



## MML FINAL SESSION UPDATE

**2,654** Bills Introduced in 2026 Legislative Session

**347** MML Responses to DLS Fiscal Note Requests

**266** Bills Reviewed by MML Legislative Committee

**187** Active Positions Taken by MML

Of the 2,654 bills introduced in the 2026 Maryland General Assembly session the MML Legislative Committee reviewed 266 of them and in the end took active positions on 187 bills. In addition, MML staff responded to 347 fiscal note requests from the Department of Legislative Services. Special thanks to Chair Mark Conway, Councilmember from Baltimore, Vice Chair Jud Ashman, Mayor of Gaithersburg, and Abby McNinch, Mayor of Denton, for navigating this busy year with the dedicated group of 22 Legislative Committee members through countless hours of business over 10 committee meetings.

**Green** – MML supported, bill passed (17 bills)

**Black** – MML supported, bill did not pass (47 bills)

**Red** – MML opposed, bill did not pass (40 bills)

**Blue** – MML opposed, bill passed (11 bills)

**Orange** – MML supported with amendment, bill passed (15 bills)

**Purple** – MML supported with amendment, bill did not pass (26 bills)

**Yellow** – MML moved to no position after amendments, bill passed (1 bill)

**Grey** – MML moved to no position after amendments, bill did not pass (0 bills)

### MML Priority Bill

**HB 1142 - Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures.** Establishing a Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures to study and evaluate the revenue structure of the county and municipal governments within the State; and requiring the Task Force to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly by December 1, 2026.

## Budget/Finance

**HB 390/SB 282 - Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2027).** Making the proposed appropriations contained in the State Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, in accordance with Article III, Section 52 of the Maryland Constitution. No significant cuts to municipal programs (highway user revenue, state aid for police protection, and program open space) and no significant cost shifts to municipalities.

**SB 288 - Transportation - Highway User Revenues Capital Grants - Calculation.** Altering the amounts of certain capital grants calculated based on highway user revenues that are required to be appropriated to Baltimore City, counties, and municipalities in fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.

**HB 559 - Transportation - Highway User Revenues Capital Grants - Calculation.** Altering the amounts of certain capital grants calculated based on highway user revenues that are required to be appropriated to Baltimore City, counties, and municipalities in certain fiscal years.

**HB 916/SB 674 - Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities.** Establishing the Baltimore region, capital region, and Southern Maryland region transportation authorities to develop and implement certain transportation plans; establishing the Baltimore region, capital region, and Southern Maryland region transportation funds as special, non-lapsing funds; imposing certain transportation authority sales tax surcharges, hotel surcharges, and transfer tax surcharges.

## Business Regulation

**HB 1250/SB 827 - Consumer Protection and Product Liability - Chatbots.** Regulating the manner in which a developer designs and creates and an operator makes available to users in the State a chatbot, including establishing safety and privacy protections for users; establishing, an enhanced protection for users who are minors under the age of 13 years; requiring the display of certain warnings when using a chatbot; establishing that a chatbot is considered a product for certain product liability actions; applying certain provisions of the Act to governmental units.

**HB 1259 - Zoning Authorities - Operation of Family Child Care Homes - Prohibitions and Requirements.** Prohibiting a local jurisdiction in the State from denying or restricting the operation of certain family child care homes if the family child care home meets the licensing requirements established by the State Department of Education; and requiring a local jurisdiction to designate the operation of certain family child care homes as a residential activity and as a permitted use.

**HB 1519 - Cannabis - Management Service Agreements, Advertising, and Penalties - Alterations (Cannabis Reform and Opportunity Act).** Altering the definition of "control" of a cannabis business and excluding from the definition certain management services agreements, franchise relationships, and options to purchase; prohibiting the Maryland Cannabis Administration from limiting the acquisition of a certain ownership interest in cannabis businesses; reducing the number of years that a cannabis licensee is prohibited from transferring ownership or control of the license; repealing certain criteria for a certain prohibition on cannabis advertising that targets minors.

### Cybersecurity/IT

**HB 1239/SB 825 - Public Safety - Critical Infrastructure Protection.** Establishing the Critical Infrastructure Protection Branch in the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center; requiring the Department of Emergency Management, in consultation with the Center, to take certain action in response to an attack on the State's critical infrastructure; and requiring the Department of Information Technology to allow the owner or operator of critical infrastructure to become a member of the Maryland Information Sharing and Analysis Center and provide cybersecurity reporting standards to the owner or operator.

### Economic Development

**HB 135/SB 287 - Economic Development - Tax Increment Financing - Noncontiguous Areas.** Authorizing the governing body of a political subdivision to designate certain noncontiguous blighted areas as development districts.

**HB 235/SB 47 - Housing and Community Development - Neighborhood Business Development Program - Local Approval Requirement.** Altering from 45 to 15 the number of days that a political subdivision has to approve or deny a certain application for financial assistance under the Neighborhood Business Development Program from the Department of Housing and Community Development.

