

MARYLAND FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN – 2024 WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – 1-28-2024

BILL #	BILL DESCRIPTION BY TOPIC	COMMITTEE/HEARING AND SPONSORS	BILL STATUS	COMMENTS
Note: Bills are listed in each subject category numerically by House Bills first (companion Senate Bill # underneath); then Senate Bills numerically.				
	BUDGET – REVENUE – TAXES			
HB 0089	Income Tax – Credit for Individuals Without Motor Vehicles 3 (One Less Car Act of 2024)	W&M – Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m.; Del. R. Lewis	1 st Reader	See entry under Energy – Environment for details.
HB 0183	Increase the annual budget mandated minimum amount for the Summer SNAP for Children Food Supplement Program from \$200,000 to \$5 Million.	APP – Hearing 1/23 at 2 p.m.; Dept. Human Services (Gov. Request) FIN – Hearing 2/08 at 1 p.m.	1 st Reader	
SB 0213			1 st Reader	
HB 0350 SB 0360	Budget Bill (FY 2025)	APP – Speaker – B&T – President	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0351 SB 0361	Md. Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2024 & Consolidated Capital Bond Loans of 2015-2023.	APP – Speaker B&T - President	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0352 SB 0362	Budget Reconciliation & Financing Act of 2024	APP – Speaker B&T - President	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0694	Establishing the Governor's Office for Children and the Special Secretary of the Governor's Office for Children as the head of the Office; requiring the Special Secretary to establish the ENOUGH grant program, subject to certain requirements; requiring the Office to assign certain staff for a certain purpose; establishing certain reporting and evaluation requirements; establishing the ENOUGH Grant Fund as a special, non-lapsing fund; requiring the Governor to appropriate \$15,000,000 to the fund for fiscal year 2026; etc.	APP – Hearing 2/13 at 1 p.m.; Request of Admin.+ EEE ; Request of Admin.+	1 st Reader	
SB 0482			1 st Reader	
SB 0294	Expanding Major Government Information Technology projects in State Government to include networking and applications; and, increasing cost of projects from equal or exceeding \$1 million to \$5 million unless the secretary	EEE – Hearing 1/18 at 1 p.m.; Request of Dept. Information Technology	1 st Reader	

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	determines that the project does not require the oversight given to a major information technology development project. Other criteria include that there is no sufficient alternative within the state’s information technology inventory; and the project will result in a single, comprehensive solution designed to meet a cohesive set of business and technological objectives;			
	CANNABIS LEGALIZATION IMPLEMENTATION			
HB 0217	Prohibiting cannabis use in a motor vehicle with a minor occupant.	JUD – Hearing 1/24 at 1 p.m.; Del. R. Long	1 st Reader	
HB 0253	Cannabis Reform - Alterations	ECM; Chair ECM.	1 st Reader	
HB 0320 SB 0396	Criminal Procedure - Stops and Searches – Cannabis Odor & Admission of Evidence. (Drug-free Roadways Act of 2024).	JUD; Del. Pippy et al JPR – Hearing 2/02 at 1 p.m.; Str. Folden et al	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0441 SB 0619	Cannabis Related Offenses. Substituting civil penalties in place of criminal penalties for offenses relating to possessing, possessing with the intent to distribute, and cultivating cannabis and manufacturing cannabis products. Deletes “Civil Use Amount” and imposes a fine of \$250 or 75 hours of Community Service for a violation of possession of more than 1.5 oz of cannabis. (no upper limit on amount stated). Requires a person under 21 to take a education program.	JUD; Delegate Davis. JPR; Str. Carter.	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
	CIVIL RIGHTS – CRIMINAL LAW – LAW ENFORCEMENT			
HB 0008 SB 0048	Providing that an individual who is a permanent legal resident and honorably discharged veteran or current member of the Army National Guard, the	JUD – Hearing 1/23 at 1 p.m.; Del. Fraser-Hidalgo JPR – Str. Kagan	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	

