



SYNOPSIS

House Bills and Joint Resolutions
2024 Maryland General Assembly Session

January 15, 2024
Schedule 3

PLEASE NOTE: January 19 – Bill request deadline.
February 9 – Bill introduction deadline.
All bills must be given to the Chief Clerk by 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 8.
As required by House Rule 32(b), bills introduced after this date will be referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee.

HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED JANUARY 15, 2024

HB 295 Delegate J. Long, et al

OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

Requiring the Governor annually to proclaim August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024

GP, §§ 7-416 through 7-420 - renumbered and § 7-416 - added

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 296 Delegate Grammer

FIREARMS – RIGHT TO PURCHASE, OWN, POSSESS, AND CARRY

Providing that a person may not be denied the right to purchase, own, possess, or carry a firearm solely on the basis that the person is authorized to use medical cannabis.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

PS, § 5-901 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

Department of Legislative Services

90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Baltimore Area: 410-946-5400 — Washington Area: 301-970-5400

Other Maryland Areas: 1-800-492-7122 — Maryland Relay Service: 1-800-735-2258

HB 297 Delegate Davis, et al**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL – CORRECTIONAL OMBUDSMAN UNIT**

Establishing the Correctional Ombudsman Unit in the Office of the Attorney General; requiring the Unit to conduct investigations, reviews, and assessments of administrative acts taken by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services or in relation to individuals confined by the Department; requiring the Unit to refer matters for criminal charges or disciplinary proceedings as appropriate; establishing the Correctional Ombudsman Advisory Board; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024

SG, §§ 6-901 through 6-907 - added and SP, § 5-305 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary and Health and Government Operations

HB 298 Delegate Munoz**VEHICLE LAWS – LANES OF TRAVEL – SLOWER TRAFFIC AND OVERTAKING AND PASSING (MOVE GET OUT THE WAY ACT)**

Expanding to every roadway in the State the requirement that the driver of a vehicle traveling slower than the general speed of traffic drive the vehicle in the right-hand lanes if practicable as determined by the driver; and providing that, on a roadway that has three or more lanes for traffic moving in the same direction with a posted maximum speed limit of 55 miles per hour or more, the far left lane may be used only for overtaking and passing another vehicle in a certain manner and under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

TR, §§ 21-301(b) and 21-303 - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 299 Delegate Grammer**PUBLIC SAFETY – MILITIA – ACTIVE DUTY COMBAT (DEFEND THE GUARD)**

Prohibiting the Governor from ordering the militia or a member of the militia into active duty combat unless the U.S. Congress has passed an official declaration of war or taken a certain official action; and establishing that this prohibition does not limit or prohibit the Governor from deploying the militia or a member of the militia under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

PS, § 13-702 - amended

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 300 Delegate Toles, et al**FAMILY LAW – MARRIAGE CEREMONY – DESIGNATION OF DEPUTY CLERK**

Transferring, from the county administrative judge of the circuit court for the county to the clerk of the circuit court for the county, the authority to designate a deputy clerk to perform a marriage ceremony.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

FL, § 2-406(a) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 301 Delegate Embry, et al**CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – DIMINUTION OF A TERM OF CONFINEMENT – FIRST-DEGREE RAPE AND FIRST-DEGREE SEXUAL OFFENSE (THE PAVA MARIE LAPERE ACT)**

Prohibiting an incarcerated individual who is serving a sentence for first degree rape or first degree sexual offense as first degree sexual offense existed prior to October 1, 2017, from being entitled to diminution of the incarcerated individual's term of confinement.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

CS, § 3-702 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 302 Delegate Embry, et al**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES, AND COURT-ORDERED SERVICES PROVIDERS – PROHIBITION ON SEXUAL ACTIVITY – PENALTIES AND REGISTRY**

Altering penalties relating to sexual contact between a law enforcement officer, correctional employee, or court-ordered services provider and certain individuals under certain circumstances; increasing the penalties from a misdemeanor to a felony, and on conviction a person is subject to imprisonment of up to 10 years instead of 3 years; and requiring a person convicted of a certain offense to register on a certain sex offender registry.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