**HB 461/SB 300 - Economic Development - Rural Readiness Program and Rural Maryland Capacity Building Fund - Establishment.** Establishing the Rural Readiness Program administered by the Rural Maryland Council to provide assistance to rural communities to enhance their capacity for economic development; requiring priority to be given when making certain grants to entities that have completed the Rural Readiness Program; and establishing the Rural Maryland Capacity Building Fund to be administered by the Council to provide grants to support collaborative planning and capacity building initiatives that address the needs of rural communities.

**HB 506/SB 455 - Economic Development - Transformational Project Financing Program - Establishment.** Establishing the Transformational Project Financing Program in the Maryland Economic Development Corporation to designate certain development districts as State-supported development districts; authorizing a governing body of a political subdivision to apply to the Corporation for approval as a State-supported development district; requiring the Corporation to publish at least annually a summary of approved State-supported development districts; providing for the eligibility for and calculation of certain State revenue.

## Elections

**HB 219 - Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026 - Voter Intimidation and Suppression.** Altering public notice requirements of the State Board of Elections, local boards of elections, and certain municipal corporations with respect to changes in administrative policy affecting voting rights; prohibiting acts of intimidation, deception, or obstruction that interfere with the right to vote; prohibiting local governments from taking any action related to the election process that results in a disparity between members of a protected class and other members of the electorate.

**HB 357 - Municipalities - Election Dates - Reporting Requirements.** Requiring the State Board of Elections and each municipality that has a website to display certain information relating to municipal elections on their websites; and requiring each municipality to include the date of the next regular municipal election and each office to be voted on at the election in a certain report submitted to the State Board.

**HB 1066/SB 727 - Municipal Elections - Qualified Electronic Transmission Systems - Authorization for Use.** Authorizing a municipality to conduct a municipal election through the use of a qualified electronic transmission system; and prohibiting a municipality from using information received from a voter using a qualified electronic transmission system for certain purposes.

**HB 1448/SB 848 - Municipal Elections - Reporting of Information to the State Board.** Requiring a municipality to submit to the State Board of Elections the qualifications to be a candidate for each office on the ballot in a municipal election, the list of qualified candidates for each office on the ballot in a municipal election, the date of a special election and each office on the special election ballot, and certain information on voting procedures and locations in a municipal election on or before certain dates; requiring the State Board to post the information on the State Board's website immediately on receipt.

## Energy

**HB 40/SB 210 - Public Utilities - Transmission Lines - Advanced Transmission Technologies.** Altering the definition of "qualified generator lead line" for provisions of law regarding certificates of public convenience and necessity; requiring an applicant for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction of an overhead transmission line to include certain information in its application; requiring the Public Service Commission to consider certain evidence before taking action on a certain application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

**HB 66/SB 373 - Environment - Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - Withdrawal (Restoring Energy Freedom Act).** Requiring the Governor to withdraw the State from participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

**HB 119 - Energy Performance Contracts - Navigators, Funding, and Requirements.** Requiring a public body that enters into an energy performance contract to comply with certain provisions of law regarding energy performance contracts; requiring the Maryland Clean Energy Center to hire or contract with navigators to assist a public body in creating an energy performance contract; altering the Jane E. Lawton Conservation Loan Program and the Jane E. Lawton Conservation Fund to allow for the issuance of certain grants and loans to certain public bodies.

**HB 120 - Moratorium on Construction of New Data Centers - Co-Location and Generation Contingency.** Prohibiting a person from constructing a data center in the State; prohibiting a unit of State or local government from approving a proposal for the construction of a data center in the State; providing for the termination of the Act if the General Assembly enacts legislation regarding the co-location of data centers with a new or existing natural gas power generation facility, nuclear power generation facility, or small module reactor; applying the Act prospectively.

**HB 897/SB 386 - Electricity Transmission and Distribution, Energy Storage, and Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund (Lower Bills and Local Power Act of 2026).** Requiring an electric company, located in the State, that owns or operates a transmission line that is designed to carry a voltage in excess of 69,000 volts to participate as a member in a regional transmission organization under certain circumstances; requiring a person applying for a certain certificate of public convenience and necessity to include certain information with the application; requiring certain transmission utilities to submit a certain advanced transmission technology implementation report.

**HB 1104 - Residential Solar Energy Systems - Local Inspections and Permitting.** Altering the definition of "solar permitting software" for purposes of provisions regarding permitting and inspections of residential solar energy systems; altering from August 1, 2025, to August 1, 2027, the date by which certain counties and municipalities must implement certain solar permitting software; requiring, on or before August 1, 2027, certain counties and municipalities to authorize remote inspections of certain residential solar energy systems.

**HB 1532 - Utility RELIEF (Reducing Energy Load Inflation for Everyday Families) Act.** Transferring the electric universal service program to the Office of Home Energy Programs and requiring the Office to authorize benefits under the program for certain electric customers; establishing the Green and Renewable Energy Efficiency for Nonprofits Loan Program in the Maryland Clean Energy Center; altering certain required procedures related to the permitting, inspection, and interconnection of certain residential solar energy systems; altering the uses of the Environmental Trust Fund.

