



Maryland Legislative Report

Bill	Sponsors	Title	Last Action	Latest Version
MD 2026 HB 15	M. Morgan	Public Information Act - Public Records - Nonprofit Organizations Bill up for consideration • House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee Feb 10, 2026 01:00 PM House Office Building, Room 145, Annapolis, MD	House • Jan 28, 2026: Hearing 2/10 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - First - Public Information Act - Public Records - Nonprofit Organizations
MD 2026 HB 58	Healey	Transportation - Paratransit Services - Interjurisdictional Routes tie certain State funding for county “elderly and handicapped” transportation services to interjurisdictional paratransit routes that connect residents across county lines to facilities in major Maryland health-system networks.	House • Jan 19, 2026: Hearing 2/05 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - First - Transportation - Paratransit Services - Interjurisdictional Routes
MD 2026 HB 70	Healey	State Highway Administration - Traffic Calming Devices - Study	House • Feb 5, 2026: Hearing canceled	Text - First - State Highway Administration - Traffic Calming Devices - Study
MD 2026 HB 104	Mireku-North	Unhoused Individuals - Rights and Affirmative Defense Companions: SB 49 Establishes that unhoused individuals have certain rights relating to engaging in “life-sustaining activities.” The bill prohibits certain governmental entities, officials, or agents from imposing specified penalties for exercising a right established under the bill or for offering aid	House • Jan 16, 2026: Hearing 2/03 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - Racial Equity Impact Note

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		to unhoused individuals on or about public places. The bill also authorizes the Attorney General or an individual harmed by a violation of the bill's provisions to bring a civil action against governmental entities, officials, or agents. Furthermore, the bill establishes an affirmative defense of necessity for certain criminal prosecutions relating to trespass or disturbing the peace. Finally, the bill repeals the authority of a municipality to prohibit vagrancy. The provisions of the bill must supersede any local law or ordinance comparable in subject matter except to the extent that the local law or ordinance provides broader applicability or more protections for unhoused individuals than the bill. The bill has a severability clause.		
MD 2026 SB 49	Muse	Unhoused Individuals - Rights and Affirmative Defense Companions: HB 104 It creates a set of protected rights for unhoused individuals, including the right to be free from discrimination based on housing status and to engage in life-sustaining activities (like resting, sleeping, eating, or protecting oneself from the elements) in public places, as long as those activities don't obstruct others or traffic and no adequate indoor alternatives are available. The bill prohibits state and local governments and officials from imposing civil or criminal penalties on unhoused people for exercising these rights or on others who provide them with food or aid. It establishes an affirmative defense of necessity in prosecutions for criminal trespass or disturbing the peace when the conduct occurred while engaging in life-sustaining activities and no adequate alternative indoor space was available. It also repeals municipalities' authority to prohibit vagrancy in the Local Government Article and provides that the new protections generally <i>supersede</i> comparable local laws unless those local laws offer broader protections.	Senate • Jan 13, 2026: Hearing 1/27 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - Racial Equity Impact Note
MD 2026 HB 122	Szeliga	State Aid - Nonprofits - Status	House • Jan 21, 2026: Hearing 1/27 at 2:00 p.m.	Text - First - State Aid - Nonprofits - Status
MD 2026 HB 129	M. Morgan	Public Funding - Nonprofit Entities - Reporting	House • Jan 14, 2026: First Reading Appropriations	Text - First - Public Funding - Nonprofit Entities - Reporting
MD 2026 HB 183	Bouchat	Vehicle Laws - Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Repeal Companions: SB 106	House • Jan 19, 2026: Hearing 2/05 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - First - Vehicle Laws - Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Repeal
MD 2026 SB 106	Ready	Vehicle Laws - Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Repeal Companions: HB 183	Senate • Jan 20, 2026: Hearing 2/04 at 11:00 a.m.	Text - First - Vehicle Laws - Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Repeal
MD 2026 HB 188	Charkoudian	Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2026 Companions: SB 3 <i>makes changes to how unemployment insurance works in Maryland – specifically:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How weekly benefit amounts are calculated.	House • Feb 6, 2026: Hearing 2/11 at 2:30 p.m.	Text - First - Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2026

