to limited exception. Specifically, the bill increases the exemption thresholds that are applicable if the consumer credit report is to be used in connection with certain credit transactions, life insurance underwriting, or employment determinations.

SB516/HB685: Economic Development - Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission

This bill establishes the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission within the Department of Commerce to promote innovation in the fields of space exploration and commercial aerospace opportunities. Among other requirements, the commission must (1) identify research and funding opportunities for entities in the State, as specified; (2) develop and annually update a strategic plan; (3) designate aerospace and technology zones; (4) partner with local communities, as specified; and (5) develop educational opportunities. By October 1 each year, the commission must report to the Governor, the Maryland Economic Development Commission (MEDC), and the General Assembly on its activities and strategic plan.

SB634/HB776: Maryland Technology Development Corporation - Authority

This bill explicitly authorizes the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), subject to a written agreement, to provide administrative support and services to specified business entities and receive compensation for doing so.

SB587: Procurement - Minority Business Participation - Real Property Title Insurance Services Reporting

This bill requires State procurement units and the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs (GOSBA) to include in their mandated annual reports specified data on minority business enterprise (MBE) participation in State contracting for real property title insurance services, including commercial real property title insurance services. The bill also prohibits GOSBA from waiving the reporting requirement if the spending threshold for real property title insurance service contracts is too low for a procurement unit to provide sufficient data.

HB102: Motor Vehicles - Motorcycles - Passenger Restrictions

This bill prohibits a motorcycle passenger from riding on a seat at the rear of the operator if the passenger cannot position their feet firmly on the footrests while seated. This prohibition does not apply if a motorcycle passenger cannot position their feet as required due to a permanent physical disability. A violation is a misdemeanor and is subject to a maximum fine of \$500.

SB648/HB211: Business Regulation - Contractors, Subcontractors, and Brokers - Prohibited Conduct

This bill prohibits a person from serving as a contractor, subcontractor, or broker between a contractor and subcontractor in the State within five years of being convicted of an offense constituting criminal malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance under federal or State law.

HB1116: Business Regulation - Restaurants and Traders - Licensing Requirements

This bill requires a licensed restaurant to also have a trader's license if the restaurant does business as a trader or exhibitor in the State. However, the bill exempts from the requirement to obtain a trader's license a licensed restaurant that generates 10% or less of its annual sales from nonfood items.

SB534/HB611: Electronic Transactions Protection Act - Repeal

This bill repeals the Electronic Transactions Protection Act.

SB700/HB1507: Transportation - Major Change in Bus Service - Publication on Website

This bill modifies the requirements of Chapters 583 and 584 of 2023 by (1) expanding the information that the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) must publish on its website before it holds a public hearing on a proposed major service change and (2) requiring MTA to distribute the report required under current law on the impacts of a proposed service change to each member of the General Assembly whose district would be impacted by the proposed service change.

HB38: Baltimore City - Motor Vehicle Off-Street Parking Requirements Near Mass Transit Stations

This bill prohibits the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City from adopting or enforcing a local law that requires the creation of new motor vehicle off-street parking for a development that includes residential use and that is located within a 0.25-mile radius of a present or planned (1) MARC station; (2) Baltimore Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Light Rail station; (3) Red Line station, regardless of transit mode; or (4) Metro station. “Red Line” means a transit facility, regardless of mode, operating in a combination of at-grade, elevated, or underground configurations through Baltimore City and Baltimore County along a generally east-to-west alignment between the terminus of Security Boulevard on the west and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center on the east, connecting as appropriate to other fixed-route transit services.

HB850: State Procurement - Small Business Preference Procurement

This bill expands the Small Business Preference (SBP) Program to all Executive Branch units and agencies but repeals its application to the University System of Maryland (USM) and Morgan State University (MSU). It requires the Board of Public Works (BPW) to implement and oversee the program, and it authorizes each procurement unit to designate procurements for SBP with the approval of the head of the unit.

SB556: Procurement – Construction Contingency Fund

This bill authorizes payments from the Construction Contingency Fund (CCF), under specified conditions in current law, for construction contracts that include price adjustments for material price fluctuations of identified eligible project-specific materials

HB1503: Election Law - Campaign Finance Activities - State Treasurer

This bill prohibits the State Treasurer, and any person acting on behalf of the State Treasurer, from participating in certain campaign finance activities during a regular session of the General Assembly.

HB981: Principal Departments - Individuals With Limited English Proficiency - Access to Public Services

This bill requires the principal departments of the Executive Branch to fully implement, by July 1, 2025, statutory provisions that require certain reasonable steps to provide equal access to public services for individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP). Any principal department that is created on or after October 1, 2024, must comply with the aforementioned requirements beginning one year after the date the principal department is created.

SB1003/HB1273: Vehicle Laws - Manufacturers and Dealers - Delivery of Vehicles

This bill authorizes a licensed dealer or distributor to electronically submit an order (instead of placing a written order) to a manufacturer, distributor, or factory branch. Accordingly, a manufacturer, distributor, or factory branch may not refuse to deliver certain new vehicles and truck component parts, as specified, to a licensed dealer or distributor on receipt of an electronic order, subject to other requirements

SB150/HB1501: State Government - Office of Legislative Audits - Performance Audits

This bill reduces the frequency of performance audits of the Board of Liquor License Commissioners for Baltimore City and the Board of License Commissioners for Prince George’s County that are required to

be conducted by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA). Specifically, the bill requires a performance audit of each board every six years (rather than every four and three years, respectively).

SB490/HB629: State Retirement and Pension System - Consumer Price Index - Definition

This bill corrects an obsolete reference to the 1967 Consumer Price Index (CPI) in State pension law. It clarifies that the CPI for all urban consumers using 1982-1984 as base years must be used to calculate cost-of-living adjustments for almost all State Retirement and Pension System (SRPS) retirees.

HB690: Charles County - Adult Protective Services Review Board - Membership

This bill alters the membership requirements for the Adult Public Guardianship Review Board in Charles County by authorizing the appointment of a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner in the field of psychiatry to serve on the board instead of a psychiatrist.

HB1321: Land Use - Southern Maryland Code Counties - Subdivision Regulations - Property Dedication and Fee

This bill authorizes a code county in the Southern Maryland class, as established in the Local Government Article, to provide in the county's subdivision regulations for (1) the dedication of real property for recreation or (2) in lieu of dedication, the payment of a fee to be used by the county for the purchase, development, and improvement of real property for recreational facilities.

HB761: Montgomery County - School Bus Stops MC 6-24

This bill prohibits, beginning December 31, 2026, a school bus stop from being located on any highway in Montgomery County with five or more undivided traffic lanes unless (1) a school crossing guard is posted at the school bus stop to assist students in crossing the highway or (2) a traffic control device that maintains a red signal while a student is boarding or exiting a school bus is placed at the school bus stop.

HB306: Prince George's County - Economic Development - Workgroup on Independent Innovation in Prince George's County - Establishment PG 402-24

This bill establishes the Workgroup on Independent Innovation in Prince George's County. The Urban Business Innovation Initiative within the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) must provide staff for the workgroup. Workgroup members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses. By January 15, 2026, the workgroup must report recommendations regarding strategies to support investments in industry opportunities and potential areas of innovation to the Prince George's County Delegation and the General Assembly. The bill terminates September 30, 2026.

HB766: Calvert County - Roadside Solicitation of Money or Donations - Prohibition

This bill prohibits, in Calvert County, a person from standing in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle.