**SB 183 - Public Safety - Maryland Cyber Reserve - Established.** Establishing the Maryland Cyber Reserve within the Military Department; providing the purpose of the Maryland Cyber Reserve is to provide educational and technical support to prevent and resolve attacks against State, county, and local government agencies, and critical infrastructure within the State.

## Environment

**HB 34/SB 189 - Municipalities - Open Drainage Inlets - Inventory and Improvements (Mason's Law).** Requiring a municipality, by July 1, 2027, to inventory all existing open drainage inlets in the municipality; requiring, by April 1, 2028, a municipality to develop a prioritization plan for improving existing open drainage inlets; and requiring, in certain fiscal years, a certain amount of money appropriated to the comprehensive flood management grant program within the Department of the Environment to be used to provide matching funds to assist municipalities with certain costs.

**HB 35/SB 266 - Local Government - Regulatory Powers - Regulation of Invasive Trees.** Authorizing the governing body of a county or municipality to adopt certain ordinances to regulate tree of heaven and certain invasive trees; and authorizing the governing body of a county or municipality to establish certain programs to incentivize the removal of tree of heaven and certain invasive trees.

**HB 204/SB 264 - Drinking Water - Regulation - Control and Prevention of Waterborne Disease.** Establishing minimum detectable disinfectant residual level requirements, disinfectant residual testing requirements, and related requirements for the control of Legionella bacteria and other pathogens in the public water supply; requiring suppliers of water to provide certain notices and records regarding disruptions in the water distribution system; establishing requirements for the investigation of reported cases of Legionnaires' disease.

**HB 247 - Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program - Variances - Alterations.** Altering certain standards and requirements for variances from land use requirements under the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program.

**HB 254 - Supporting Inclusive Community Adaptation Act.** Requiring the Department of Natural Resources to facilitate community participation in project planning and development; establishing the Resilience Through Restoration Capital Grant Fund to provide funding for nature-based restoration projects intended to reduce the State's climate change vulnerability; requiring, by October 1, 2027, the Department to develop a website, guidance, and training for certain tools and resources; requiring, by December 31, 2035, the Department to take certain actions relating to climate change.

**HB 257 - Environment - Flood-Related Watershed Studies and Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program.** Requiring, by January 1, 2028, and every 5 years thereafter, and after consultation with local jurisdictions and State agencies, the Department of the Environment to designate priority watersheds for the purpose of requiring subdivisions to conduct flood-related watershed studies; requiring a subdivision that contains a designated priority watershed to conduct a watershed study and submit the study to the Department for review and approval; specifying the required contents of a flood-related watershed study required under the Act.

**HB 331/SB 342 - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program.** Establishing the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program to increase the reuse and recycling of beverage containers and reduce the litter, pollution, and costs associated with beverage containers; prohibiting a producer from selling, offering for sale, or distributing in or importing into the State a redeemable beverage container unless the producer is registered with the Department of the Environment, pays a certain fee, and is part of a beverage container stewardship organization.

**HB 517 - Emission Standards, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Solid Waste Management - Local Authority.** Altering provisions of law relating to the authority of a political subdivision to adopt ordinances, rules, or regulations that set emission standards or ambient air quality standards under certain conditions; specifying that the requirement for the Department of the Environment to approve a county water and sewerage plan does not limit certain authority of the county; requiring the Department to publish certain information on its website by October 1, 2026.

**HB 925/SB 719 - Sewage Sludge - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances - Regulation.** Establishing restrictions on the land application, on or after October 1, 2028, of sewage sludge with total concentrations of certain regulated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances equal to or greater than certain levels; authorizing, on or after October 1, 2028, a person to commingle sewage sludge to reduce the total concentration of regulated PFAS in the final material to levels below 25 parts per billion and subject to certain regulations and requirements; establishing certain monitoring protocols for certain substances.

**HB 992/SB 655 - Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program - Established.** Altering the contents and use of the State Recycling Trust Fund; establishing a separate covered electronic device producer responsibility program plan and annual report, registration, and review fee account within the Fund; repealing certain provisions of law relating to existing covered electronic device takeback programs; altering certain provisions of law relating to registration fees for certain manufacturers of covered electronic devices.

**HB 1022/SB 686 - PFAS Chemicals - Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements.** Prohibiting manufacturers from selling, offering for sale, distributing, or distributing for sale in the State, certain products containing intentionally added per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) chemicals on or after certain dates; establishing registration requirements for certain products that contain intentionally added PFAS chemicals; providing for the testing of certain products to determine compliance with the Act.

**HB 1314 - Natural Resources - Chesapeake Bay Trust - Urban Trees Program.** Continuing the Urban Trees Program administered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust; and making permanent a requirement that the Governor include \$10,000,000 in the annual budget bill for the Urban Trees Program.

**HB 1342 - Agriculture - Controlled-Environment and Hydroponic Agriculture.** Authorizing grants to controlled-environment or hydroponic farmers under the Urban Agriculture Water and Power Infrastructure Grant Fund; requiring the Department of Agriculture to establish a certain one-stop portal as a centralized source of certain information about the permitting and licensing of controlled-environment or hydroponic agriculture in the State; establishing the Maryland Controlled-Environment and Hydroponic Agriculture Program Fund to provide grants.