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	Air National Guard, or a reserve component is eligible to be certified as a police officer.			
HB 0115 SB 0004	Criminal Procedure – Victims’ Rights – Notification of release from Confinement (Jaycee Webster Victims’ Rights Act). Requires the Correctional facility to include in the notification of release sent to the victim or witness the name and telephone number of the lead victim services employee of the county state’s attorney’s office in which the sentenced defendant or child respondent was prosecuted.	JUD – Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m.; Delegate Kaufman JPR – Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m.; Str. Waldstreicher	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0175	State Government agencies may not require an applicant for an occupational license to disclose on the application past criminal convictions, even for crimes of violence, where a period of 3 years has passed since the end of the individual’s term of imprisonment. Includes a Criminal History Review Process to assess the likelihood of rejection.	ECM; Del. Harrison	1 st Reader	
HB 0303	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.	JUD – Hearing 1/30 at 1 p.m.; Delegates Grammer and Young.		
HB 0316 SB 0028	Violent Firearm Offenders’ Act. Makes possession or use of a firearm by an individual on probation, parole, or mandatory supervision a non-technical violation. Changes from a misdemeanor to a felony use of a assault weapon, a rapid fire trigger	JUD; Delegates Valentine & 38 Republican Delegates JPR – Hearing 1/25;	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	See also HB 0041 – Del. Mangione and SB 0179 – Str. Carozza

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	activator, or a magazine that has a capacity of more than 10 rounds of ammunition, in the commission of a felony or a crime of violence. Adds a requirement for the correctional facility to provide incarcerated individual with a “re-entry” kit that includes supplies for basic human needs including clothing and toiletries; an identification card and information on Medicaid, housing & other services to aid in re-entry to the community.	Str. Folden and all Republican Senators		
HB 0319 SB 0052	Juvenile Justice Restoration Act. 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.	JUD; Del. Kipke et al. JPR – Hearing 2/13 at 1 p.m.; Str. Folden et al	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	Support
HB 0392 SB 0057	Evidence – Wiretapping & Electronic Surveillance – Fair Housing Testing.	JUD – Hearing 2/07 at 1 p.m.; Del. Stewart JPR – Hearing 1/30 at 1 p.m.; Str. Sydnor	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0422	Criminal Law- Crime of Violence – Definition.	JUD – Hearing 2/06 at 1 p.m.; Del. Attar		
HB 0446	July Service Disqualification. Provides that a person who has been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment exceeding 1 year and is currently serving the sentence imposed for the conviction,	JUD – Delegate Robertson et al;	1 st Reader	Current law prohibits a person convicted of federal or state crime outlined in the bill, with a sentence imposed exceeding 1

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	including a term of parole or probation, or has been convicted of a crime involving or relating to perjury, witness intimidation, jury intimidation, or fraud or a related crime is not qualified for jury service.			year to serve on a jury unless pardoned.
HB 0553 SB 0438	Establishing that a parent has the fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of the parent's child; and prohibiting the State or a political subdivision from infringing on a parent's fundamental right to direct the upbringing, education, care, and welfare of the parent's child unless the State or political subdivision can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence certain factors	JUD – Hearing 2/08 at 1 p.m.; Del. Miller, Alston + 34 Republican Delegates. JPR – Hearing is 2/14 at 1 p.m.; Senators Ready, Waston + 12 Rep. Strs.	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0575 SB 0471	Victim Compensation Reform Act. Provide faster access to money for immediate needs for funeral or emergency relocation expense, etc. Alters duties, powers & procedures of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and staff.	JUD – Hearing is 2/06 At 1 p.m.; Request of Admin. + bi-partisan Dels. JPR – Hearing 2/09; Request of Admin. +	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0597 SB 0470	Growing Apprenticeships and the Public Safety Workforce (gaps) Act. Changes Law Enforcement to Public Safety Cadet Program to the Public Safety Apprenticeship Program for training potential public safety (police, fire, rescue) personnel. Requires the MD Police Training Commission to develop mental health & wellness policies.	JUD – Hearing 2/06 at 1 p.m.; Req. of Admin. + bi-partisan group of Del. JPR – Hearing 2/09 at 1 p.m.; Req. of Admin. + Bi-partisan group of Sen.	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB -0603 SB - 0571	Consumer Protection – Online Products and Services – Data of Children (Maryland Kids Code). Requiring entity that offers an online product reasonably likely to be accessed by children to complete a data protection impact assessment by April 1, 2026; and a data protection impact	ECM; Delegates Soloman, Wilson & Love FIN- Hearing 2/14 at 1 p.m.; Senators Kramer, Hester & West.	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	