HB835: Calvert County - Procurement - Local Preference

This bill authorizes the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County to enact an ordinance, following specified procedures, that gives a percentage preference to a resident business that submits a responsive bid or offer that exceeds the lowest responsive bid or offer by a nonresident business. With the preference, if the bid or offer by the resident business exceeds the bid or offer of the nonresident business by less than a specified percentage, the resident bidder or offeror may be awarded the contract. "Resident business" means a business whose principal office, as defined, is in Calvert County. A "nonresident business" means a business whose principal office is outside the county.

SB437/HB839: Carroll County - Contracts and Purchasing

This bill raises the contract value threshold, from \$25,000 to \$50,000, above which the County Commissioners of Carroll County need to give advance public notice and use competitive bidding to purchase supplies and equipment or contract for a public work or improvement.

SB530: Cecil County – Annual Financial Report – Filing Date

This bill alters the filing date by which Cecil County must submit its annual financial report to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) and its annual audit to the State Legislative Auditor from October 31 to December 31.

HB594: Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice in Dorchester County - Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper in General Circulation - Digital Newspapers

This bill establishes that, in Dorchester County, if a law, resolution, or court order, judgement, or decree requires the county to publish a legal advertisement or legal notice (1) any required advertisement or notice must be published and distributed through print and digital format; (2) the time period required for publication starts once the first advertisement or notice appears in print or digital format; and (3) if there is no print and digital publication that meets specified qualifications, the advertisement or notice may be placed in any digital publication that can be accessed in the county and that regularly contains local news and information for the county.

HB1017: Boundary of the Frederick County Soil Conservation District - Alteration

This bill consolidates the two soil conservation districts in Frederick County (the Catoctin Soil Conservation District and the Frederick Soil Conservation District) into one Frederick County Soil Conservation District with boundaries corresponding to the boundaries of Frederick County.

SB558/HB907: Garrett County - Procurement - Bids and Contracts

This bill raises the contract value threshold – from \$25,000 to \$50,000 – above which the Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County, or any employee of Garrett County, must solicit bids in one or more newspapers. The bill also exempts contracts for professional services required to be licensed by the State of Maryland from the bid solicitation requirement, but otherwise authorizes such contracts to be solicited by written bids.

HB989: Montgomery County – Subdivision Plats – Conditions PG/MC 111–24

This bill authorizes the Montgomery County Planning Board, or a designee of the board, to tentatively approve a subdivision plat subject to the completion of specified conditions. The tentative approval may not be entered on the subdivision plat or allow the subdivision plat to be filed or recorded. The board may not endorse a subdivision plat that is subject to specified conditions before all the conditions are completed. If the specified conditions in the tentative approval are completed, a postcompletion hearing before the board is not required before the subdivision plat is approved and submitted to the land records of Montgomery County.

HB1338: Howard County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board - Term Length - Alteration Ho. Co. 15-24

This bill decreases the term of office, from five years to three years, of a member of the agricultural preservation advisory board in Howard County. Members serving on the advisory board on the bill's effective date may serve for the remainder of their five-year terms. Each subsequent member appointed after the bill's effective date must serve for a term of three years.

HB1003: Montgomery County - Clerk of the Circuit Court - Plat Recordation PG/MC 110-24

This bill authorizes, in Montgomery County, a plat to be drawn in an electronic version in a manner approved by the State Archivist. The bill also authorizes the clerk of the Montgomery County Circuit Court to record or maintain a plat in electronic form in a manner approved by the State Archivist.

HB1023: Prince George's County and Montgomery County - The Washington Suburban Transit Commission Reform Act PG/MC 103-24

This bill makes various changes related to the Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC). Specifically, the bill (1) repeals the authority of the governing bodies of Montgomery and Prince George's counties to review and approve the contracts and agreements entered into by WSTC; (2) authorizes the WSTC commissioner that serves on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Board of Directors to be reappointed to the board; and (3) authorizes the Secretary of Transportation's designee to attend meetings of the WMATA Board of Directors on behalf of the Secretary when the Secretary is not available, instead of only if a scheduling conflict arises. When attending board meetings on behalf of the Secretary, the Secretary's designee must have the same powers as the Secretary.

HB967: Town of Keedysville - Parking of Vehicles - Restrictions

This bill prohibits a person from parking certain vehicles in the Town of Keedysville, Washington County. However, the bill's restrictions do not apply if the parking of the vehicle is essential to its immediate use. Additionally, the bill does not apply to specified Class A (passenger) or Class E (truck) vehicles. Finally, the bill establishes more stringent enforcement provisions for certain types of vehicles and for vehicles parked for multiple days.

HB928: Washington County - Procurement - Vehicles

This bill authorizes the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, or an employee of Washington County, to enter into a contract for the purchase of one or more vehicles without advertising for bids if the amount involved in the contract does not exceed \$100,000.

SB475/HB583: Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention - Establishment

This Administration bill establishes the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention in the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). The purpose of the center is to reduce firearm violence, harm from firearm violence, and misuse of firearms in the State by partnering with federal, State, and local agencies and affected communities to implement a public health approach to firearm violence reduction. The center must (1) work in consultation with specified State agencies and stakeholders; (2) solicit and consider recommendations from specified communities and experts; and (3) submit to the Governor and General Assembly a preliminary State Plan for a Public Health Approach to Reducing Firearm Violence (by May 1, 2025), and a State Strategic Plan for Firearm Violence Reduction Using Public Health Strategies (by May 1, 2029, and every four years thereafter).

SB1098: Correctional Services - Diminution Credits - Sexual Offenses

This bill prohibits an incarcerated individual who is serving a sentence for first-degree rape, that occurred on or after October 1, 2024, in a State or local correctional facility from earning diminution credits to reduce the incarcerated individual's term of confinement.

HB810: Criminal Law - Rapid-Fire Activator - Switch/Auto-Sear

This bill (1) alters the defined term "rapid fire trigger activator" to be "rapid fire activator" and (2) expands the definition of "rapid fire activator" to include a "switch/auto-sear" for purposes of existing prohibitions and penalties. "Switch/auto-sear" means a device that applies force to a firearm's trigger bar to prevent it from limiting the weapon to firing only one round each time the trigger is depressed. Nothing in the provisions pertaining to rapid fire activators under § 4-305.1 of the Criminal Law Article is intended to prohibit the otherwise lawful possession of a part or combination of parts by (1) a police

officer or other person employed by a law enforcement agency under circumstances in which the officer or other person possesses the part or parts in accordance with authorization given by the law enforcement agency or (2) a person who has registered a machine gun with the Secretary of State Police, as specified, if the part or parts are possessed for use in only, and necessary for the proper function of, a machine gun that is currently registered by the person, as specified.

HB105: Drunk Driving Offenses - Expungement and the Ignition Interlock System Program

This bill (1) authorizes an individual to file a petition for expungement under § 10-105 of the Criminal Procedure Article if the individual received a probation before judgment (PBJ) for specified drunk driving offenses; (2) expands mandatory participation in the Maryland Ignition Interlock System Program (IISP); and (3) makes technical and conforming changes regarding these provisions. By December 1, 2028, and each December 1 thereafter, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) must report specified information about IISP participants to the Governor and the General Assembly.

