

MARYLAND FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN – WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – FEBRUARY 5, 2022

BILL #	BILL DESCRIPTION	COMMITTEE/HEARING SPONSORS	BILL STATUS	COMMENTS
	BUDGET REVENUES/TAXES			
HB 0008	Establishes the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program and Insurance Fund in the Maryland Department of Labor to provide benefits to individuals who take leave from employment for illness or to care for a family member. Beginning January 1, 2023, employees, employers, and some self-employed individuals to contribute to the Fund .75% of employee’s wages shared equally by employer & employee.	ECM; Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m.; Del. Valderrama	1 st Reader	
SB 0275		FIN; Hearing 2/10 at 1 p.m.; Str. Hayes & Benson	1 st Reader	
HB 0103	Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans	W&M; Hearing 1/13 at 1 p.m. Del. Brooks.	1 st Reader	
SB 0085		B&T; Hearing 2/09 at 1 p.m.; Str. Jackson	1 st Reader	
HB 0124	Income Tax – Subtraction Modification for Veterans of \$3,000.	W&M; Hearing 1/13 at 1 p.m.	1 st Reader	
HB 0144	Motor Fuel Tax – Repeal annual Consumer Price Index Adjustment	W&M; Hearing 1/19 at 1 p.m. Del. Morgan, et al.	1 st Reader	SUPPORT
SB0337		B&T; Hearing 2/08 at 2:30 p.m.; Strs Hough et al	1 st Reader	
HB 0182	State procurement certification of LGBTQ businesses. The certification agency shall compile & manage a list of certified LGBTQ businesses in the state to identify & encourage outreach to LGBTQ businesses and track use of certified LGBTQ businesses on state procurement contracts. A LGBTQ business is any legal entity, except a joint venture formed in the USA to engage in commercial transactions with its principal place of business in the USA and is at least 51% owned, operated, managed, and controlled by one or more individuals who are: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer; and are U.S. citizens or lawful	HGO; Hearing 2/01 at 2:30 p.m. Del. Boyce	1 st Reader	Question: Why should businesses be certified as LGBTQ businesses? Should a business owned by an individual or group identifying as LGBTQ receive special treatment in state procurement over those who are heterosexual?

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	permanent residents; and exercises independence from a business that does not meet these criteria.			
HB 0189 SB 0123	Income Tax Subtraction for Retirement income.	W&M; Hearing 2/16 at 1 p.m.; Del. Brooks B&T; Str. Klausmeier	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0300 SB 0290	Budget Bill (Operations) FY 2023 is \$58.2 Billion.	APP – Speaker (by request Gov) B&T – President	1 st Reader	Includes \$4.6 B in tax relief.
HB 0415 SB 0401	Operation Budget required funding for BOOST grant program for non-public school students. Mandates funding of \$10 Million for FY 2024 and increases up to \$16 Million for FY 2027	APP; Req. of Admin + 28 “R” Del. B&T; Hearing 2/09 at 1 p.m.; Req. of Admin +13 “R” Strs	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0420 SB 0405	Retirement Tax Exemption Act of 2022. Providing a tax reduction based on Social Security for 65+ individuals not currently employed.	W&M; Hearing 2/23 at 1 p.m.; by req. of Admin + 27 “R” Del. B&T; Pres. Req. of Admin + 14 “R” Strs.	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0422 SB 0404	Working Marylanders Tax Relief Act of 2022. Provides refund of 45% of the amt. of the Federal earned income tax credit for years after 2019.	W&M; Hearing 2/23 at 1 p.m. Spkr. By req. +22 “R” Del.s B&T; Hearing 2/09 at 1 p.m. By Req. + 13 “R” Sens.	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0613	Increasing from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000 annual appropriations for school resource officers & school safety expenditures beginning in fiscal year 2024.	APP; Del. Griffith et al	1 st Reader	
	CIVIL RIGHTS, CRIMES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT			
HB 0045	Crimes – Mitigation & Defense – Religious Beliefs, Disability, or Homelessness	JUD; Hearing 1/25 at 1 p.m. Del. Cardin	1 st Reader	
HB 0074 SB0030	Court- Jury Service – A person is disqualified if person is convicted of a crime in a federal or State court of record, and is currently serving a sentence exceeding 1 year for the conviction, including a term of probation.	JUD; Hearing 1/19 at 1 p.m. JPC; Hearing 1/26 at 1 p.m. Str. Carter	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0122 SB0138	Criminal Procedure- Expand Expungement of Records after 3 years, to add probation before judgment and stet dispositions, if all court–ordered conditions of the probation before judgment or stet disposition have	JUD; Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m. EHE; Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m.;	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	