CR, § 3-314 and CP, § 11-701(o)(1) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 303 Delegates Grammer and Young**PUBLIC SAFETY – PERSISTENT AERIAL SURVEILLANCE**

Prohibiting persistent aerial surveillance by a unit, an agency, or a political subdivision of the State to gather evidence or other information in a criminal investigation, subject to certain exceptions; and defining “persistent aerial surveillance” as the use of aircraft to record video or a concurrent series of images or pictures that when viewed in aggregate depict a person’s actions over time.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

PS, § 3-531 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 304 Delegate Munoz, et al**GUN THEFT FELONY ACT OF 2024**

Classifying the theft of a firearm as a felony; and establishing a penalty for theft of a firearm of imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 for a first offense, and imprisonment not exceeding 10 years or a fine not exceeding \$2,500 for a second or subsequent offense.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

CR, § 7-104 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 305 Delegates Wilkins and Charkoudian**OUTDOOR LIGHTING – STANDARDS AND USE OF STATE FUNDS**

Requiring the Department of the Environment, on or before October 1, 2025, to develop outdoor lighting standards that consider energy consumption, the environment, and public health and safety; requiring the Department to consult with the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Energy Administration, and the State Highway Administration in developing the standards; prohibiting the use of State funds for the installation or replacement of certain permanent outdoor luminaires in certain areas under certain circumstances; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

PS, § 12-1301 - added and SF, § 14-412 - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 306 Prince George's County Delegation

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – INDEPENDENT INNOVATION AGENCY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY – ESTABLISHMENT PG 402–24

Establishing the Independent Innovation Agency of Prince George's County to promote innovation and technology in the county; authorizing the Agency to enter into certain contracts, accept grants, contributions, or other assistance from federal, State, or local governments or from a college or university; establishing the Innovation Places Program in the Agency to foster entrepreneurship in the county; establishing the Industry Sector Workgroup in the Agency to convene interested stakeholders in the county; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

EC, §§ 12-1101 through 12-1113 - added and SF, § 6-226(a)(2)(ii)189. and 190. - amended and § 6-226(a)(2)(ii)191. - added

Assigned to: Ways and Means

HB 307 Prince George's County Delegation

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSES – NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS PG 304–24

Authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Prince George's County to issue a Class C (fraternal/sororal/service organization) alcoholic beverages license for use by an independent nonprofit organization whose membership is composed solely of members of a nationwide fraternal or sororal organization; and providing an annual license fee of \$910.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024

AB, § 26-1011 - amended

Assigned to: Economic Matters

HB 308 Delegate Healey**PUBLIC SAFETY – MISSING PERSON REPORTS – COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION**

Requiring the Department of State Police to compile and report on its website information on missing person reports that is disaggregated by age, race, and reporting county, and provide the number of resolved missing persons reports in the preceding month; requiring a local law enforcement agency to provide certain information on missing person reports as required by the Department of State Police; and requiring the Department of State Police to adopt procedures for the collection of information from local law enforcement agencies.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

PS, § 3-608 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 309 Delegate Healey**COOPERATIVE HOUSING CORPORATIONS – DISPUTE SETTLEMENT**

Altering procedures for the dispute settlement mechanism under the Maryland Cooperative Housing Corporation Act; and applying the Act prospectively.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

CA, § 5-6B-30 - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

HB 310 Delegate Buckel, et al**SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2024**

Prohibiting the earning of diminution credits to reduce the term of confinement of an incarcerated individual who is serving a sentence for murder in the first degree or murder in the second degree in a State or local correctional facility; prohibiting a deduction of diminution credits of more than 10% of an incarcerated individual's aggregate sentence for crimes of violence for an incarcerated individual who is serving a sentence for a crime of violence; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

CS, §§ 3-702, 3-708, and 11-502 and CP, § 5-202 - amended and CS, § 11-507.1 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 311 Delegates Simpson and Taylor**CHILD SUPPORT – SUSPENSION OF DRIVER’S LICENSES**