SB675/HB452: Individual Tax Preparers - Code of Ethics, Notification of Actions, Enforcement, and Penalties (Stop Scam Tax Preparers Act)

This departmental bill (1) requires the State Board of Individual Tax Preparers, by January 1, 2026, to publish on its website a code of ethics and rules of professional conduct for engaging in the practice of individual tax preparation; (2) requires the board to notify the Comptroller's Office of specified actions and violations under the Maryland Individual Tax Preparers Act; (3) grants authorized employees of the Field Enforcement Bureau with the powers, duties, and responsibilities of a peace officer for the purpose of enforcing the laws pertaining to income tax preparation; and (4) requires the Comptroller to notify the board after prohibiting an income tax return preparer from submitting income tax returns electronically. Lastly, the bill prohibits an income tax preparer from willfully preparing, assisting in preparing, or causing the preparation of an income tax return or claim for refund without being properly licensed or registered to provide income tax preparation services in the State; a violation is a misdemeanor subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 to be paid into the Tax Clinics for Low-Income Marylanders Fund (TCLIM).

SB652: Department of Juvenile Services – Report on Shootings (Department of Juvenile Services Transparency Act of 2024)

This bill requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to report to the Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging and Best Practices and the General Assembly by December 1 each year on (1) the number of juveniles under DJS's supervision in the preceding year who were nonfatally shot, shot another individual, or were victims of a homicide; (2) the actions DJS took in response and a timeline of such actions; (3) the age of each juvenile in the report; and (4) the county of residence of each juvenile in the report. The initial report submitted must include a description of any established process that DJS uses after a shooting involving supervised youth or when a youth under DJS supervision is the victim of a homicide.

HB195: Public Safety - Missing Persons - Purple Alert Program

This bill requires the Department of State Police (DSP) to establish a Purple Alert Program to provide a system for rapid dissemination of information to assist in locating a "missing person." Among other requirements, DSP must (1) adopt guidelines and develop procedures for issuing a Purple Alert for a missing person; (2) provide specified training and assistance to local law enforcement agencies; and (3) consult with the State Highway Administration (SHA) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), as specified. The bill also establishes a notification requirement for a caregiver or person filing a report regarding a missing person.

HB404: Public Safety - Wellness Checks - Requirements (Gabriel's Law)

This bill requires a law enforcement agency that receives a "qualified request" from an "interested party" for a wellness check of an individual to (1) conduct a wellness check of the individual without

unreasonable delay, if the individual is located in the agency's jurisdiction or (2) submit a request to the relevant law enforcement agency in the State or another state to conduct a wellness check without unreasonable delay, if the individual is not located in the agency's jurisdiction. If the interested party states in the qualified request that there is a concern for a life-threatening condition, then a fire, rescue, or emergency medical services entity must conduct the wellness check simultaneously with the law enforcement agency. A law enforcement agency and, if applicable, a fire, rescue, or emergency medical services entity, that receives a qualified request must meet these requirements regardless of where the interested party making the qualified request is located.

SB774/HB1065: Public Safety - Maryland Entertainment District Security Grant Program

This bill establishes (1) the Maryland Entertainment District Security Grant Program to assist community organizations, nonprofit entities, and local governments to fund security operations during times of high pedestrian traffic in entertainment districts from which a higher than average number of calls for police assistance in response to reported crime are placed and (2) the Maryland Entertainment District Security Grant Program Fund as a special fund administered by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) to provide funding for grants awarded under the program. Beginning in fiscal 2026, the Governor may annually appropriate up to \$1.0 million to the fund.

HB1229: Public Health - Kratom Consumer Protection Act

This bill generally requires a "retailer" that prepares, distributes, sells, or exposes for sale a "kratom product" to disclose on the product label the factual basis on which the representation is made. A violator is subject to a civil penalty. A retailer is prohibited from (1) preparing, distributing, selling, or exposing for sale a kratom product that does not comply with the specified disclosure, has not been recognized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a dietary ingredient or approved drug, or that is adulterated with, contaminated with, or contains other substances, as specified, and (2) distributing, selling, or exposing for sale a kratom product to an individual younger than 21. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a criminal penalty. A retailer may not advertise or market a kratom product to minors, directly or indirectly, as specified and may not advertise a therapeutic benefit of kratom, directly or indirectly. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) must adopt regulations to implement the bill and collaborate with the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA) to report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2025, on the number of adverse health events observed in individuals after the use of opioid-like substances (including kratom and tianeptine).

HB119: Public Health - Giving Infants a Future Without Transmission (GIFT) Act

This departmental bill alters terminology and requirements relating to HIV testing and reporting, including requiring (1) universal syphilis and HIV testing for all pregnant women at the time of delivery; (2) newborn HIV testing when the mother's HIV status is unknown; and (3) inclusion of pregnancy status when reporting an HIV diagnosis. A hospital must determine the syphilis serologic status of a mother before discharging the newborn for the purposes of neonatal evaluation and treatment. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) may adopt rules, regulations, and standards regarding syphilis testing. The bill also increases specified fines relating to the disclosure of personal identifying health information acquired for the purpose of HIV and AIDS reporting under current law.

HB127: Public Health - Nonoccupational Postexposure Prophylaxis (nPEP) Standing Order Program - Establishment

This departmental bill establishes a Nonoccupational Postexposure Prophylaxis (nPEP) Standing Order Program. The program must authorize a licensed pharmacist to dispense nPEP under specified circumstances. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) may administer the program, collect fees with specified exception, establish guidelines for conducting patient education and training, and collect and report data on the program. MDH must adopt regulations necessary for the administration of the program and that address the needs of specified populations, as specified.

HB115: Criminal Procedure - Victims' Rights - Notification of Release From Confinement (Jaycee Webster Victims' Rights Act)

This bill requires a commitment unit to include the telephone number of the Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center in a specified required notification given to a victim, victim's representative, or witness regarding the release from confinement of a sentenced defendant or child respondent.

SB551/HB801: Criminal Procedure - Committed Persons - Release Proceedings

This bill makes various changes to procedures related to the release of a person committed to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) after being found not criminally responsible (NCR). The bill (1) establishes that the Maryland Rules governing discovery in circuit court civil matters apply to a proceeding to determine eligibility for conditional release or discharge; (2) requires a court and MDH to promptly inform the committed person's counsel of record when they receive a report that a committed person violated a condition of release or violated conditional release, respectively; (3) requires a court, on request by any party, to hold a hearing after an application is made for a change in the conditional release of a committed person to determine whether the applicant has satisfied the requirements for release; (4) establishes that a preponderance of the evidence standard applies to an applicant in change of conditional release proceedings; (5) requires MDH, on written request of the State's Attorney, the committed person, or the committed person's counsel, to provide all reports, assessments, evaluations, and similar documents concerning the committed person prepared or conducted by, for, or at the direction of MDH during the period of the committed person's commitment or conditional release; and (6) clarifies that a court may extend a conditional release by up to five years and authorizes a court to shorten or terminate the conditional release.

HB496: Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Definition of Consent and Repeal of Force

This bill, by repealing force or threat of force as an element of the crime, establishes that it is second-degree rape under § 3-304 (a)(1) of the Criminal Law Article for a person to engage in vaginal intercourse or a sexual act with another person without the consent of the other person. The bill also defines "consent" for purposes of Title 3, Subtitle 3 of the Criminal Law Article (sexual crimes); establishes that the existence of consent, lack of consent, or withdrawal of consent must be determined based on a totality of the circumstances; and specifies other factors related to consent as an element of a sexual crime. By October 1 each year beginning in 2024, the Maryland Judiciary must report specified data regarding charges and convictions for specified sexual crimes from the preceding calendar year to the General Assembly. The reporting requirement terminates April 30, 2029.