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	been satisfied for offenses under Criminal Law article (5-601 – possession or administering controlled dangerous substances) Committed after Oct. 1, 2018.	Str. Kramer		
HB 0123	Forfeiture of Benefits of Pensions and Retirement for Law Enforcement Officers found guilty of, or enters a plea of nolo contendere to a felony, perjury, or a misdemeanor relating to truthfulness and veracity committed in the course of the performance of officer's duties; & implement a forfeiture of benefits.	JUD; Del. Wilkins	1 st Reader	Note: SB 0047 provides for reserving some of the pension benefit for spouse, children or former spouse.
SB 0141		B&T; Hearing 1/27 at 9 a.m.; Str. Carter	1 st Reader	
SB 0047		B&T; Hearing 1/27 at 9 a.m.; Str. Carter	1 st Reader	
HB 0148	Alters definition of stalking to include conduct which occurs in person, through electronic communication, or through the use of a device that can pinpoint or track the location of another without the person's knowledge or consent.	JUD; Hearing 1/27 at 1 p.m. Del. Bartlett	1 st Reader	
SB 0328		JPC; Str. Waldstreicher, et al	1 st Reader	
HB 0159	Establishing the Commission for Economic Justice and Reconciliation to study racial disparities in wealth and resources as a result of tax laws and systems in place in the State from the Reconstruction Era through the enactment of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964; requiring the Commission to make recommendations relating to compensation of the State's African American communities for the racial disparities identified, to study possible sources of State funding, and to make recommendations for future legislation;	HGO; Hearing 2/01 at 2:30 p.m. Del. Amprey	1 st Reader	
HB 0181	Declaration of Rights in Maryland Constitution- Removes references to God in regard to religious freedom, religious tests & Oaths & Affirmations.	HGO; Hearing cancelled. Del. Hill	1 st Reader	Oppose
HB 0223	Criminal Law – Person in a position of authority – Sexual offenses with a minor extended to offenses at day care centers, after school programs, sports programs and others.	JUD, Hearing 1/25 at 1 p.m. Del. Love	1 st Reader	
SB 0049		JPC; Hearing 1/19 at 1 p.m. Str. West	1 st Reader	