**SB 754 - Land Use - Preservation of Natural Resources.** Authorizing a local jurisdiction to enact local laws providing for or requiring the preservation of natural resources through certain mechanisms.

### **Government Liability**

**HB 104/SB 49 - Unhoused Individuals - Rights and Affirmative Defense.** Established that unhoused individuals have the right to engage in "life-sustaining activities" in public places, prohibiting local governments from imposing penalties for exercising these rights, and authorized the Attorney General or affected individuals to bring civil actions against local governments for violations.

**HB 332/SB 346 - Civil Actions - Violation of Constitutional Rights (No Kings Act).** Establishing certain civil liability for an individual who, under color of law, deprives another or causes or allows another to be deprived, of a right, a privilege, or an immunity secured by the U.S. Constitution or the laws of the United States; requiring an action under the Act to be filed within 5 years after the cause of action accrued.

**HB 466 - Civil Actions - Motor Vehicle Accidents Involving Vulnerable Individuals - Comparative Negligence.** Prohibiting recovery by a certain plaintiff from being barred in a certain civil action due to the plaintiff's negligence, except under certain circumstances; requiring any damages awarded under the Act to be diminished in proportion to the amount of negligence attributed to the plaintiff; and applying the Act prospectively.

**HB 526 - Civil Actions - Settlement Agreements - Payment and Release.** Requiring a settling defendant in a tort action for money damages to provide a proposed release to a plaintiff within 10 days and to pay all sums due to a plaintiff under a settlement agreement within 15 days; providing for the protection by a plaintiff of certain third-party rights of recovery or subrogation; and establishing the accrual of interest on settlement sums under certain circumstances.

**HB 1536 - Maryland Enforcement Limits and Transparency (MELT) Act.** Prohibiting a person from voluntarily assisting in immigration enforcement under certain circumstances and requiring a person who assists immigration enforcement to make and maintain certain records; authorizing a person injured by a violation of the Act to bring a certain civil suit; authorizing the Attorney General to make a certain investigation and to take certain actions to enforce the Act.

## Government Operations

**HB 10/SB 64 - Legal Advertisement or Legal Notice - Publication in Newspaper or Newspaper in General Circulation - Digital Newspapers.** Establishing certain requirements for the print or digital publication of legal advertisements and notices in counties and municipalities in the State; requiring digital publications that publish a legal advertisement or notice to maintain an archive of all published legal advertisements and legal notices that shall be available to the public; and requiring digital publications that publish a legal advertisement or notice to employ at least one employee whose duties include reporting, writing, or editing local news and information.

**HB 32 - Local Law Enforcement Vehicles - Requirements - Automated External Defibrillators.** Requiring all local law enforcement vehicles to carry an automated external defibrillator (AED); and requiring a local law enforcement agency to maintain the functionality of an AED carried by a local law enforcement vehicle.

**HB 99 - Municipalities - Annexed Land - Land Use and Density.** Altering the restrictions on a municipality, for a period following an annexation of land, to authorize the development of certain annexed land for certain land uses or certain densities without obtaining the express approval of the county in which the municipality is located; and altering the authority of a municipality to authorize certain land uses or certain densities for certain annexed land with the express approval of the county in which the municipality is located.

**HB 691 - State Government - Procedures - Permitting Efficiency for Housing Development Projects.** Requiring each unit in the Executive Branch of State government responsible for issuing a permit related to housing construction to adopt procedures to streamline certain permitting processes for housing projects; requiring the State Housing Ombudsman, to the extent feasible, to ensure consistency between certain permitting processes developed by different units; and authorizing the delegation of certain tasks related to the review or approval of permits related to housing construction to certain local governmental units.

**HB 950 - Public Utilities - Street Lighting Equipment - Acquisitions and Reporting (County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act).** Finding that local governments pay electric companies large sums to light streets and are limited in how this public safety resource can be managed, the Act authorizes certain counties or municipalities to acquire certain street lighting equipment by purchase or condemnation, convert its street lighting service to a customer-owned street lighting tariff, enter into an agreement to purchase electricity, and contract with an electric company for the maintenance of the street lighting equipment.

**HB 1110/SB 819 - Judicial In Rem Tax Foreclosure - Notice Requirements.** Altering requirements for providing notice to interested parties when a county or municipal corporation files a complaint for a judicial in rem foreclosure on certain vacant and abandoned property.

**HB 1141 - Municipal Incorporation - County Commissioners or County Council - Required Approval of Referendum Request.** Increasing the minimum population threshold for municipal incorporation to 600 residents; requiring a certain organizing committee to make certain determinations and provide a certain report to the county commissioners or county council of a certain county regarding a proposed municipal incorporation.

**HB 1178 - Municipalities - Annexation - Limitations.** Requiring a municipality that is seeking to annex land that is located in a different legislative district than a legislative district in which the municipality or any part of the municipality is located to notify the members of the General Assembly for the district in which the land is located and for the district to which the land is being annexed by electronic communication and the United States Postal Service.