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	assessment within 90 days after a product is offered to the public; requiring privacy protections for certain online products; prohibiting certain data collection and sharing practices;			
SB 0039	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.	JPR – Str. Ready and all Republican Senators	1 st Reader	
SB 0073	Requiring the Dept. of Juvenile Services to report to the General Assembly each year on the number of assessments completed during the intake process involving children who commit firearm offenses.	JPR; Strs. Watson, Carozza, Muse and West.	1 st Reader	
SB 0326	Juvenile Law. Questioning of Juveniles. Amends Public Safety Exceptions to the Juvenile Interrogation Act of 2022. Adds that where probable cause exists for the law enforcement officer to believe the child committed a crime of violence, as defined in § 14–101 of the criminal law article, or a crime involving a firearm; and the law enforcement officer has made a reasonable effort to give actual notice to the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child that the child will be interrogated.	JPR – Hearing 2/13 at 1 p.m.; Senators Carozza, Watson, West, Klausmeier, and Hershey.	1 st Reader	MFRW Priority - Support
	EDUCATION			
HB 0025	Prohibiting sexually explicit materials in elementary, middle, and secondary public-school libraries and media centers; defining sexually explicit materials as books and auditory and visual	W&M – Hearing 1/31 at 1 p.m.; Del. Mangione	1 st Reader	Support

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	material that contain graphic or obscene depictions of sexual activity that are not age appropriate or used as part of the approved instructional materials for instruction on family life and human sexuality.			
HB 0047 SB 0381	Fairness in Girls’ Sports Act. Requires public high schools and non-public high schools’ interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams or sports to be expressly designated on biological sex. (I) A boys’ male, or men’s team or sport; (II) A girls’, female, or women’s team or sport; or (III) a coeducational or mixed team or sport. Also provides protections against retaliation for reporting violations.	W&M – Hearing 1/31 at 1p.m.; Del. Szlegia + 16 Republican Delegates EEE – Hearing 2/07 at 2 p.m.; Str. Carozza and all Republican Senators	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	Strongly Support: MFRW PRIORITY Read detailed information on differences in strength, power and speed between males and females in the new MFRW brochure: “Boys Competing in Girls’ Sports – Is it Fair?”
HB 0065	Public Schools – Medical and Psychological Treatment in School–Based Health Centers and Public Schools – Parental Notice. A school health practitioner, health care practitioner, or certified school psychologist employed by or under a contract with a school–based health center, local school system, or local health department to provide school health services at a public school shall 30 provide to a student’s parent or guardian information about any consultation, diagnosis, or treatment provided to the student	HGO & W&M; Del. Miller	1 st Reader	Support.
HB 0200 SB 161	Community Schools: Requires that each county board of education with fewer than 40 community schools and that receives funding from the Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program for the personnel grant and the per pupil grant to expend no more than 10% of the funds distributed by the State and those counties with 40 or more	APP – Hearing 1/30 at 1 p.m.; Del. Wilkins. B&T – Hearing 1/24 at 1 p.m.; Str. A. Washington.	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	Note: There are 358 Community Schools in MD in 2023. Counties with 40 or more are: Baltimore City & Prince George’s. Counties with 10 to 39 are: Montgomery, Baltimore County and Anne Arundel County. Counties with No

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	community schools receive 50% of state funding for these grants. Also provides that the per pupil grant portion of the Program prioritize funding for areas of greatest need according to the needs assessment plan; etc.			community schools are: Garrett, Carroll, Howard, Queen Anne, and Calvert. The remaining Counties have 1 – 9. The formula doesn't seem to treat small counties with high concentrations of poverty equally with large population counties
HB 0204 SB 0165	Mental Health Training for Coaches. Requires the State Department of Education and the Maryland Higher Education Commission to develop guidelines for their respective institutions to train coaches to recognize indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress in students who participate in their athletic programs.	APP – Hearing 1/23 at 2 p.m.; Del. Attar, et al EEE - Hearing 1/17 at 3 p.m.; Str. Hettleman et al	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0206	Parents and Guardians Notice and Required Counseling. Makes it unlawful for a parent or guardian of a student in a public school, after receiving notice under § 7–304.2 of the education article of the child’s violent and disruptive behavior on school premises or during school–related activities, to fail to seek and participate in counseling with that child.	W&M – Hearing 1/31 at 1 p.m.; Del. R. Long	1 st Reader	
HB 0558	Primary and Secondary Education – Comprehensive Health Education Framework – Established. Requiring the State Department of Education, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health, to develop a Comprehensive Health Education Framework ; requiring each county board of education to create an age-appropriate curriculum that is consistent with the comprehensive health education	W&M – Hearing 2/07 at 1 p.m.; Del. Atterbeary.	1 st Reader	HB 0558 is identical to the original HB 119 of 2023. It does not contain the penalties of the amended HB 119 that passed the House but not the Senate. However, there is no requirement in HB 558 for the State Board in developing the Comprehensive