SB1099: Emergency Services - Automated External Defibrillator and Naloxone Co-Location Initiative - Requirements for Public Buildings

This bill expands the purpose of the Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program (AED program) to include an initiative to co-locate up to two doses of naloxone with each automated external defibrillator (AED) placed in a "public building." The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board must (1) develop and implement the initiative in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and (2) adopt regulations jointly with MDH. The initiative must be funded using funds from the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF) appropriated through the State budget.

SB220/HB42: Public Health – Public Health Services and Protections – Revisions

This departmental bill (1) aligns State law with federal law prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to all individuals younger than 21; (2) authorizes the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to reallocate projected unspent funds awarded to a county for cancer prevention, education, screening, and treatment programs to another county, as specified; (3) shifts responsibility for the cost of emergency medical treatment for an abused or neglected child from MDH to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP); (4) repeals the requirement that the Secretary of Health appoint and convene an expert

panel on child abuse and neglect; (5) alters requirements relating to the State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN); and (6) repeals a reporting requirement regarding specified counter-marketing and media efforts.

SB439: Family Law - Victims of Domestic Violence Program - Certification and Grant Fund

This bill establishes the Victims of Domestic Violence Program Grant Fund, a special fund administered by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP), formerly the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, to provide grants to public or private nonprofit comprehensive domestic violence programs certified by the federally recognized State domestic violence coalition. The Governor may include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$5.0 million for the fund. The bill further requires domestic violence programs, as established under existing statute, to be certified by the federally recognized State domestic violence coalition as a comprehensive domestic violence program.

SB975: Maryland Department of Health - Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program - Establishment (Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act)

This bill establishes the Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program in the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). The program, administered by the Secretary of Health, is intended to assist "reproductive health care clinics" in the State with the costs associated with specified security improvements. The Secretary must establish grant application and award processes and the criteria a clinic must meet to qualify for a grant. MDH is prohibited from releasing, publishing, or otherwise disclosing specified information regarding grant recipients and awards. For fiscal 2026, the Governor may include an appropriation in the annual budget bill of \$500,000 to the program; up to 5% of the money appropriated to the program may be used for administrative expenses.

SB391/HB544: Criminal Law - Sexual Extortion, Stalking, and Revenge Porn - Statute of Limitations and In Banc Review

This bill establishes that (1) the statute of limitations for a prosecution of the crime of sexual extortion in violation of § 3-709 of the Criminal Law Article is 5 years; (2) the statute of limitations for a prosecution of the crime of stalking in violation of § 3-802 of the Criminal Law Article is 10 years; and (3) an individual may be prosecuted at any time for a violation of §3-809 of the Criminal Law Article (revenge porn).

HB149: Medical Records - Destruction - Notice and Retrieval

This bill prohibits a health care provider from destroying a medical record, laboratory report, or x-ray report about a patient for 7 years after the report or record is made (rather than 5 years under current law or, for a minor patient, the later of 3 years after the patient reaches majority or 5 years as under current law). A specified notice must be sent by first-class mail (as specified under current law) and email to the last known email address of the patient (or a minor patient's parent/guardian with limited exception). The health care provider must make the record or report available for retrieval by the patient or the patient's parent/guardian within 60 days (rather than 30 days under current law) before the date of destruction at the location designated in the specified notice. The bill also corrects terminology.

SB974/HB933: Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services - 9-8-8 Trust Fund Fees

This bill establishes a State 9-8-8 fee with a structure and application nearly identical to the structure and application for the State's 9-1-1 fee. The 9-8-8 fee is set at \$0.25 and applied on specified 9-8-8 accessible services in Maryland (including on phoneline subscribers beginning October 1, 2024, and prepaid wireless purchasers beginning July 1, 2027). Fee revenues accrue to the 9-8-8 Trust Fund (less small portions retained by "9-8-8 service carriers," prepaid wireless sellers, and the Comptroller) to support the eligible uses of the fund (including related administrative expenses of the Comptroller). The Maryland

Department of Health (MDH) must include information on 9-8-8 fees in an existing annual report. The bill's provisions related to prepaid wireless services take effect July 1, 2027.

HB1333: Public Health - Maryland Commission on Health Equity and Commission on Public Health - Revisions

This bill requires the Maryland Commission on Health Equity (MCHE), using a health equity framework, to develop and monitor a “statewide health equity plan” as required by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) under any agreement entered into between the State and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). MCHE must coordinate with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) when establishing an advisory committee. The bill repeals the requirement that the Governor designate the MCHE chair; instead, the Secretary of Health and the Executive Director of HSCRC, or their designees, must cochair MCHE. The bill expands the purpose of MCHE and alters its duties and membership. The bill also alters reporting requirements for and extends the termination date of the Commission on Public Health (CPH).

SB694/HB887: Maryland Department of Health – Health Commissions and Maryland Insurance Administration – Study

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to contract with an independent consultant to study the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (MCHRC), and the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA), as specified. The independent consultant must seek input from MDH, HSCRC, MHCC, MCHRC, and MIA in conducting the study. By January 1, 2026, MDH must report to the Governor, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on the results of the study.

SB649/HB1092: 9-1-1 Trust Fund - Purposes - Training in Telecommunications Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

This bill expands the stated purpose of the 9-1-1 Trust Fund to include providing funding for telecommunications cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training.

SB881: Public Health – Federally Qualified Health Centers Grant Program – Recovery of Funding

This bill alters the number of years after completion of a project within which the State may recover an amount incurred for a project under the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) Grant Program if the property has been sold or transferred, as specified, or ceases to be an FQHC. The State may not recover an amount incurred for a project (1) if the property was leased by the FQHC, more than 15 years after completion of the project or (2) if the property was owned by the FQHC, more than 30 years after completion of the project.

SB182/HB338: Criminal Procedure - Facial Recognition Technology - Requirements, Procedures, and Prohibitions

This bill establishes numerous requirements, procedures, and prohibitions to govern the use of facial recognition technology (FRT) by law enforcement agencies. It requires specified training, audits, and reports related to the use of FRT and, with specified exceptions, prohibits the introduction of results generated by FRT in a criminal proceeding or a juvenile delinquency proceeding. Regarding the use of FRT, the Department of State Police (DSP), in consultation with any other relevant State agency, must adopt and publish a model statewide policy. By June 30, 2026, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) must develop and administer a training program regarding the use of FRT in the course of criminal investigations, as specified. A police officer or other employee or agent of a law enforcement agency authorized to use FRT in the course of a criminal investigation must annually complete training administered by DPSCS.

SB552/HB501: Charter Counties - Enforcement of Local Laws

This bill increases, from \$1,000 to \$5,000, the maximum civil and criminal fines that may be imposed by a charter county for the enforcement of an ordinance, a resolution, a bylaw, or a regulation adopted by the county.

SB175/HB381: State Board of Examiners in Optometry - Criminal History Records Checks

This bill requires an applicant for an initial license or limited license to practice optometry from the State Board of Examiners in Optometry to submit to a criminal history records check (CHRC). On the first application for renewal of a license submitted on or after January 1, 2026 by an applicant whose initial license was issued prior to October 1, 2024, the applicant must also submit satisfactory evidence of having completed a CHRC. An applicant must obtain a State and national CHRC from the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository (CJIS-CR) in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). CJIS-CR must forward the individual's criminal history record information (CHRI) to the board and the individual. The board must consider certain specified elements in determining whether to grant a license upon receipt of an individual's CHRI.