**HB 1235/SB 943 - State Procurement - Competitive Sealed Bids and Proposals - In-State Evaluation Preference.** Requiring competitive sealed bids and proposals to be awarded based on certain standardized evaluation criteria; requiring the criteria to be included in an invitation for bids or a request for proposals; and requiring a responsive bid or proposal to include a certain State and local economic impact statement.

**HB 1336/SB 671 - Procurement Contracts and Construction Contracts - Payments.** Making certain provisions of law governing construction contracts applicable to certain local government owners; altering certain provisions of law relating to the payment of contractors and subcontractors in procurement contracts and construction contracts; requiring certain notification if all or part of a payment is withheld; and altering certain provisions of law relating to the accrual of interest for unpaid amounts.

**HB 1568 - Local Government - Animal Control - Dogs At Large (Dog Leash Laws).** Requiring each county and municipality to adopt certain laws or ordinances prohibiting a dog from being at large; providing the Act may not be construed to preempt a local government from enacting and enforcing more stringent measures; and stating it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Act be applied and interpreted to recognize the definition of the term "running at large" as used by the Appellate Court of Maryland in *Blitzer v. Breski*, 259 Md. App. 257 (2023).

**SB 121 - Personal Information - Public Servant Protections.** Authorizing a certain protected individual or the agency, entity, or office that the protected individual serves or served to request that a governmental entity or person not publish personal information on the Internet, social media, or social networks or that the governmental entity or person remove the information from any existing publication.

**SB 632 - State Government - State Elected Officials - Protection of Personal Information.** Establishing the Office of State Elected Officials Information Privacy in the Department of Legislative Services; authorizing a certain protected individual or the Office to request that a governmental entity or person not publish personal information of the protected individual on the Internet, social media, or social networks or that the governmental entity or person remove the information from any existing publication; specifying certain procedures for the protection of personal information of a protected individual.

## Housing/Land Use

**HB 168 - Housing and Community Development - Affordable Housing - Educator Workforce Housing and Municipal Corporations.** Authorizing a county board of education to consider the provision of educator workforce housing as a school purpose under certain provisions of law; altering the eligible recipients of certain financial assistance and the housing innovation projects the Department of Housing and Community Development shall prioritize for certain financial assistance under the Housing Innovation Pilot Program.

**HB 239/SB 36 - Land Use - Zoning - Limitations (Starter and Silver Homes Act of 2026).** Prohibiting local jurisdictions from adopting or enforcing certain zoning provisions relating to lot size, dimensions, setback requirements, lot coverage, and design or architectural elements for certain single-family homes; prohibiting local jurisdictions from prohibiting certain housing types in certain zones; and prohibiting local jurisdictions from prohibiting certain subdivisions of certain lot types.

**HB 240 - Local Comprehensive Plans - Guidance Materials and Notification to the Department of Planning.** Requiring a local planning commission to notify the Department of Planning when beginning the review of the local jurisdiction's comprehensive plan; requiring the Department, within 60 days of receiving the notification, to provide guidance materials relating to State law, best practices for local comprehensive plans, and any other resources to support the plan's review; and requiring the Department to develop and maintain certain guidance materials in consultation with certain other State agencies and offices.

**HB 548/SB 325 - Land Use - Permitting - Development Rights (Maryland Housing Certainty Act).** Requiring the approval of a housing development project application by a local regulatory authority or the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to be governed only by certain laws and regulations in effect at the time of submission of a complete application; granting the proponent of an approved housing development project certain vested rights related to use and development for the longer of 5 years or a period determined by the local regulatory authority of the Commission.

**HB 778 - Land Use - Middle Housing Options - Requirements.** Establishing that certain local jurisdictions have an affirmative duty to create opportunities for housing by evaluating the suitability of vacant, unused, or underutilized commercial or industrial land for housing use; altering the requirements for the housing element of a certain comprehensive plan; requiring local jurisdictions to establish certain policies and adopt certain local laws to promote and encourage building middle housing units on certain land.

**HB 894/SB 389 - Land Use - Transit-Oriented Development - Alterations (Maryland Transit and Housing Opportunity Act).** Providing for the automatic designation of certain transit-oriented developments as enterprise zones, subject to certain conditions; requiring the Maryland Economic Development Corporation to prioritize certain redevelopment projects when making loans under the Strategic Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program; altering the authority of local legislative bodies to regulate land use planning on land near certain transit stations; delaying the collection of certain development excise taxes and impact fees, subject to a certain exception.

**HB 1175/SB 267 - Land Use - Residential Housing - Oversight, Regulation, and Taxation (Building Affordably in My Back Yard Act).** Establishing certain policies and processes to facilitate the development of residential housing in the State; requiring an entity that owns residential real property in the State to make a certain certification to the Department of Housing and Community Development; authorizing a local jurisdiction to establish an administrative process to review, approve, modify, or deny certain housing development project applications.

**HB 1517 - Land Use - Qualified Project - Retaliatory Downzoning.** Establishing that a "qualified project" is a certain residential project that has been subject to retaliatory downzoning; requiring a local jurisdiction to allow the density of a certain qualified project to exceed the density otherwise authorized; and permitting a certain qualified project to consist of certain types of developments with certain density limits under certain circumstances.