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	<p>framework; requiring each county board to establish policies, guidelines, and procedures for a parent or guardian to opt out of the family life and human sexuality and/or gender identity and sexual orientation topics but not the education related to HIV and AIDS.</p>			<p>Health Education Framework, to seek input from citizens/parents or community on what is age appropriate, or to encourage stable, 2-parent families.</p> <p>View current plan at https://marylandpublicschools.org and key in Comprehensive Health Education Framework to read the plan for pre-K to 12th grade.</p>
SB 0005	<p>Require the University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, and St. Mary’s College of Maryland to develop an admission policy that requires the university and, if applicable, the constituent institutions of the university, to admit as freshmen applicants who graduate from a public or nonpublic high school in the state in the top 10% of the applicant’s high school class.</p>	<p>EEE – Hearing 1/24 at 1 p.m.; Str. Augustine.</p>	<p>1st Reader</p>	
SB 0112	<p>Require county boards of education to develop and adopt a policy that prohibits students from using a cellular phone during instructional time except if a teacher specifically instructs them to do so for educational purposes. County boards with an existing policy on the student use of cellular phones during school hours do not need to develop and adopt a new policy;</p>	<p>EEE – Hearing 1/17 at 3 p.m.; Str. Salling.</p>	<p>1st Reader</p>	

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	ELECTIONS - VOTING			
HB 0014 SB 0271	Election Law Revisions to require the Clerks of the Circuit Courts to report the names and addresses of persons convicted of a felony who are currently serving a court ordered sentence; and for the State Board to arrange with the Federal District Court to receive the information on those currently serving a term of imprisonment for a federal felony. Also requires the public official in charge of the use of a building to grant a request of local Bd of Elections to use building for Early Voting.	W&M – Hearing 1/25 at 1 p.m.; W&M Chair at request of State Bd. of Elections. EEE – Hearing 1/30 at 1 p.m. – Chair at request of State Board of Elections	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	HB 14 - Testimony is for sponsors only.
HB 0040	Replace the requirement for a post-election hand audit of a percentage of the votes cast in an election with a Post Election Risk Limiting Audit. A risk limiting audit uses statistical methods to ensure a large, predetermined minimum chance of requiring a full manual count of voter-verifiable paper records in an audited contest if a full manual count of the voter-verifiable paper records would find a different outcome than the outcome determined by the electronic count. Also changes the requirement for an automated software audit of electronic images of all ballots cast to an option.	W&M – Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m.; Del. Kaiser	1 st Reader	A similar bill passed the House last year and remained in the Senate Committee. The statistical methods are computer programmed applications and the issue is can they be manipulated to one Party's or candidate's advantage?
HB 0080	Prohibit an individual from simultaneously being a candidate for more than one public office or office of a political party; and prohibiting individuals from simultaneously being a candidate for, or holding, a party office and an elected public office except for being a candidate for, and elected Delegate to a National Party Presidential Nominating Convention.	W&M – Hearing 1/17 At 1 p.m.; Del. Boyce	1 st Reader	

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HB 0081	Constitutional Amendment – Require ALL COUNTIES to adopt Charter Home Rule form of government by 2030. County Commissions appoint members of the Charter Board. Provide for elected County Executive and County Council elected from Districts. Alters method for adopting Charter for approval by County Commissioners. Does not require public hearings or voter approval.	ENT – Hearing 2/06 at 1:30 p.m.; Del. Bouchat	1 st Reader	Note: This is a major change in how Counties adopt Charter form of Government.
HB 0132	Repealing prohibition on applicants and holders of video lottery operation licenses and persons who own an interest in video lottery facility operations in the State from directly or indirectly making contributions to the campaign finance entity of a candidate for any nonfederal public office in the State or any other campaign finance entity organized in support of a candidate for any nonfederal public office in the State.	W&M – Hearing 1/17 at 1p.m. – Del. Cardin	1 st Reader	
HB 0142	Establish a voter’s identity by requiring them to give their month and date of birth or to provide a voter registration card, a MD Driver’s License, or a government-issued ID card with photograph.	W&M – Hearing cancelled Del. R. Long.	1 st Reader	MFRW Priority – Require Voter ID to vote. Support. See also HB 0192.
HB 0164	Voter Registration List – Absentee Ballot Transparency Act. Requiring State Board of Elections or a local board of elections to provide a candidate with a list of registered voters who have requested an absentee ballot for an upcoming election; and include the email address and telephone number of each voter on the list, if the information is available.	W&M – Hearing cancelled Del. R. Long	1 st Reader	Support
HB 0192	In-Person Voting – Proof of ID Act. Establish a voter’s identity by requiring the voter to present a valid government-issued photo identification or a	W&M – Hearing cancelled Del. R. Long	1 st Reader	MFRW Priority – Require Voter ID to vote. Support. See another option in HB 0142.