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>taxable wage base</i> used to determine employer contributions to the Maryland Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund (the amount of a worker's wages that employers must pay unemployment insurance taxes on). Requires the Maryland Department of Labor to annually publish the state's average wage applicable for determining the unemployment insurance contribution rate. Sets a formula for future taxable wage bases and benefit amounts. It is focused on <i>employer contributions</i> into the <i>state unemployment insurance system</i>. <p>Bill up for consideration • House Economic Matters Committee</p> <p>Feb 11, 2026 02:30 PM</p> <p>House Office Building, Room 230, Annapolis, MD</p>		
MD 2026 SB 3	Kramer	<p>Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2026</p> <p>Companions: HB 188</p> <p>Bill up for consideration • Senate Finance Committee</p> <p>Feb 11, 2026 02:00 PM</p> <p>East Miller Senate Building, Room 3, Annapolis, MD</p>	Senate • Jan 29, 2026: Hearing 2/11 at 2:00 p.m.	Text - First - Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2026
MD 2026 HB 191	Wims	<p>Consumer Protection - Retail Transactions - Cash Payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merchants cannot refuse cash from a customer to pay for a good or service in an in-person transaction. Merchants may <i>not</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require payment by credit or debit card instead of cash, Prohibit cash payments, or Charge a fee for paying with cash, in applicable transactions. Applies only to <i>in-person retail transactions</i> where the total is at least \$5 and less than \$300. <p>Bill up for consideration • House Economic Matters Committee</p> <p>Feb 10, 2026 01:00 PM</p> <p>House Office Building, Room 230, Annapolis, MD</p>	House • Jan 19, 2026: Hearing 2/10 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - First - Consumer Protection - Retail Transactions - Cash Payments
MD 2026 HB 263	Government, Labor, and Elections Committee	<p>Election Law - Early Voting Centers - Bus Stops</p> <p>Companions: SB 100</p>	House • Jan 16, 2026: Hearing 2/04 at 2:00 p.m.	Text - First - Election Law - Early Voting Centers - Bus Stops
MD 2026 SB 100	Education, Energy, and the Environment	<p>Election Law - Early Voting Centers - Bus Stops</p> <p>Companions: HB 263</p>	Senate • Jan 16, 2026: Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - First - Election Law - Early Voting Centers - Bus

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	Committee	<p>Requires that local fixed-route buses funded and operated by a county or municipality (or its contractor) must, to the maximum extent practicable and consistent with accessibility standards, allow passengers to board and exit at the entrance of early voting centers located within ½ mile of the bus route on days the centers are open for early voting.</p> <p>Bill up for consideration • Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee</p> <p>Feb 11, 2026 01:00 PM</p> <p>West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD</p>		Stops
MD 2026 HB 437	Edelson	<p>Transportation - Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026)</p> <p>Companions: SB 59</p> <p>Bill up for consideration • House Appropriations Committee</p> <p>Feb 10, 2026 01:00 PM</p> <p>House Office Building, Room 120, Annapolis, MD</p>	House • Feb 2, 2026: Hearing 2/10 at 1:00 p.m. (Appropriations)	Text - First - Transportation - Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026)
MD 2026 SB 59	Hettleman	<p>Transportation - Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026)</p> <p>Companions: HB 437</p> <p>Requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to take various actions, including implementing multimodal transportation programs, undertaking offsetting activities, and conducting impact assessments, to reduce or offset the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with major highway expansion projects and major capital projects.</p> <p>A S PART OF THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A MAJOR HIGHWAY CAPACITY EXPANSION PROJECT , THE D EPARTMENT SHALL PERFORM AN IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AND DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A CORRESPONDING MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM .</p> <p>Bill up for consideration • Senate Budget and Taxation Committee</p>	Senate • Feb 5, 2026: Hearing 2/25 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - First - Transportation - Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026)