**HB 1538 - Land Use - Accessory Dwelling Units - Requirements and Prohibitions (Maryland Generational Housing Act of 2026).** Requiring a certain local law to authorize development of at least one internal accessory dwelling unit and one external accessory dwelling unit on certain land notwithstanding a certain density limit; limiting the imposition of off-street parking requirements to certain accessory dwelling units; prohibiting a utility provider from charging a certain property owner certain fees; authorizing a certain accessory dwelling unit to share certain utility meters and service laterals with a primary single-family detached dwelling unit.

**HB 1590/SB 807 - Alcoholic Beverages - Class 8 Farm Brewery and Class 10 Farm Distillery Licenses.** Requiring that a holder of a Class 8 farm brewery license engage in certain agritourism activity; altering certain standards and requirements for food service under a Class 8 Farm brewery license; providing an exception to a prohibition against issuing an alcoholic beverages license for a premises that does not comply with local zoning laws; and providing that the Executive Director of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis Commission has exclusive regulatory authority over the operation of a Class 8 Farm Brewery.

**SB 733 - Land Use - Definitions and Boards of Appeals.** Altering certain definitions and defining certain terms applicable to land use; altering requirements for the appointment and removal of members of a board of appeals; altering and repealing certain powers of a board of appeals; and altering the procedures applicable to certain proceedings before a board of appeals.

## **Personnel**

**HB 188/SB 3 - Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act of 2026.** Repealing and establishing the methodology used to calculate the weekly benefit amount; altering the taxable wage base used to determine employer contributions to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and the amount of earned wages subtracted from a weekly benefit amount; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to determine and make available online the State annual average wage applicable to the rate of contribution; requiring, beginning in 2027, the maximum weekly benefit to be 40% of the state average weekly wage.

**HB 203 - Labor and Employment - Training Repayment Agreements - Prohibition.**

Prohibiting employers from requiring, as a condition of employment, employees or prospective employees to enter into training repayment agreements; defining "training repayment agreement" as one that requires an employee to pay an employer or a third party, such as a training provider, a sum of money if the employee voluntarily or involuntarily leaves employment with the employer; and providing that an agreement that constitutes a training repayment agreement is null and void as being against the public policy of the State.

**HB 346 - Workers' Compensation - Vocational Rehabilitation Services - Retroactive**

**Compensation.** Requiring an employer or its insurer to retroactively pay retroactive compensation to a covered employee as if the covered employee was temporarily totally disabled if the covered employee did not receive compensation during the period between the date maximum medical improvement was attained and the date vocational rehabilitation services began.

**HB 366/SB 993 - Workers' Compensation - Exemption From Exclusivity of Remedy -**

**Action for Wrongful Death by Nondependent Child.** Prohibiting the Maryland Workers' Compensation Act from being construed to prohibit a child of a covered employee who is determined not to be a dependent of the covered employee from filing an action for damages related to the wrongful death of the covered employee.

**HB 536 - Employment Discrimination - Reasonable Accommodations - Disabilities Due to**

**Childbirth, Menopause, and Related Medical Conditions.** Expanding certain protections against employment discrimination to apply to temporary disabilities caused or contributed to by childbirth, menopause, or a related medical condition; and authorizing an employer to consider the operational impact of any staffing gap in determining an undue burden imposed by a certain transfer request by an employee.

**HB 831/SB 922 - Collective Bargaining - Local Government Employees and Public**

**Employee Relations Act.** Establishing collective bargaining rights for public local employees; applying the Maryland Public Employee Relations Act to county and municipal government employers and their employees; providing that a public employee may be deemed a certain management employee for purposes of establishing collective bargaining rights; establishing impasse procedures for collective bargaining between certain public local employers and their employees that include binding arbitration.

**HB 1325/SB 522 - Workers' Compensation - Evaluation of Permanent Impairments -**

**Licensed Social Worker-Clinical.** Authorizing a licensed certified social worker-clinical to provide evaluation services for workers' compensation claims related to permanent impairments involving a behavioral or mental disorder; and requiring a licensed certified social worker-clinical to meet certain requirements to perform the evaluation services.

**HB 1356/SB 857 - Labor and Employment - Civic and Related Activities - Protection**

**(Maryland Employee Civic Activity and Lawful Expression Protection Act).** Authorizing an employer to require an applicant to disclose the applicant's engagement in certain actions only if the disclosure is related to certain job requirements; prohibiting an employer from taking certain adverse action against an employee if the employee engages in certain activity; and providing that adverse action taken against an employee within 120 days after the employee engages in activity protected under the Act creates a rebuttable presumption of retaliation.

**SB 804 - Labor and Employment - Occupational Safety and Health - Revisions to Heat Stress Standards.** Requiring certain employers to develop, implement, and maintain an excessive heat-related illness prevention plan for employees; requiring certain employers to develop and implement an acclimatization plan for certain employees or follow the acclimatization plan established by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; requiring certain employers to monitor temperature in certain work locations and provide shade and water to employees.