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HB 0290 SB 0071	Hate Crimes – Allow victim of hate crime to seek Civil remedy for action constituting a hate crime under the statute.	JUD.; Hearing 2/02 at 1 p.m.; Del. Crutchfield EHE; Hearing 1/19; Str. Kramer	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0294 SB 0165	Grants Juvenile Court authority over proceedings where a child 14 years old is alleged to have done an act that, if committed by an adult, would be punishable by life imprisonment . Also, in cases of a 16-year-old alleged to have committed crime of abduction, kidnapping, carjacking, and other offenses.	JUD; Hearing 2/10 at 1 p.m.; Del. Crutchfield JPC; Hearing 1/27 at 2 p.m. Str. Carter.	1 st Reader 1 st . Reader	
HB 0304	Adds penalties for not following a reasonable & lawful order by law enforcement in a public place, schools, restaurants, churches, (broadly defined including premises & parking areas) in an emergency. “Emergency” means an urgent, sudden, and serious event or an unforeseen change in circumstances that necessitates immediate action to remedy harm or avert imminent danger to life or health.	JUD; Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m.; Del. Ruth	1 st Reader	
HB 0427	Prohibiting a person from obstructing or impeding or attempting to obstruct or impede an official proceeding of the Executive or Legislative Branch.	JUD; Hearing 2/08 at 1 p.m.; Del. Rosenberg	1 st Reader	
HB 0453 SB 0548	Correctional Facilities – Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Inmates (Transgender Respect, Agency and Dignity Act). Provides for an inmate to declare their identity preference, pronouns, search preference and request housing and cell preference with the inmate of their choice. Requires respectful treatment of inmate in searches, use of pronouns and housing.	JUD; Hearing 2/08 at 1 p.m. Del. Lopez JPC; Hearing 2/17 at 1 p.m. Str. Carter	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	OPPOSE. Unsafe for female inmates. Requires Correctional facilities to allow males inmates identifying as female, to be placed in women’s facilities & choose the inmate that they wish to share a cell. Doesn’t say the female in that cell can object or refuse. In states of CA. and Washington large numbers of biological males are requesting & being transferred to women’s facilities. Women inmates have been attacked.

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HB 0594	Establish Maryland reparations Commission. Harriet Tubman Community Investment Act.	JGO; Hearing 3/01 at 1:30 p.m.	1 st Reader	
HB 0606	Prohibit a person registered with the State sex offender registry, who was at least 21 years old and victim was less than 18, from residing within 1,000 feet of a school, park, daycare center or other place where children congregate, except that such a person would not need to relocate if a school, etc. is constructed after the person established residence.	JUD; Hearing 2/15 at 1 p.m.; Del. Cox and Parrott	1 st Reader	
SB 0068	Sexual Offenses – Crime of Violence and Lifetime Supervision	JPC; Hearing 1/19 at 1 p.m. Str. Bailey	JPC: Favorable Report	
SB 0265	Probation Before Judgement – Probation not Deportation	JPC; Hearing 2/02 at 2 p.m. Str. Lee	1 st Reader	See SB 0264 under Immigration For details.
SB 0413	For the purpose of establishing that an individual who intentionally prevents or interferes with the making of a report for suspected sexual abuse of a child by a mandatory reporter may be prosecuted at any time for the violation. Penalty 5 yrs in prison and \$10,000.	JPC; Hearing 2/15 at 1 p.m. Strs. Hough, Bailey, Cassilly & West	1 st Reader	
	EDUCATION			
HB 0023	School Discipline - Data Collection and School Resource Officers	W&M; Hearing 1/20 at 1 p.m. Del. Washington	1 st Reader	
HB 0047	Public Schools – Expanded American History – Development of Content Standards and Implementation.	W&M; Hearing 1/20 at 1 p.m. Del. Wilson.	1 st Reader	
SB 462		EHE; Str. Lee	1 st Reader	
HB 0084	Alters Education Article Section 26-101 to Specify that provisions of law prohibiting and penalizing disruptive and threatening behavior on the grounds of, in the classes of, or in the home of an employee of an institution of elementary, secondary, or higher education do not apply to students who commit offenses at the institution they attend , students on exclusionary discipline who commit offenses at the institution they attend, or students who commit	W&M; Hearing 1/20 at 1 p.m. Del. Ruth.	1 st Reader	OPPOSE
SB 0119		EHE; Hearing 2/03 at 1 p.m. Str. Washington	1 st Reader	OPPOSE See also: HB 146 and HB 214 that deal with same issues.