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		Feb 25, 2026 01:00 PM West Miller Senate Building, Room 3, Annapolis, MD		
MD 2026 HB 461	Ziegler	Economic Development - Rural Readiness Program and Rural Maryland Capacity Building Fund - Establishment Companions: SB 300 Bill up for consideration • House Economic Matters Committee Feb 17, 2026 01:00 PM House Office Building, Room 230, Annapolis, MD	House • Jan 28, 2026: Hearing 2/17 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - First - Economic Development - Rural Readiness Program and Rural Maryland Capacity Building Fund - Establishment
MD 2026 SB 300	Hester	Economic Development - Rural Readiness Program and Rural Maryland Capacity Building Fund - Establishment Companions: HB 461	Senate • Jan 21, 2026: Hearing 2/05 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - First - Economic Development - Rural Readiness Program and Rural Maryland Capacity Building Fund - Establishment
MD 2026 HB 593	Hill	Criminal Law - Interference With Critical Infrastructure or a Public Safety Answering Point Companions: SB 482 Bill up for consideration • House Judiciary Committee Feb 10, 2026 01:00 PM House Office Building, Room 100, Annapolis, MD	House • Jan 30, 2026: Hearing 2/10 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - First - Criminal Law - Interference With Critical Infrastructure or a Public Safety Answering Point
MD 2026 HB 733	Guyton	Maryland Transit Administration - Fixed-Route Transit Services - Announcements Bill up for consideration • House Environment and Transportation Committee Feb 19, 2026 01:00 PM House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD	House • Feb 4, 2026: Hearing 2/19 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - First - Maryland Transit Administration - Fixed-Route Transit Services - Announcements
MD 2026 HB 833	Boyce	Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland - Reestablishment Companions: SB 553 Bill up for consideration • House Environment and Transportation Committee Feb 24, 2026 01:00 PM	House • Feb 5, 2026: Hearing 2/24 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - First - Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland - Reestablishment

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		House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD		
MD 2026 SB 553	Augustine	Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland - Reestablishment Companions: HB 833 Bill up for consideration • Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Feb 24, 2026 01:00 PM West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD	Senate • Feb 5, 2026: Hearing 2/24 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - First - Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland - Reestablishment
MD 2026 HB 894	Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk	Land Use - Transit-Oriented Development - Alterations (Maryland Transit and Housing Opportunity Act) Companions: SB 389	House • Feb 4, 2026: First Reading Economic Matters and Environment and Transportation	Text - First - Land Use - Transit-Oriented Development - Alterations (Maryland Transit and Housing Opportunity Act)
MD 2026 SB 389	President	Land Use - Transit-Oriented Development - Alterations (Maryland Transit and Housing Opportunity Act) Companions: HB 894 Bill up for consideration • Senate Finance Committee Feb 17, 2026 01:00 PM East Miller Senate Building, Room 3, Annapolis, MD	Senate • Feb 2, 2026: Hearing 2/17 at 1:00 p.m. (Finance)	Text - First - Land Use - Transit-Oriented Development - Alterations (Maryland Transit and Housing Opportunity Act)
MD 2026 HB 916	Spiegel	Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities Companions: SB 674	House • Feb 6, 2026: Reassigned to Environment and Transportation Appropriations	Text - First - Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities
MD 2026 SB 674	A. Washington	Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities Companions: HB 916	Senate • Feb 6, 2026: First Reading Budget and Taxation and Finance	Text - First - Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities
MD 2026 SB 4	Kagan	Charitable Organizations - Charitable Donation and Tax-Exempt Status - Revocation (Keeping Charities Nonpartisan Act of 2026) Companions: HB 514 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expands the definition of "charitable organization" to include entities recognized by the IRS as eligible to receive federally deductible donations. 	Senate • Jan 27, 2026: Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m. (Education, Energy, and the	Text - First - Charitable Organizations - Charitable Donation and