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	valid nongovernment-issued photo identification, and a current bill, statement, or check that states the voter's name and address as proof of identity; requiring a voter to vote a provisional ballot if the voter is unable to provide proof of identity; and prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully voting or attempting to vote under a false form of identification.			
HB 0202	Absentee Ballot Signature Requirements to include verification of signature on absentee ballot return envelopes.	W&M – Hearing cancelled Del. R. Long	1 st Reader	Support.
HB 0257 SB 0099	To authorize unaffiliated voters to request to affiliate with a political party at an early voting center during a primary election and vote a provisional ballot for the voter’s preferred political party.	W&M – Hearing 2/06 at 1 p.m.; Del. Qi. EEE- Hearing 1/30 at 1 p.m.; Str. Kagen	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0347 SB 0140	Establishing requirements for filling of a vacancy in the office of Senator or Delegate in the General Assembly by a central committee of a political party under the Maryland Constitution relating to applications, public notice, public meetings, and voting. Requiring a member of the central committee who applies to fill the vacancy to recuse themselves from voting to fill the vacancy.	W&M – Hearing 2/06 at 1 p.m.; Delegates Palakovich-Carr and Griffith. EEE – Hearing 1/30 at 1 p.m.; Str. Lam	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	See also SB 29
HB 0371 SB 0115	Election Law – Recounts – Procedures. To require a petitioner for a recount to select from the following the method for conducting a recount; (1) rescanning ballots using same tabulating equipment as used in the election; (2) rescanning ballots using alternate equipment if available; or (3) conducting a manual recount method. Require	W&M – Hearing 2/06 at 1 p.m.; Del. Grossman EEE – Hearing 1/30 at 1 p.m.; Str. Kagan	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	

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	a local board of elections to preserve and store certain voter-verifiable paper records			
SB 0016	“Draft committee” means an entity organized to encourage a potential candidate to run for office but is not authorized by the potential candidate. “Exploratory Committee” means an entity established by a potential candidate for a public office to determine the potential candidate’s viability for that public office. “Exploratory Committee” does not include a political committee. Provisions that apply to a political committee also apply to a draft committee or an exploratory committee.	EEE – Hearing 1/30 at 1 p.m.; Str. Kagan	1 st Reader	
SB 0029	Requiring that a special election be held to fill a vacancy in the office of or resolve a tie for election as Delegate or Senator in the General Assembly unless the vacancy occurs during the year in which the General Assembly is elected; requiring that a special election to fill a vacancy or resolve a tie be conducted by mail; requiring the State Board of Elections and the local board of elections to each pay 50% of the cost of postage-paid envelopes for a special election;	EEE – Hearing 1/30 at 1 p.m.; Str. Kagan	1 st Reader	
HB 0373	Election Law – Voting Age – Board of Education. Constitutional Amendment to allow the General Assembly to authorize a County to enact a local law to lower the voting age for voting for an elected county board of education to 16 years of age.	W&M – Hearing 2/06 at 1 p.m.; Del. Vogel	1 st Reader	
SB 0372	Amend the Maryland Constitution to require a candidate for Governor in a primary election to designate a candidate for Lieutenant Governor within 21 days after the primary election; requiring	EEE – Hearing 1/30 at 1 p.m.; Strs. Feldman and Kagan.	1 st Reader	