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	offenses at another institution while participating in or attending a sporting event or other extracurricular program at that institution. State’s Attorney will report to Principal after conviction.			
HB 0146	Alters the definition of “reportable offense” to include only offenses that occur off school premises, that did not occur at events sponsored by the school, and that involve crimes of violence; repeals requirement that a law enforcement agency notify school if a student was arrested for a reportable offense; removes belonging to a criminal organization as being reportable to the school if a student is charged with a reportable offense; and report only adjudications or convictions to the school.	W&M; Hearing 2/03 at 1 p.m.; Del. Moon & Atterbury	1 st Reader	OPPOSE. This bill removes from the Education Article, Section 7-303 the reporting of student belonging to criminal org and then adds that reportable offenses are only offenses committed off school grounds. See HB 0214 related issues.
HB 0194	Requiring a county board of education to provide age-appropriate instruction on the risks of sexting as part of the Family Life and Human Sexuality curriculum in every grade in which the curriculum is taught in public schools in the county, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.	W&M; Hearing 1/27 at 1 p.m.; Del. Shetty	1 st Reader	
HB 0196	Public Schools & Boards of Education. All public schools must publish a catalog of School Library materials posted to school’s website each Fall.	W&M; Hearing 1/27 at 1 p.m. Del. Thiam	1 st Reader	SUPPORT
HB 0214	Adds: For a student committed to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), the DJS shall notify the local superintendent and the school principal where the student is enrolled or to which the student has been transferred of the student’s arrest for a reportable offense; or that is related to the student’s membership in a criminal organization; and the disposition of the reportable offense.	JUD; Hearing 2/02 at 1 p.m. Del. Parrott	1 st Reader	SUPPORT. Current law in Education Article, Section 7-303 requires local law enforcement agency to notify School superintendent and principal of a student’s arrest for a reportable offense. This bill adds reporting for students under custody of DJS.
HB 0314	Beginning January 1, 2025, a county board of education must have an odd number of members who	W&M; Hearing 2/08 at 1 p.m.; Del. Novotny	1 st Reader	

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	are eligible to vote on each matter before the county board; and requiring a county board to set regulations for selecting an individual to vote on that issue			
HB 0330	Higher Education. Require a U.S. History Course for undergraduate degree.	APP; Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m.; Del. Boteler	1 st Reader	
HB 0352	Establish an American Studies and Social Equity Standards Advisory Board to examine American history & culture from the perspectives of cultural, social, and ethnic groups. The advisory board shall develop a model policy on ethnic and social equity in schools. Recommend content and instructional methods to challenge racist, sexist, gender, or ability assumptions, attitudes, and behaviors when they occur using principles and practices of restorative justice methods including disciplinary actions. “Ethnic group” is a nondominant racial or ethnic group in the U.S. including groups who identify as indigenous or African, Asian, Pacific Island, hispanic, latino, or middle eastern descent. “Social group” includes women, individuals with disabilities, immigrants, refugees, and individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender, questioning, intersex, or asexual.	W&M; Hearing 2/10 at 1 p.m.; Del. Qi	1 st Reader	OPPOSE. Note: This bill is filled with Critical Race Theory goals and language. Wikipedia’s definition: “A restorative justice program aims to get offenders to take responsibility for their actions, to understand the harm they have caused, to give them an opportunity to redeem themselves and to discourage them from causing further harm. For victims, its goal is to give them an active role in the process.
HB 0495	Education- to authorize Student-Organized Peaceful Demonstrations – at school during school hours –	W&M; Hearing 2/10 at 1 p.m. Del. Ebersole;	1 st Reader	OPPOSE. Student are behind on every metric. They need class
SB 0519	Student Discipline and Policy – no more severe than unexcused absence.	EHE; Hearing 2/16 at 1 p.m. Str. Washington	1 st Reader	time devoted to reading and math and science at grade level.
HB 0504	Public School Employees Collective Bargaining – authorization to strike.	W&M; Hearing 2/17 at 3 p.m.; Del. Acevero	1 st Reader	
HB 0618	MD Parental Rights Act requiring: the State & county Boards of Education to allow at least 10 minutes for parent testimony at public board meetings; prohibit school employees from withholding information on a	JUD; Hearing 2/17 at 1 p.m.; W&M; Hearing 2/17 at 3 p.m.; Del. Cox, Arikan, Parrott, Reilly, and Szeliga	1 st Reader	STRONGLY SUPPORT.