Bill	Sponsors	Title	Last Action	Latest Version
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits certain charitable organizations from participating in or intervening in political campaigns on behalf of or against a candidate for public office. Authorizes the Secretary of State and Attorney General (jointly) to order revocation of a charitable organization's tax-exempt status under Maryland law if it violates the political activity prohibition. Requires the Comptroller and the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to revoke state tax exemptions (income, sales/use, property) for organizations whose tax-exempt status is revoked. Organizations losing tax-exempt status will not qualify for certain exemptions while revoked. <p>Bill up for consideration • Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee</p> <p>Feb 11, 2026 01:00 PM</p> <p>West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD</p>	Environment)	Tax-Exempt Status - Revocation (Keeping Charities Nonpartisan Act of 2026)
MD 2026 SB 28	McCray	<p>Arbitration Reform for State Employees Act of 2026</p> <p>Companions: HB 604</p> <p>Expands the <i>collective bargaining framework</i> for state employees by embedding arbitration and requiring budget funding. Shifts certain procedural elements – including timelines, neutral arbitrator roles, and funding obligations – that did not previously exist in the same form.</p> <p>Bill up for consideration • Senate Budget and Taxation Committee</p> <p>Feb 18, 2026 01:00 PM</p> <p>West Miller Senate Building, Room 3, Annapolis, MD</p>	Senate • Feb 5, 2026: Hearing 2/18 at 1:00 p.m. (Budget and Taxation)	Text - First - Arbitration Reform for State Employees Act of 2026
MD 2026 SB 62	Budget and Taxation Committee	<p>Transportation - Consolidated Transportation Program - Prioritization (Transportation Investment Priorities Act of 2026)</p> <p>Companions: HB 230</p> <p>The bill requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to develop and use a project-based scoring system for major surface transportation projects and to publish project scores and recommendations publicly. It also alters the composition and duties of the Maryland Transportation Commission, updates priorities and evaluation criteria for project selection, and changes requirements for how transportation program information is shared with the General Assembly and local governments.</p> <p>Bill up for consideration • Senate Budget and Taxation Committee</p> <p>Feb 25, 2026 01:00 PM</p> <p>West Miller Senate Building, Room 3, Annapolis, MD</p>	Senate • Feb 5, 2026: Hearing 2/25 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - First - Transportation - Consolidated Transportation Program - Prioritization (Transportation Investment Priorities Act of 2026)
MD 2026 SB 116	Hettleman	<p>Board of Public Works – Contract Review – Climate and Sustainability Information</p> <p>Requires that certain <i>state contracts</i> submitted to the <i>Board of Public Works</i> include <i>climate and sustainability information</i> when agencies request approval. Under the bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For contracts in categories such as <i>architectural/engineering services, construction, energy performance, leases</i>, and other major procurements, the submitting <i>state agency</i> must provide <i>climate-related data</i> as part of the contract approval packet. The required information includes: 	Senate • Feb 6, 2026: Hearing 2/18 at 1:00 p.m.	Text - First - Board of Public Works - Contract Review - Climate and Sustainability

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the contract supports the State's greenhouse gas reduction and net-zero goals; • How the contract enhances climate resilience and adaptation over its life; • How it advances sustainable design, resilience, and mitigation goals; • How it incorporates environmentally preferable products or high-performance building standards. • The bill also requires the liaisons to the Board (Governor, Comptroller, Treasurer offices) to ensure compliance and make the climate/sustainability information part of the Board agenda for consideration. <p>Bill up for consideration • Senate Budget and Taxation Committee</p> <p>Feb 18, 2026 01:00 PM</p> <p>West Miller Senate Building, Room 3, Annapolis, MD</p>		Information
MD 2026 SB 590	Kramer	Study on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Economy-Wide Cap-and-Invest Program (Maryland Climate Crisis Equity Act)	Senate • Feb 5, 2026: First Reading Education, Energy, and the Environment	Text - First - Study on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Economy-Wide Cap-and-Invest Program (Maryland Climate Crisis Equity Act)
MD 2026 SB 622	Watson	Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund - Required Uses - Building Electrification and Transportation Electrification	Senate • Feb 5, 2026: First Reading Education, Energy, and the Environment	Text - First - Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund - Required Uses - Building Electrification and Transportation Electrification

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