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	a candidate seeking a nomination for Governor by any method other than a primary election to designate a candidate for Lieutenant Governor at the time of filing a declaration of intent to seek nomination. To be submitted to voters at the general election in November 2024.			
HB 0412	General Assembly – Special Election to fill a Vacancy in Office.	W&M – Hearing 2/06 At 1 p.m.; Del. Foley	1 st Reader	
HB 0423	Montgomery county – voting methods (mc-1-24) To allow the Montgomery County Council to adopt by law “approval voting” (means a method of casting and tabulating votes in which voters may choose any number of candidates and the candidate chosen most often is elected). Or “ranked–choice voting” (means a method of casting and tabulating votes in which voters rank candidates in order of preference and votes are tabulated in a manner that reflects voter preference) for any one or more of the following offices: County Executive; member of the County Council; Judge of the Circuit Court; State’s Attorney; Register of Wills; Sheriff; and member of the Board of Education. A local law enacted under this subsection may provide for: the ballot format; procedures for tabulating votes; and any other provision necessary to implement ranked–choice voting or approval voting. Such local law shall provide for an educational campaign on how to vote with ranked–choice voting or approval voting.	W&M – Hearing 2/06 at 1 p.m.; Montgomery County Delegation.	1 st Reader	<p>Strongly Oppose – MFRW Priority. Send written testimony or emails to W&M Committee members. This is precedent setting for the entire state. It affects elected offices that are constitutional offices such as: Sheriff, Judge of the Circuit Court, and State’s Attorney.</p> <p>If the local law can provide for ballot format; vote tabulating provisions and “any other provision necessary to implement ranked-choice or approval voting” the County Council could allow non-citizens to vote in these elections. It will require substantial increase in cost for election and educational program.</p> <p>Will significantly increase time required to vote for 3 or more choices for each office and lead to</p>

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				increased drop-off of votes for down-ballot (local) offices.
HB 0434	Persons Providing Lobbyist Compensation – Statement of Political Contributions – Exemption for Nonprofits. Exempts nonprofit organizations qualified under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code from the requirement for a person providing regulated lobbyist compensation of at least \$500 during a reporting period to file a statement of lobbyist compensation and political contributions to elected officials or candidates with the State Board of Elections.	W&M – Hearing 2/06 at 1 p.m.; Del. Atterbeary	1 st Reader	
HB 0436	Voter Registration Age & Notification. Lowering from 16 years old to 15 years and 9 months old, the age at which an individual may register to vote; requiring that a voter notification card sent to an individual under the age of 18 years include information on when the individual will be eligible to vote; and requiring the county election director to send a notice to that voter that they are eligible to vote and include information on the voting methods and voting locations.	W&M – Hearing 2/06 at 1 p.m.; Delegate Fair et al.	1 st Reader	
	ENERGY – ENVIRONMENT - ECONOMY			
HB 0001 SB 0325	Maryland Paint Stewardship Assessment Program. Fee to be added to the purchase price of exterior and interior architectural paint (containers of 5 gallons or less) to cover the collection, recycling of post-consumer paint.	ENT and ECM; Hearing in ENT -2/07 at 2:30 p.m.; Del. Boyce, et al. EEE; Hearing 2/06 at 1 p.m.; Strs. Brooks & West	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	Appears to be aimed at individual buyers and not to builders or developers.
HB 0089	The One Less Car Act. To help reduce greenhouse gases & climate change provide a \$1,000	W&M – Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m.; Del. R. Lewis	1 st Reader	

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	refundable tax credit to a qualified taxpayer who is at least 18 years old with less than \$75,000 income who does not own or lease a vehicle or be listed on an auto insurance policy for at least 6 months a year during tax years 2024-28. Does not prohibit another person in the household from owning or leasing a motor vehicle.			
HB 0150	The MVA shall establish a fee of \$14, collected once every 2 years, on each motor vehicle registered in the state that is: granted a waiver from mandatory inspections; or is not subject to mandatory inspections; or is exempted from mandatory inspections under § 23–206.1 9 or § 23–206.2 of this subtitle; or, is powered by a compression ignition engine and has a manufacturer’s gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less. Revenues collected from fee to be deposited into the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to provide incentives to expand electric vehicle ownership; and expand EV infrastructure.	ENT – Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m.; Del. Fraser-Hidalgo	1 st Reader	
HB 0233 SB 0306	Authorizes the Critical Area Commission to adopt regulations governing the transfer of development rights, fee in lieu payments, the assessment of and adaption to climate change relevant to the critical area, enhancing resilience in the critical area, and environmental justice and equity initiatives with special emphasis on underserved and overburdened communities’ public access to the water, shoreline; and ability to add a dwelling of 900 square feet or less to existing dwelling, etc.	ENT – Hearing 2/07 at 2:30 p.m.; Chair of Critical Area Commission EEE – Hearing 1/31 at 2 p.m.; Chair of Critical Area Commission.	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	