### Public Safety

**HB 81/SB 55 - Motor Vehicles - Secondary Enforcement and Admissibility of Evidence.** Requiring a police officer to document all reasons for a traffic stop or other stop on a citation or police report resulting from the stop; establishing that certain evidence obtained from a traffic stop or other stop in violation of certain provisions of law may be excluded as evidence in certain proceedings; authorizing a police officer to enforce certain provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law only as a secondary action; and applying certain provisions of the Act retroactively.

**HB 172 - Municipalities - Enforcement Officers - Body-Worn Cameras.** Including a certain municipal enforcement officer in the definition of "law enforcement officer" for purposes of a certain exception to prohibitions against wiretapping and electronic surveillance relating to the use of body-worn cameras; authorizing a municipality to adopt an ordinance or a resolution authorizing an official who is authorized to act as an enforcement officer to utilize a body-worn camera; and requiring that a certain municipality publish its policy for the issuance and use of body-worn cameras by enforcement officers.

**HB 508/SB 330 - Public Safety - Police Accountability - Investigation Records Relating to Not Administratively Charged, Unfounded, and Exonerated Complaints.** Requiring that certain investigation records relating to a complaint of misconduct by a police officer be removed from the police officer's personnel record 3 years after an administrative charging committee issues a determination not to administratively charge the police officer in connection with the complaint or a trial board issues a finding of unfounded or exonerated in connection with the complaint.

**HB 593/SB 482 - Criminal Law - Interference With Critical Infrastructure or a Public Safety Answering Point.** Prohibiting a person from intentionally, willfully, and without authorization committing a certain act with the intent to interrupt or impair the functioning of critical infrastructure; providing that a person convicted of violating the Act is guilty of a felony and is subject to imprisonment of up to 10 years or a fine not to exceed \$50,000, or both.

**HB 631 - Criminal Law - Threats Against State or Local Official - Penalties.** Increasing the penalties for a violation of the prohibition against making certain threats against a State official, a local official, a deputy State's Attorney, an assistant State's Attorney, or an assistant Public Defender.

**HB 904/SB 516 - Law Enforcement - Protective Body Armor - Requirements and Reporting.**

Providing that a law enforcement agency may not assign a law enforcement officer to duties other than administrative duties unless the officer is issued protective body armor; requiring a law enforcement agency to issue only protective body armor that meets certain standards and has not reached an expiration date; prohibiting the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy from withholding from a law enforcement agency grant funds specifically designated for the purchase of protective body armor.

**SB 660 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement - Response to Immigration Enforcement Actions.**

Requiring a law enforcement agency to respond to a report of an immigration enforcement activity within the agency's jurisdiction; requiring a law enforcement officer responding to a report of an immigration enforcement activity to observe and report certain information; and requiring that the reports and recordings created in accordance with the Act are subject to the Public Information Act.

**Tax**

**HB 571/SB 369 - Nonprofit Housing Corporations - Taxes and Special Assessments**

**Exemptions - Alterations.** Altering the definition of "nonprofit housing corporation" for purposes of eligibility for an exemption from real property taxes and special assessments of the State or a political subdivision; exempting certain real property owned by certain subsidiary entities of a certain nonprofit housing corporation from taxes and special assessments of the State or a political subdivision.

**HB 594/SB 405 - Sales and Use Tax - Distribution - City of Baltimore.** Altering the distribution of sales and use tax revenues to require the Comptroller to pay to the City of Baltimore one-third of the revenues from sales and use taxes collected and remitted from sales that occur within the City of Baltimore.

**HB 609/SB 424 - State Transfer Tax - Land Preservation Special Fund - Revenue Allocation.**

Repealing a requirement that for fiscal years 2027, 2028, and 2029 \$25,000,000 of the balance of a special fund dedicated to certain land preservation programs be allocated to the General Fund of the State.

**HB 652 - Property Tax - Homestead Property Tax Credit - First-Time Homebuyer.**

Establishing the taxable assessment to be used for the calculation of the homestead property tax credit for first-time homebuyers in the State.

**HB 840/SB 767 - Property Tax - Credit for Commercial Buildings Rented to Small**

**Businesses.** Authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City and the governing body of a county or municipal corporation to grant, by law, a credit against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on a commercial building that is rented or rented to own at fair market value to a small business if the commercial building is located in a designated arts and entertainment district, a Main Street Maryland community, a designated Baltimore Main Street, or any other designated business improvement district.

**HB 1088/SB 735 - Property Tax - Petition to Review Value of Commercial Real Property.**

Authorizing a county or a municipal corporation to submit a certain petition for review to appeal the value of commercial real property located in the county or municipal corporation that is sold to a new owner if the total sales price of the property is 20% or more than the total sales price when the property was previously sold.

**HB 1273 - Maryland Homeowner Protection and Homestead Tax Credit Portability Act of 2026.** Reducing the maximum homestead tax credit percentage for State, county, municipal, and bi-county commission property tax to 105%; and establishing a homestead portability adjustment for certain homeowners.