SB1000/HB1122: Maryland Health Care Commission - Nursing Homes - Acquisitions

This bill requires a person, at least 60 days before the closing date of the acquisition of a nursing home, to submit a request for "acquisition" to the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) and provide specified notice to the residents, resident representatives, and employees of the nursing home. The executive director of MHCC must review a completed request for acquisition within 45 days and, in consultation with the Secretary of Health (or their designee), may approve the acquisition, approve the acquisition with conditions, deny the acquisition, or refer the request for acquisition to MHCC for a final decision. The bill (1) removes the requirement for MHCC to provide specified written findings and recommendations to the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) when evaluating a notice of acquisition or transfer of interest of a nursing home and (2) alters the requirement for the Secretary of Health to consider MHCC's findings and decisions before taking action to approve, deny, approve with conditions, or revoke a nursing home license. By January 1, 2025, MHCC must adopt specified regulations, to be applicable to nursing home acquisitions executed after the adoption of the regulations.

SB999/HB1125: Certified Nursing Assistants - Licensing Requirements and Administrative Updates

This bill alters the designation of and licensure requirements for a certified nursing assistant (CNA), creating new designations of "certified nursing assistant-I" (CNA-I) and "certified nursing assistant-II" (CNA-II). On or after October 1, 2025, a geriatric nursing assistant (GNA) and any CNA that has passed a specified nursing assistant training program and competency evaluation will be designated as a CNA-I. Those that do not meet these requirements will be designated as a CNA-II. By June 1, 2025, the State Board of Nursing (MBON) must (1) notify individuals with a nursing assistant certification of the bill's requirements and (2) update regulations to confirm with the bill in consultation with the Office of Health Care Quality. The bill also alters exemptions from specified certification requirements and makes clarifying and conforming changes.

SB667/HB292: State Procurement - Maryland State Board of Contract Appeals - Attorney's Fees

This bill authorizes the Maryland State Board of Contract Appeals (MSBCA) to award reasonable attorney's fees to an "interested party" who prevails in appealing a bid protest and alters the conditions under which MSBCA may award attorney's fees for a contract claim.

HB36: Insurance - Protections After Loss or Damage to Property

This departmental bill (1) extends the public adjuster contract cancellation period from 3 business days to 10 business days; (2) limits the hours during which a public adjuster may solicit business; and (3) requires a public adjuster contract to include specific statements. A public adjuster who enters into a public adjuster contract during, or within 72 hours after, the loss giving rise to an insurance claim must provide

notice to the Insurance Commissioner, as specified. Additionally, the bill removes an existing limitation on protections against a fraudulent insurance act by contractors offering home repairs for damages to a private residence.

SB230/HB90: Insurance - Hearing Representation

This departmental bill requires the Insurance Commissioner to allow a small employer “business entity” to be represented by specified individuals other than an attorney at a hearing held by the Commissioner.

HB969: Death Certificates - Cause or Manner of Death Determinations - Requirements After Change or Correction (Katherine Morris Death Reclassification Act)

This bill requires a medical examiner, if the cause or manner of death on a death certificate is amended or corrected to be undetermined or homicide, to provide notice to the State’s Attorney and local law enforcement where the body was found of the different finding or conclusion on the cause or manner of death. The medical examiner must also request that the Secretary of Health send the person in interest a new certified death certificate at no cost. An assistant State’s Attorney with knowledge of the case in which the victim’s cause or manner of death was amended or corrected must meet with a person in interest regarding their request that the Office of the State’s Attorney pursue an investigation into the circumstances of the victim’s death. A law enforcement agency, upon notification by a medical examiner that a death certificate has been amended or corrected to be undetermined or homicide, must (1) reopen or reinvestigate an investigation involving the death of a victim whose cause or manner of death was corrected and (2) keep the case open for at least 20 years after being notified.

SB549/HB476: Criminal Procedure - Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Search - Applicability for Deceased and Missing Individuals

This bill exempts from statutory provisions relating to the use of forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis and search (FGGS), FGGS conducted solely for the purpose of identifying an individual who is (1) deceased or (2) the subject of a missing person report filed with a law enforcement agency and whose whereabouts are unknown.

SB113/HB99: Criminal Law - Sexual Solicitation of a Minor Through Child Pornography - Prohibition

This bill expands the existing crime of sexual solicitation of a minor (§ 3-324 of the Criminal Law Article) by prohibiting a person from committing the crime of sexual solicitation of minor with the intent to commit a violation of the prohibition against production or distribution of child pornography (§ 11-207 of the Criminal Law Article). Violators are subject to the existing penalties for sexual solicitation of a minor, which is a felony punishable by (1) imprisonment up to 10 years and/or a fine of up to \$25,000 for a first offense or (2) imprisonment for up to 20 years and/or a fine of up to \$50,000 for a second or subsequent offense.

SB144/HB153: Medical Records - Fees - Attorneys Representing Patients

This bill prohibits a health care provider or a representative of the health care provider from charging a fee for providing copies of a medical record requested by an attorney who is representing the patient if the records will be used for the purpose of filing a claim for or appealing a denial of Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) or Social Security benefits.

SB952/HB1263: Assisted Living Programs - Assisted Living Referrers - Requirements and Prohibitions

This bill establishes additional requirements for an assisted living referrer. An assisted living referrer must (1) maintain general liability insurance; (2) require employees to obtain a criminal history records check; (3) provide to the client or the client’s representative a description of the services that will be provided by the referrer; and (4) if the referrer has a financial agreement with the client or the client’s representative,

provide the agreement to the client or client's representative in writing or by electronic means. An assisted living referrer may not request payment of a referral fee from an assisted living program more than two years after the assisted living referrer provided the referral. By September 30, 2025, an assisted living referrer (1) must keep a client's or potential client's medical record confidential and may disclose the medical record only for the purpose of making a referral if the client or potential client gives informed written, electronic, or audio recorded consent and (2) may not sell the personal data of a client, potential client, or client's representative to another person unless the client or client's representative gives informed written, electronic, or audio recorded consent. By October 1, 2025, an assisted living referrer must comply with all applicable data privacy laws. The Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) must maintain a user-friendly database of licensed assisted living programs.

SB705/HB728: Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act)

This bill requires the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE), in consultation with the Insurance Commissioner and as approved by the MHBE Board, to submit a federal State Innovation Waiver application by July 1, 2025. The waiver application must seek to establish a Qualified Resident Enrollment Program and, if available, seek federal pass-through funding resulting from the implementation of the program. If the waiver is approved, MHBE, in consultation with the Insurance Commissioner and as approved by the MHBE Board, must establish and implement the program. By January 1, 2026, MHBE must adopt regulations to carry out the program.

SB790: Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Employed Individuals With Disabilities

This bill repeals existing provisions regarding the Medicaid Employed Persons with Disabilities Program (known as the Employed Individuals with Disabilities, or EID program). Instead, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) must provide services for individuals under the EID program in a specified manner. MDH must apply to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for any amendments to the State Plan, waivers, or other federal approvals necessary to implement the bill. By December 1, 2024, MDH must submit a report to specified committees of the General Assembly on the fiscal and operational impact of implementing an EID program that serves individuals aged 65 and older and establishing premium contributions based on an applicant's earned and unearned income.