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BILL #	BILL DESCRIPTION BY TOPIC	COMMITTEE/HEARING AND SPONSORS	BILL STATUS	COMMENTS
HB 0579 SB 0474	Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Approvals – Definition of Generating Station (Critical Infrastructure Streamlining Act of 2024). Altering and establishing the definition of "generating station" for the purpose of exempting the construction of generating facilities (producing 2 megawatt or less) used to produce electricity for the purpose of onsite emergency backup and test and maintenance operations from the requirement to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity or certain other related approvals under certain circumstances.	ECM; Request of Admin. + EEE; Request of Admin. +	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	This appears to be in answer to the PSC refusal to allow a proposed Data Center to use a diesel-fueled back-up generator that exceeded the size allowed.
SB 0268	Critical Area Commission - Enforcement. Authorizes the Commission Chair to refer to the Attorney General to bring charges against a local project without allowing 30 days’ notice for local government to act. Changes Administrative penalties to “penalties”. Expands from applying to “approved project plans” to “an order, a permit, a plan, a local program, this subtitle, or regulations adopted, approved, or issued under this subtitle.”	EEE – Hearing 1/31 at 2 p.m.; Request of Chair of Critical Area Comsn.	1 st Reader	Overrides local government authority for decisions and enforcement of the local critical areas program.
SB 0299	Coast Smart Council. Expand authority to develop eligibility criteria, standards, and procedures for categorical exemptions from the application of the coast smart requirements for proposed capital projects that have been designed to include adaptation and resiliency features to prevent or mitigate damage to the maximum extent practicable. the council may recommend regulations for adoption by the secretary of natural resources to carry out the provisions of this subtitle.	EEE – Hearing 1/31 at 2 p.m.; Request of the Sec. of Natural Resources	1 st Reader	The Coast Smart Council is appointed by the Governor. Exemptions are from the anticipated need to prepare for, respond to, and recover from extreme weather events, sea level rise inundation, coastal flooding, storm surges, and shoreline erosion; and (ii) The need to prevent danger to life and

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	Currently the Council establishes procedures for evaluating Coast Smart waiver applications of capital projects .			property and to avoid environmental, socio-economic, and economic harm.
	HEALTH RELATED			
HB 0076 SB 0018	Health Occupations – Pharmacist Administered Vaccines. Authorizes a pharmacist who has special training to administer vaccines approved by the CDC or is authorized by the FDA to children 5 years or older but under 18. Pharmacist is to advise the child patient and adult caregiver accompanying the child of the importance of well-child visits with a pediatric primary care provider and refers the patient to a pediatric primary care provider when appropriate.	HGO – Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m.; Del. Lopez. FIN; Hearing 2/13 at 1 p.m.; Strs. Augustine & Lam	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	Oppose. Does NOT require a parent’s knowledge or approval. An “adult caregiver” could be a day care provider or a neighbor or other person. Could that include unaccompanied minor illegal immigrant children? If an adverse event happened afterward an unaware parent or emergency room might act incorrectly without this knowledge.
HB 0096 SB 0117	Health – Require MD Dept. of Health in its Newborn Screening Program to include screening for Krabbe Leukodystrophy.	HGO – Hearing 2/07 at 1 p.m.; Del. Todd Morgan FIN; Str. Bailey.	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0276	Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to submit to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention any data regarding abortion requested by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, unless submitting the data would violate federal or State law.	HGO; Del. Grammer	1 st Reader	
HB 0411 SB 0408	Requiring a licensed health care provider, when issuing a standing order for an opioid reversal drug, to allow an individual to choose any formulation of any opioid reversal drug approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration.	HGO; Del. Kipke FIN; Str. Klausmeier	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	

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HB 0453 SB 0576	Mental Health Emergency Evaluation & Involuntary Admission Procedures and Assisted Outpatient Treatment. Requiring a peace officer, when the peace officer receives a petition for emergency evaluation for an individual, to transport the emergency evaluatee to a nearby emergency facility, rather than the nearest emergency facility; authorizing a psychiatric nurse practitioner to evaluate an emergency evaluatee for purposes of involuntary admission; requiring each county to establish an assisted outpatient treatment program;	HGO; Request of Admin.+ FIN: Request of Admin +	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0583 SB 0475	Create Center for Firearm Violence Prevention within the MD Dep. Of Health that is focused on data-driven public health approach to preventing gun violence. Work with local agencies, community & faith-based organizations.	JUD; Req. of Admin. + FIN. Req. of Admin +	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
LIFE ISSUES				
HB 0403 SB 0443	End of Life Options Act. To allow a physician to prescribe medications to end the life of an individual who is diagnosed with a terminal illness with likely less than 6 months to live who requests aid in dying. A health care professional may refuse to participate or to participate in the aid in dying process without penalty.	JUD – (tentative) Hearing on 2/16 at 1 p.m.; Delegate Hill + 26 Democrat Delegates. JPR- Hearing 2/08 - 1 p.m. Strs. Waldstreicher, West et al.	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	Oppose. Very slippery slope. In Canada and other states reports of denying chemotherapy as “not appropriate” and offering a prescription to end one’s life has happened. In Canada one can make a request without terminal illness including being too poor.
HB 0461	Health – State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life – Renaming to be the State Advisory Council on Serious Illness Care. The Council studies the impact of State statutes, regulations, policies, and other aspects of public policy on the provision	HGO – Hearing 2/07 at 1 p.m.; Del. Martinex et al	1 st Reader	