Altering provisions of law relating to the authority of the Child Support Enforcement Administration to notify the Motor Vehicle Administration of an individual’s child support arrearages for the purpose of suspending the individual’s driver’s license or privilege to drive under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

FL, § 10-119 and TR, § 16-203 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 312 Delegate Bagnall**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS – COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS**

Requiring a physician assistant to have a collaboration agreement with a patient care team physician, rather than a delegation agreement with a primary supervising physician, in order to practice as a physician assistant; increasing, from four to eight, the number of physician assistants to whom a patient care team physician may delegate medical acts under a collaboration agreement; altering the circumstances under which and the settings at which a physician assistant is authorized to perform advanced duties without certain approval; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

AB, § 36-101(m)(1)(v), ED, § 7-402(c), and HO, Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HB 313 Delegate Attar**JUVENILE LAW – PROBATION**

Repealing certain provisions of law specifying certain limitations on the imposition of juvenile probation; and authorizing the juvenile court to place a child on probation for a term that the court determines is appropriate to ensure that the child is able to complete any necessary services or treatment.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

CJ, § 3-8A-19.6 - repealed and added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 314 Delegate Attar**JUVENILE LAW – PROBATION – TECHNICAL VIOLATIONS**

Authorizing the juvenile court to order community detention and take certain other actions in response to a technical violation of probation committed by a child.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

CJ, § 3-8A-19.6 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 315 Delegate Bartlett**REGULATED FIREARMS – DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE – REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Repealing and altering a reporting requirement to require the Department of State Police, instead of the State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy, to report on the number of charges, convictions, and sentences for certain regulated firearm violations; and requiring by October 1, 2024 and each October 1 thereafter, that the report be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly and include information disaggregated by jurisdiction, race, and gender.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2024

CP, § 6-215 - repealed and PS, § 5-148 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 316 Delegate Valentine, et al**CRIMES AND CORRECTIONS – PENALTIES AND PROCEDURES (VIOLENT FIREARMS OFFENDER ACT OF 2024)**

Establishing that a violation of a condition of probation, parole, or mandatory supervision that involves the use or possession of a firearm is not a technical violation for certain purposes; requiring the Commissioner of Correction to provide a certain inmate with a certain reentry kit and assistance in obtaining Medicaid benefits under certain circumstances; altering the elements of certain prohibitions against using a certain firearm in the commission of a certain crime; etc.

EMERGENCY BILL

PS, § 5-134(c) and (d) - renumbered, CS and PS, Various Sections - amended and added, and CR, Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 317 Delegate Williams**CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – POSTCONVICTION REVIEW – MOTION FOR REDUCTION OF SENTENCE**

Authorizing a State’s Attorney to file a motion for a reduction of sentence at any time during the period of active incarceration recommending a lesser sentence if it is in the interest of justice; authorizing an individual to file a response within 60 days after the filing of a motion to provide any additional information for the court to consider; requiring the court to hold a timely hearing on the motion; authorizing the court to consider certain factors when determining whether to reduce a certain sentence; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

CP, § 8-111 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 318 Delegate Solomon, et al**CRIMINAL LAW – THEFT – MAIL AND MAIL DEPOSITORY KEY**

Prohibiting the theft of mail from a mail depository owned by the United States Postal Service; prohibiting the theft of a device used to open a mail depository owned by the United States Postal Service; prohibiting the theft of mail with intent to commit identity theft; prohibiting the theft of mail from an elderly person or a vulnerable adult with intent to commit identity theft; and establishing penalties for violations of the Act.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

CR, § 7-101 - amended and §§ 7-106.1 through 7-106.3 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 319 Delegate Kipke, et al**JUVENILE JUSTICE RESTORATION ACT OF 2024**

Altering the jurisdiction of the juvenile court to establish that the juvenile court has exclusive original jurisdiction over a child who is at least 10 years old alleged to have committed a crime involving the use or possession of a firearm; and altering a certain provision of law authorizing a law enforcement officer to conduct an otherwise lawful custodial interrogation of a child if the child’s parent, guardian, or custodian consents to the custodial interrogation of the child without the child’s consultation with an attorney.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