SB408/HB411: Maryland Department of Health - Reports on Standing Orders and Opioid Overdose Reversal Drugs

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to submit a report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee by December 1 each year from 2024 through 2026 on (1) current opioid overdose reversal drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and (2) whether MDH has added each current FDA-approved opioid overdose reversal drug to a standing order and, if not, the reason why any such drug has not been added.

SB751/HB980: Public Health – Opioid Restitution Advisory Council and Fund – Revisions

This bill requires the Secretary of Health – within six months of receiving specified findings and recommendations from the Opioid Restitution Fund Advisory Council – to present to the advisory council the decisions for allocations from the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF). The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) must post to the MDH website the council's findings and recommendations and the Secretary's decisions. The bill expands the permitted uses of ORF to include supporting community-based nonprofit recovery organizations that provide nonclinical substance use recovery support services in the State. By December 1, 2024, MDH must examine and report to specified committees of the General Assembly on the best process for making all of the expenditures of all opioid settlement agreements entered into by the State, counties, and municipalities accessible to the public. The bill also makes other technical and conforming changes.

SB403/HB1134: Hospitals and Related Institutions - Residential Treatment Centers - Accreditation

This bill expands the definition of “accredited residential treatment center” to include a center accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) or the Council on Accreditation (COA), in addition to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations under current law. The bill also makes conforming changes.

HB1053: State Board of Nursing - Executive Director Qualifications

This bill removes the requirement that the Executive Director of the State Board of Nursing (MBON) must be a registered nurse (RN) with a minimum of a master’s degree in nursing or the equivalent, in the judgement of MBON, in professional education and administrative experience.

SB130/HB5: Criminal Law - Indecent Exposure Within the Presence of a Minor

This bill codifies the prohibition on committing the common law crime of indecent exposure. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to the existing statutory penalty of imprisonment for up to three years and/or a fine of up to \$1,000. The bill also establishes a new offense by prohibiting a person from committing indecent exposure with prurient intent when the person knows or reasonably should know that a minor is present and the minor is at least two years old and more than four years younger than the perpetrator. This offense is a misdemeanor and is punishable by imprisonment for up to five years and/or a fine of up to \$10,000.

SB712/HB938: State-Owned Nursing Homes - Deficiencies, Citations, and Fines - Reporting Requirements

This bill requires the department charged with oversight of a State-owned nursing home operated by a contractor to provide notice of a deficiency or enforcement action by a monitoring agency. Notice must be provided to the Governor, specified members of the General Assembly, and the local governing body of the county in which the nursing home is located within 15 days after the final survey finding. Within 30 days after the contractor’s final acceptance of a plan of correction or completion of an informal dispute resolution, the department charged with oversight of the nursing home must provide the Governor and specified members of the General Assembly with a statement of the deficiencies, the plan of correction or results of the informal dispute resolution, and all communications from the monitoring agency regarding survey activities. The bill also expands the definition of “monitoring agency” to include the Maryland Department of Labor, a local health department, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

SB119: Legally Protected Health Care - Gender-Affirming Treatment

This bill expands the definition of “legally protected health care” to include all gender-affirming treatment that is lawful in the State. As a result, gender-affirming treatment is subject to specified protections and prohibitions under current law.

SB996/HB759: Advanced Practice Registered Nurses - Professional Liability Insurance Coverage - Notification Requirements

This bill requires each advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) practicing as an APRN in the State to notify a patient in writing if (1) the APRN does not maintain professional liability insurance coverage or (2) their professional liability insurance coverage has lapsed for any period of time and has not been renewed. Each APRN practicing in the State as an APRN who does not maintain professional liability insurance coverage must post such information in a conspicuous location in their place of practice. The State Board of Nursing (MBON) must develop appropriate language for the required written notification.

SB336/HB265: Insurance - Producer Licensing Requirements - Education and Experience

This bill repeals specified education and experience requirements necessary for an individual applicant to obtain an insurance producer license from the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) for most

applicants, specifically those that require an individual to take a prelicensing course and work for at least one year prior to applying for an insurance producer license. The bill also makes a series of technical and conforming changes.

SB840/HB1081: Public Safety - Automatic License Plate Readers - Captured Plate Data Storage and Upload

This bill establishes that automatic license plate reader (LPR) historical data captured in accordance with the bill and existing law (1) is the property of the law enforcement agency; (2) may not be sold for any purpose by a law enforcement agency or vendor contracted by a law enforcement agency, as specified; (3) may not be accessed by a vendor contracted by a law enforcement agency unless access is expressly requested and authorized by the law enforcement agency; (4) may not be uploaded for any reason by the law enforcement agency or a vendor contracted by the law enforcement agency that stores the data to any other law enforcement agency or entity, regardless of whether the agency or entity is located inside or outside the State; and (5) may be uploaded to a database owned or operated by the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC). In addition, the bill (1) applies the existing criminal prohibition and penalty against misuse of captured LPR data, in violation of the bill and existing law, to vendors contracted by law enforcement agencies and (2) expands the procedures that must be adopted by the Department of State Police (DSP) and law enforcement agencies relating to the operation and use of LPR systems. The bill also alters the definition of “historical data” as it applies to captured LPR data provisions.

SB111/HB458: Criminal Procedure - Protection of Identity of Minor Victim

This bill prohibits the court or a party in a criminal or juvenile delinquency case, on notice that an electronic or paper filing includes “identifying information” of a minor victim, from disclosing or allowing inspection of any such filing (including a charging document) to a nonparty unless the court or the party disclosing or allowing inspection of the filing redacts all identifying information within the filing or the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that there is good cause to order otherwise. “Identifying information” means the name of, and a

SB59: Hospitals - Care of Infants After Discharge (Safe Sleep Act of 2024)

This bill requires a hospital, as soon as practicable before discharging an infant after birth, to provide oral and written educational resources to the infant’s parent or legal guardian on how to provide a “safe sleep environment.” By January 1, 2025, each hospital must establish a process for (1) providing each parent or legal guardian with oral and written educational resources and information regarding a safe sleep environment and the risks of suffocation and sudden infant death in unsafe sleep environments; (2) a parent or legal guardian to confirm receipt of the educational resources; and (3) maintaining the records of confirmations. By January 1, 2025, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in consultation with local health officers, must develop for distribution to birthing parents and legal guardians a list of resources available by county to obtain the items necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for an infant. Each local health department must provide an updated list of resources to MDH each year.

SB839/HB832: General Provisions - Damages or Losses - Definition

This bill specifies that in statutory causes of action created by the Maryland Code to protect civil rights or consumer rights, “damages” or “losses” (1) mean money claimed by, or ordered to be paid to, a person as compensation for loss or injury resulting from the violation of the person’s rights or protections and (2) includes reasonable nominal damages.

HB1078: Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Remote Ultrasound Procedures and Remote Fetal Nonstress Tests

This bill requires Medicaid to provide remote ultrasound procedures and remote fetal nonstress tests using current procedural terminology (CPT) codes if (1) the patient is in a residence or a location other than the

office of the patient's provider and (2) the provider follows the same standard of care that the provider would follow when providing services on site. Medicaid must provide reimbursement for a remote fetal nonstress test in the same manner as an on-site fetal nonstress test. A remote fetal nonstress test must require the use of remote monitoring solutions that are cleared by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for on-label use for monitoring fetal heart rate, maternal heart rate, and uterine activity. Medicaid must issue guidance for providers to implement the bill.