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	units are set aside for households with a gross annual income of not more than 60% of the area median income for a household of like size. The affordable set-asides must remain restricted for at least 99 years and the project must remain in public ownership.			
HB 0017 SB 0274	Require Charter Counties Comprehensive Plans to include “Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Provisions.” Defined as to take meaningful actions to (i) overcome patterns of segregation; and (ii) foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to housing & opportunity based on protected characteristics. It includes to take meaningful actions that, taken together: (i) address significant disparities in housing needs and access to opportunity; (ii) replace segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns. ii) transform racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity; and (iv) foster and maintain compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws.	ENT – Hearing 2/06 at 1:30 p.m. By Request of Dept. of Planning EEE – Hearing 1/25 at 1 p.m.; Request of Dept. of Planning	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0538 SB 0484	Land Use – Affordable Housing – Zoning Density and Permitting (Housing Expansion and Affordability Act of 2024). Requires allowing town-houses, duplexes, tri-plex housing units in single-family zoned communities where land is owned by a non-profit or state-owned entity within 1 mile of a rail station. Twenty-five percent of the units must remain affordable housing for 40 years. Additional over-riding of local government zoning and planning laws including:	ENT – Hearing 2/20 at 1 p.m.; Request of Admin. + EEE; Request of Admin +	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	Greatly restricts local zoning and planning authority for the purpose of expanding affordable housing. No limit to how many units or projects in a given county or community.

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	communities. The corporation may make investments under an agreement with the Board of Trustees for the State Retirement and Pension System.			
HB 0693 SB 0481	Increasing maximum surcharges for eviction proceedings from \$8 to \$93 and prohibiting the District Court from assigning the surcharge against a tenant; altering the priority and criteria in the Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program that are followed by Dept. of Housing & Community Development and public housing agencies for providing vouchers and housing assistance payments to families; limiting the maximum security deposit required by a residential lease to 1 month's rent; etc.	ENT; Req. Admin+ JPR; Req. of Admin +		
	SECOND AMENDMENT – FIREARMS RELATED			
HB 0296 SB 0348	Firearms – Right to Purchase, Own, Possess & Carry	JUD; Delegate Grammer. JPR- Hearing 2/02 at 1 pm Sen. McKay	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0304 SB 0039	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.	JUD – Hearing 1/31 at 1 p.m.; Del. Munoz JPR – Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m.; Str. Ready & all Republican Senators	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0430	Firearms – Liability Insurance – Public Wearing & Carrying. Altering the circumstances under which a person is disqualified from possessing a regulated firearm, a rifle, and a shotgun; prohibiting a person from wearing or carrying a firearm under unless the person has obtained liability insurance related	JUD & ECM; Delegate Hill et al.	1 st Reader	

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	to wearing and carrying a firearm up to \$300,000; providing for the form and issuance of a citation for a violation of the Act.			
	TRANSPORTATION			
HB 0161	Driver’s Licenses and Identification Cards. Adds new categories of individuals eligible for Free MVA Identification cards. These include: individuals released from correctional facility in the prior 60 days; homeless individuals; youths under Juvenile Services programs or individuals between 15 and 20 years of age under a Dept. of Human Service programs; or under a Dept. of Health program. The individuals must provide documentation acceptable to the MVA.	ENT – Hearing 1/30 at 1 p.m. Chairman ENT at Request of MDOT.	1 st Reader	CONCERN: Are MVA ID cards the same for citizens & non-citizens? Will undocumented immigrants be eligible to receive MVA ID cards? MVA ID cards are accepted by the Board of Elections to register to vote.
SB 0131	Amend categories of the Consolidated Transportation Program. Increase the weighting metric for equitable access to transportation for a project located in a minority, rural, or underserved community by 45% to address critical equity challenges and ensure equitable distribution of projects throughout the state.	B&T – Hearing 1/18 at 1 p.m.; Str. Ellis	1 st Reader	