**HB 1302 - Property Tax Credit - Disabled Public Safety and Judicial Officers, Surviving Spouses, and Cohabitants - Eligibility.** Altering eligibility for the property tax credit for dwellings owned by a disabled public safety officer or judicial officer or a surviving spouse or a cohabitant of a fallen public safety officer or judicial officer by repealing a certain requirement that the officer, surviving spouse, or cohabitant be domiciled in the State within 5 years of a certain event under certain circumstances.

**HB 1482 - Property Tax - Credit for Dwelling House of Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses - Revisions.** Requiring, rather than authorizing, the governing body of a county or a municipal corporation to grant a certain property tax credit against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on the dwelling house of certain disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and altering the amount of the property tax credit.

**HB 1518 - Property Tax Assessments - 5-Year Assessment Cycle.** Altering the triennial assessment cycle for real property for property tax purposes to a 5-year cycle.

**Transportation and Traffic Safety**

**HB 8 - Vehicle Laws - Dangerous Driver Abatement Program - Establishment (Dangerous Driver Accountability Act).** Establishing the Dangerous Driver Abatement Program; establishing the purpose of the Program is to reduce motor vehicle-related deaths by requiring repeat offenders to complete a driver accountability and safety course or be subject to sanctions; requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to administer the Program and provide a certain notice to repeat offenders; requiring a repeat offender to successfully complete a certain course within 90 days after receiving the notice.

**HB 55/SB 45 - Vehicle Laws - Speed Monitoring Systems - Residential Districts.** Applying statewide certain provisions of law authorizing the use of speed monitoring systems in certain residential districts.

**HB 210/SB 965 - Motor Vehicles - Out-of-State Drivers - Automated Enforcement (Out-of-State Driver Accountability Act).** Requiring each county and municipal automated traffic enforcement program to submit to the Vision Zero coordinator an annual report containing certain information regarding each citation issued under the program during the quarter to a motor vehicle registered in another state.

**HB 230/SB 62 - Transportation - Consolidated Transportation Program - Prioritization (Transportation Investment Priorities Act of 2026).** Altering the required elements of the Consolidated Transportation Program; requiring the Department of Transportation to develop a certain project-based scoring system, identify certain funds available for certain purposes, and solicit requests from certain entities for certain projects; requiring the Department to evaluate and score certain major surface transportation projects; altering the makeup, chair, frequency of meetings, and responsibilities of the Maryland Transportation Commission.

**HB 249/SB 173 - Vehicle Laws - Automated Enforcement - Reciprocal Agreements, Arrangements, and Declarations.** Altering the policy of the State regarding reciprocal vehicle registration agreements, arrangements, and declarations; and authorizing the Motor Vehicle Administrator to enter into reciprocal agreements, arrangements, or declarations to provide for reciprocal enforcement of violations recorded by traffic control signal monitoring systems and speed monitoring systems.

**HB 335/SB 258 - Real Property - Dedication - Roads.** Establishing that a private road open to public travel for 20 years or more shall be considered offered for dedication to public use; and establishing that the State, a county, or a municipality shall be considered to have accepted an offer for the dedication of a road to public use under the Act if the State, county, or municipality repairs and maintains the road in the same manner as a public road.

**HB 510/SB 115 - Motor Vehicles - Automated Speed Enforcement - Improper Registration.** Requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to enter into an agreement or arrangement with Virginia to obtain information regarding motor vehicles owned by Maryland residents and improperly registered in Virginia; requiring the Administration to make the information available to State and local governments for certain automated speed enforcement purposes; increasing the penalties for the owners or drivers of certain improperly registered motor vehicles for violations recorded by automated speed enforcement systems.

**HB 1408 - Motor Vehicles - Automated Traffic Enforcement Systems - Impoundment.** Authorizing a law enforcement agency to impound a motor vehicle for which three or more citations from an automated traffic enforcement system have been issued if the citations are unpaid and overdue by at least 30 days.

**HB 1522/SB 921 - Traffic Control Signal Monitoring and Speed Monitoring Systems - Exemptions From Liability - Vehicle Rental Companies.** Repealing the exemptions for a motor vehicle that is owned by a motor vehicle rental or leasing company or that displays certain registration plates from liability for citations produced as a result of images recorded by a traffic control signal monitoring system or a speed monitoring system.

**SB 458 - Vehicle Laws - Crosswalk Monitoring Systems - Authorization.** Authorizing the use of crosswalk monitoring systems in school zones if authorized by local law; providing that the owner or driver of a motor vehicle recorded failing to yield to a pedestrian crossing a roadway in a crosswalk is subject to a citation and a certain civil penalty under certain circumstances; establishing certain defenses to a charge of an alleged violation recorded by a crosswalk monitoring system; and prohibiting a contractor administering a crosswalk monitoring system from being compensated on a per-ticket basis.

## **About Us**

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) uses its collective voice to advocate, empower, and protect the interests of our 161 local government members and elevates local leadership, delivers impactful solutions, and builds an inclusive culture for the 2 million Marylanders we serve.

## **Meet the Advocacy and Public Policy Team**

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