SB468: Criminal Law - Private Home Detention Monitoring - Notification

This bill alters notification requirements for private home detention monitoring agencies (PHDMAs) when monitored individuals violate conditions of pretrial release or probation, including the criteria for mandatory notification, the deadlines for notification, and the recipients of this mandatory notice. The bill authorizes the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to impose civil penalties on companies that fail to provide the required notice. The bill also clarifies that a person is released, rather than committed, to private home detention monitoring under the prohibition on escape in the second degree contained in § 9-405(b) of the Criminal Law Article.

SB799/HB786: Health Occupations – Limited License to Practice Dentistry – Services for Adults

This bill authorizes the State Board of Dental Examiners (BDE) to waive specified education requirements for an applicant for a limited license to practice adult, in addition to pediatric, dentistry. The board may grant a waiver if, in addition to other requirements under current law, the dental director of the federally qualified health center (FQHC) or Maryland qualified health center (MQHC) for which an applicant has contractually agreed to provide at least two years of dental services requests the waiver from BDE and states that circumstances exist to justify granting the waiver. The bill also establishes a pathway for practitioners of adult dentistry who receive a waiver under the bill to receive a general dentistry license in the State.

HB499: Health Occupations - Private Dental Offices - Infection Control

This bill requires each owner of a private dental office to designate a licensed dentist to be the supervising dentist for the office. A supervising dentist must complete the registration required by the State Board of Dental Examiners (BDE) and be responsible for all “infection control activities” within the office. If a supervising dentist relinquishes their responsibility for infection control activities, the owner of the private dental office must immediately designate an interim supervising dentist until a new supervising dentist registers with the board. The board may charge a registration fee. The bill may not be construed to prevent an unlicensed individual from assisting with regulatory compliance.

SB412/HB408: Mental Health Law - County Mental Health Advisory Committees - Membership

This bill adds an individual with experience with mental health care for veterans or individuals serving in the military to the list of persons that can be appointed as a voting member, as specified, to a county mental health advisory committee.

SB714/HB1476: State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists - Appointment of Members

This bill specifies that the Governor must appoint the audiologist members of the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists, with the advice of the Secretary of Health, from a list submitted by the Maryland Academy of Audiology rather than the board.

SB159/HB125: Courts - Military Records - Recordation and Inspection

This bill authorizes the clerk of the circuit court of each county to keep an electronic record instead of a book for purposes of recording and indexing the discharge papers of a person who has served in the uniformed services of the United States. The bill also alters specified provisions related to (1) the

exceptions to the mandatory denial of inspection of a discharge record and (2) certified copies of a discharge record.

HB461: Health - State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life - Renaming

This bill renames the State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life as the State Advisory Council on Serious Illness Care.

SB167/HB806: Physician Assistants - Revisions (Physician Assistant Modernization Act of 2024)

This bill requires a physician assistant (PA) to have a “collaboration agreement” rather than a delegation agreement and authorizes a PA who has provided notice of an executed collaboration agreement to the State Board of Physicians (MBP) to practice medical acts that are authorized under a license issued by MBP and the PA’s collaboration agreement (rather than medical acts delegated by a supervising physician under an approved delegation agreement). A PA may perform additional duties within a PA’s scope of practice, as specified, and may perform specified advanced duties with authorization from MBP. By January 1, 2025, MBP (with representatives of the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants, the Physician Assistant Education Association, and PA education programs in the State) must review and update the list of advanced duties for PAs. The bill also alters the education and examination requirements for licensure, alters the membership for the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee, and makes other conforming changes.

HB1110: Maryland Intrastate Emergency Management Assistance Compact - City of Frederick

This bill includes the City of Frederick as a participating jurisdiction in the Maryland Intrastate Emergency Management Assistance Compact (MIEMAC).

SB332/HB84: Hospitals and Urgent Care Centers - Sepsis Protocol (Lochlin's Law)

This bill requires each hospital and urgent care center in the State, by January 1, 2025, to implement an evidence-based protocol for the early recognition and treatment of a patient with sepsis, severe sepsis, or septic shock based on generally acceptable standards of care. The sepsis protocol must comply with U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sepsis guidelines. Each hospital and urgent care center must (1) require periodic training in the implementation of the sepsis protocol, as specified and (2) ensure that staff receive updated training following a substantive change to the protocol. A specialty psychiatric hospital must establish a process for the screening and early recognition of a patient with sepsis, severe sepsis, or septic shock, and procedures to transfer the patient to the appropriate setting. A hospital that submits sepsis data to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program is presumed to meet the requirements of the bill.

SB13: Public Health - Maryland Pediatric Cancer Fund and Commission

This bill establishes that, except for a health club services agreement for services to be rendered for an adult, any provision in a contract or agreement relating to the use of a “recreational facility” that purports to limit the recreational facility’s liability or release the recreational facility from, or indemnify or hold harmless the recreational facility against, liability for injury caused by or resulting from the negligence or other wrongful act of the recreational facility (or its agents or on-duty employees) is against public policy and is void and unenforceable.

SB136/HB300: Family Law - Marriage Ceremony - Designation of Deputy Clerk

This bill transfers the authority to designate a deputy clerk to perform a marriage ceremony from the county administrative judge to the clerk of the circuit court for the county.

HB531: Correctional Services – Parole Supervision Fees and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Test Payment – Repeal

This bill repeals (1) the requirement for the Maryland Parole Commission (MPC) to assess a monthly \$50 fee as a condition of supervision for each individual on parole and supervised by the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP); (2) the authorization for DPP to require an individual on parole and supervised by DPP to pay for drug and alcohol abuse testing ordered by MPC; and (3) all requirements relating to the supervision fee and payment for drug and alcohol abuse testing. The bill does not repeal the monthly supervision fee of \$50 that individuals placed under the supervision of DPP by the court are required to pay.

SB905: Public Safety – Extreme Risk Protective Orders – Review of Court Records

This bill authorizes review of a court record related to a petition for an extreme risk protective order by researchers affiliated with institutions of higher education conducting related academic or policy research that have entered into an agreement with the Maryland Judiciary providing for the confidentiality of the record in accordance with the bill's provisions. The Maryland Judiciary must require an institution of higher education that has researchers reviewing court records relating to extreme risk protective orders to enter into an agreement that provides for the storage and handling of the records, as specified. The agreement may not apply to or restrict the use or publication of any statistics, information, or other material that summarizes or refers to records in the aggregate, without disclosing the identity of any person who is the subject of the record. The Maryland Judiciary, on its own motion, may institute an injunction and any other appropriate remedy (1) for a violation of the agreement and (2) to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of a record relating to an extreme risk protective order by any person.

SB944/HB1171: Nonprescription Drugs and Devices - Provision by Registered Nurses and Sale of Contraceptives Through Automatic Devices

This bill repeals the prohibition against and related penalty for selling or offering for sale a nonlatex condom by means of a vending machine or other automatic device. Instead, the bill prohibits a person from selling or offering for sale a natural membrane condom by means of a vending machine or other automatic device; violators are excluded from existing criminal and civil penalties under current law. The Committee on Registered Nurses Personally Preparing and Dispensing Drugs and Devices in Local Health Departments must include additional information on nonprescription contraceptive drugs and devices approved for over-the-counter (OTC) use within its formulary. A registered nurse (RN) may provide nonprescription drugs and devices, without a prescription, in compliance with specified provisions in current law. The bill also makes other conforming changes.