CJ, §§ 3-8A-03 and 3-8A-14.2 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 320 Delegate Pippy, et al

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – STOPS AND SEARCHES – CANNABIS ODOR AND ADMISSION OF EVIDENCE (DRUG-FREE ROADWAYS ACT OF 2024)

Repealing a certain prohibition against a law enforcement officer initiating a stop or a search of a motor vehicle based solely on the odor of burnt or unburnt cannabis; and repealing a certain provision of law rendering inadmissible certain evidence discovered or obtained in violation of a certain provision of law.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

CP, § 1-211 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 321 Delegate Attar

CRIMINAL LAW – CRIMES OF ARSON – PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES

Prohibiting a person from committing a certain crime of arson that causes injury to a firefighter during the response to the fire or the efforts to suppress the fire; and establishing that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 10 years.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

CR, § 6-112 - added

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 322 Delegate Attar

JUVENILE LAW – COMPLAINTS – FORWARDING TO STATE’S ATTORNEY

Repealing an exception to the requirement that a complaint that alleges the commission of an act by a child that would be a felony if committed by an adult must be forwarded to the State’s Attorney under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

CJ, § 3-8A-10(c)(4) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 323 Delegate GuytonENVIRONMENT – COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
MEMBERSHIP – ADDITION

Adding the Chair of the Public Service Commission, or the Chair’s designee, as a member of the Commission on Climate Change.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

EN, § 2-1302(a) - amended

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters

HB 324 Delegate CardinMARYLAND UNIFORM TRANSFERS TO MINORS ACT – TRANSFERS
AS CUSTODIAN FOR THE BENEFIT OF A MINOR – AUTHORIZATION
OF COURT

Increasing, from in excess of \$10,000 to in excess of \$50,000, the threshold amount for certain transfers by a personal representative, trustee, or conservator as a custodian for the benefit of a minor to require authorization by a court.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

ET, § 13-306 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 325 Delegate Cardin

ESTATES AND TRUSTS – INTERESTED PERSON – DEFINITION

Altering the definition of “interested person” for purposes of provisions of law governing the estates of decedents, guardians of persons and property, trusts, and powers of attorney.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

ET, § 1-101(j) - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 326 Delegate CardinESTATES AND TRUSTS – APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE – OBJECTIONS

Authorizing only an interested person or unpaid claimant, rather than any person, to file an objection to the appointment of a personal representative of an estate of a decedent.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

ET, § 7-103 - amended

Assigned to: Judiciary

HB 327 Delegate Bagnall

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES – MEMBERSHIP ALTERATIONS AND APPOINTMENT REQUIREMENTS

Increasing by two members the membership of the Board of Community College Trustees for Anne Arundel County; and requiring the Governor to consider the geographic and ethnic representation of Anne Arundel County when making appointments to the Board.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024

ED, § 16-401 - amended

Assigned to: Appropriations

HB 328 Delegate Lopez, et al

HOSPITALS – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICIES – REVISIONS

Altering the required contents of a hospital's financial assistance policy by removing the requirement that the provision of reduced-cost medically necessary care and payment plans be in accordance with the mission and service area of the hospital; and prohibiting hospitals from considering a household's monetary assets in determining eligibility for free and reduced-cost care under the hospital's financial assistance policy, rather than allowing hospitals to consider certain household monetary assets.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

HG, § 19-214.1(b)(2) and (8) - amended

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

HOUSE BILL REASSIGNED JANUARY 12, 2024**HB 48****Delegate Cardin**

COURTS – JUSTICES AND JUDGES – SELECTION AND RETENTION

Decreasing the term of office for the judges of the circuit courts; increasing the number of years between successive retention elections for judges of the Appellate Court of Maryland and justices of the Supreme Court of Maryland; providing for a transitional period during which the terms of certain amendments are to become effective; and providing that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by the Act be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the next general election in November 2024.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – CONTINGENT

Maryland Constitution, Art. IV, § 3 - repealed and §§ 5 and 5A - amended and Art. XVIII, § 6 - added

Reassigned to: Judiciary and Ways and Means