HB1063: Criminal Organizations - Underlying Crime

This bill expands the meaning of “underlying crime” for the purposes of establishing a “pattern of organized criminal activity” applicable to related criminal prohibitions.

HB1329: Division of Parole and Probation – Private Home Detention Monitoring – Earned Compliance Credits

This bill authorizes individuals under supervision by a private home detention monitoring agency (PHDMA) to receive earned compliance credits in order to reduce the period of home detention. On request by the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP), the PHDMA responsible for monitoring an individual who is subject to monitoring as a condition of probation must forward a report with specified information regarding the individual's compliance during the monitoring period.

SB723/HB97: Baby Food - Toxic Heavy Metals - Testing and Labeling (Rudy's Law)

This bill prohibits a person, beginning January 1, 2025, from selling, distributing, or offering for sale “baby food” that contains “toxic heavy metals” that exceed the limits established by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A person may sell, distribute, or offer for sale baby food manufactured before January 1, 2026. Beginning January 1, 2025, each “manufacturer” of baby food must test a “representative sample” of each “production aggregate” of the manufacturer's final baby food product for

each toxic heavy metal. On request of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), a manufacturer of baby food must provide the laboratory test results to an authorized agent of the department. Beginning January 1, 2026, each manufacturer of baby food must make specified information publicly available on their website and the baby food product label.

SB36/HB565: Correctional Services - Investigation of Suspected Homicide - Reporting

This bill requires the Department of State Police (DSP), by December 31 each year, to post on its website and submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report detailing the following information for the preceding calendar year: (1) the number of investigations completed by DSP – pursuant to current law – relating to the death of an incarcerated individual suspected to be a homicide that occurs while the incarcerated individual is in the custody of the Division of Correction (DOC) whether within or outside a correctional facility; and (2) the number of cases referred by DSP for prosecution following a completed investigation.

HB328: Hospitals - Financial Assistance Policies - Revisions

This bill modifies the required components of acute care and chronic care hospital financial assistance policies by (1) authorizing hospitals to consider only household monetary assets in excess of \$100,000 and excluding specified retirement assets in determining eligibility for free and reduced-cost care and (2) removing the requirement that the provision of reduced-cost care or payment plans be in accordance with the mission and service area of the hospital.

HB676: Right to Try Act - Individualized Investigational Treatments

This bill specifies that a manufacturer operating within an “eligible facility” may provide an “individualized investigational treatment” to an “eligible patient” without compensation or charge the patient for the cost of, or associated with, the manufacture of the treatment. A carrier, third-party administrator, or government agency may provide coverage for the cost of an individualized investigational treatment or related services. A government agency is not required to pay costs associated with the use, care, or treatment of an individual with an individualized investigational treatment, nor is a hospital or another health care facility required to provide new or additional services unless approved by the hospital or health care facility. The bill also (1) alters the definitions of “eligible patient” and “informed consent”; (2) repeals the definition of “investigational drug, biological product, or device” and replaces references to that term with “individualized investigational treatment”; (3) repeals restrictions on the receipt of payments from eligible patients and the prohibition on manufacturers profiting from the provision of an investigational drug, biological product, or device; and (4) makes conforming changes.

HB1402: Montgomery County – State’s Attorney’s Office Personnel – Application of County Personnel Laws and Collective Bargaining MC 12–24

This bill generally establishes the right of nonprobationary employees of the Montgomery County State’s Attorney’s Office (SAO), including nonsupervisory assistant State’s Attorneys, to organize and bargain collectively in accordance with specified provisions of the county code with regard to compensation, pension (for active employees), fringe benefits, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment, including performance evaluation procedures. The bill further (1) specifies that employees of the Montgomery County SAO are subject to the county’s merit system law and personnel regulations and may be excluded from those provisions only to the extent that such applicability is made the subject of collective bargaining and (2) establishes additional requirements related to the collective bargaining process.

SB658/HB668: Anne Arundel County - Sheriff - Salary

This bill alters the salary of the Anne Arundel County Sheriff to be equal to the salary of a captain in the Anne Arundel County Police Department, at step 20 in the pay scale. Pursuant to constitutional

requirements, the salary structure specified in the bill takes effect at the beginning of the next term of office.

SB521/HB906: Garrett County - Sheriff's Salary - Alteration

This bill establishes that the salary of the Garrett County Sheriff is equal to 80% of the salary of the State's Attorney of Garrett County. The bill also repeals the requirement for the Garrett County Salary Study Commission to study the salary of the county sheriff. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary increase takes effect at the beginning of the next term of office.

HB960: City of Frederick - Assignment of Offenders to Road Work - Repeal

This bill repeals the requirement – and related provisions – in the City of Frederick, for a District Court judge, who tries and commits a vagrant or other offender of a municipal law or ordinance, to assign the offender to work on the public roads of the county or City of Frederick, whenever practicable.

SB807/HB975: Somerset County - Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services

This bill authorizes the Somerset County Commissioners to enact local laws and adopt measures for effective management and regulation of fire, rescue, and emergency medical services in the county. The bill also authorizes the county commissioners to establish an entity or body to administer the county's affairs relating to fire, rescue, and emergency medical services and associated activities while maintaining the volunteer emergency services. If the county commissioners elect to do this, they must also establish an Emergency Services Advisory Council to provide the county commissioners with recommendations regarding the operations of fire suppression, emergency medical, and hazardous materials services in the county.

HB1060: Carroll County – Sheriff – Salary

This bill increases, from \$140,000 to \$191,078.10, the annual salary of the Carroll County Sheriff beginning in 2026. Beginning in 2027, the sheriff must receive an annual salary of \$212,309. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the first salary increase takes effect at the beginning of the next term of office.

SB1038/HB1093: Anne Arundel County - Human Relations Commission - Subpoena Enforcement

This bill authorizes, if a person fails to obey a subpoena served by the Anne Arundel County Human Relations Commission, the commission to apply to a circuit court for an order requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of specified materials and property. The circuit court may issue an order once specified requirements are met; failure to obey an order may be punished by the court as contempt of court.

HB1213: Baltimore County - Sheriff - Salary

This bill establishes the salary of the Baltimore County Sheriff as follows: (1) \$90,000 for calendar years 2024 and 2025; (2) \$138,000 for calendar 2026; (3) \$143,000 for calendar 2027; (4) \$150,000 for calendar 2028; and (5) \$157,500 for calendar 2029. In subsequent years – subject to constitutional requirements – the salary is that established by the Baltimore County Council in its annual budget. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary increases take effect at the beginning of the next term of office.

SB1039: Frederick County - Juveniles - Truancy Reduction Pilot Program

This bill authorizes the Circuit Administrative Judge of the Sixth Circuit to establish a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program (TRPP) in the juvenile court in Frederick County.

SB795/HB464: Health Occupations - Practice Audiology - Definition

This bill specifies that “practice audiology” means to (1) evaluate, diagnose, manage, and treat auditory or vestibular conditions in the human ear; (2) prescribe, order, sell dispense, or fit hearing aids to an individual for the correction or relief of a condition for which hearing aids are worn; (3) prescribe, order, sell, dispense, or externally fit a sound processor to an osseointegrated device for the correction or relief of a condition for which osseointegrated devices are worn; and (4) prescribe, order, sell dispense, or externally fit a “sound processor” (a nonsurgical, external unit that attaches to an internal osseointegrated device or cochlear implant) to a cochlear implant for the correction or relief of a condition for which cochlear implants are worn. The bill also specifies what “practice audiology” includes and does not include.