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	child’s health or well-being from the child’s parent or guardian; county boards to adopt a policy to promote parent involvement in the public school system including curriculum and provide a copy to parents at start of school year; the State to give a parent the opportunity to be tried before a jury before terminating the parent’s rights; a health care practitioner or owner of a health care facility to obtain the consent of a minor’s parent or guardian before providing or soliciting or arranging to provide health care services or prescribing certain drugs to a minor; providing for a penalty for violation;			Parents need to be involved and included in the education of their children.
HB 0633	Education – State Accountability and Implementation Board. Expands membership to include a representative from each of the following: Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, Eastern Shore and one from 5 largest counties.	W&M; Del. Ghrist	1 st Reader	Support. This Board is established to implement the Blueprint for the Future for education. Current membership represents only a few counties.
SB 0116	Public Schools – Inclusive & Diverse English Language Arts – Development and Content Standards & Implementation. promote diversity, including economic diversity, equity, inclusion, tolerance, and belonging; (ii) examine the impact that unconscious bias and economic disparities have at both an individual and societal level; and (iii) encourage safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments for all students regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental & physical disability, and religious beliefs.	EHE; Hearing 2/03 at 1 p.m.; Str. Ellis	1 st Reader	Again, CRT inserted into the curriculum.
SB 0237	On or before January 1, 2023, the state board shall develop guidelines for instructional content on the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that is age-appropriate, interdisciplinary, and consistent with other required grade-level instruction. Requires	EHE; Hearing 2/03 at 1 p.m.; Str. Sailing.	1 st Reader	Support

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	public & non-public schools receiving state funding to include a unit of instruction on the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack as developed by the State Board.			
SB 0304	Requiring State Board of Education to develop and implement a curriculum for a unit of instruction on Asian American history starting in the 2023-2024 school year. Each local board must ensure that a unit of instruction on Asian American history is taught at least once in elementary & middle school, & once in a history course required to graduate from high school.	EHE; Hearing 2/03 at 1 p.m. Strs. Lam and Lee	1 st Reader	
SJ 0007	Supporting parents' rights to peacefully assemble, speak freely, and petition the government, including county boards of education, on any topic; and condemning intimidation of a parent who is expressing these rights.	EHE; Str. Ready et al	1 st Reader	Support
	ELECTIONS AND VOTING			
HB 0017	Campaign Finance – Requirements for recurring contributions and donations	W&M; Del. Palakovich Carr	1 st Reader	
HB 0035 SB 0158	State Board of Elections – Contracts & Invoices - requirements for approval	W&M; Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m. Del. Palakovich Carr EHE; Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 p.m.; Str. Kagan	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0065	Early Voting Centers – Bus Stops w/in ½ mile	W&M; Hearing cancelled. Del. Crosby	1 st Reader	
HB 0099	Absentee Ballots – Require signature and verification for AB application and ballot	W&M; Hearing 1/25 at 1 p.m. Del. Long	1 st Reader	SUPPORT
HB 0113	Constitutional Amendment: Elections – In Person Voting – Must present a valid gov't. issued Photo ID or valid non-gov't ID with utility bill or other document w/voter's name and current address	W&M; Hearing 1/25 at 1 p.m. Del. Long	1 st Reader	SUPPORT
HB 0160	Prohibit a person from serving on a political party central committee and in elective office at the same	W&M; Hearing 1/13 at 1 p.m. Del. Boyce	1 st Reader	

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	time, except for National Presidential Convention Delegates.			
HB 0169	Voter Registry – Require funeral directors & others to notify State Bd. of Elections of names & addresses of deceased Maryland residents w/in 30 days & for local Boards to send notice & remove deceased individuals from voter registry.	W&M; Hearing cancelled. Del. Hartman, et al	1 st Reader	SUPPORT
HB 0201 SB 0284	Election Law – Expands Voter Registration Drives in high schools from a space in a common area where students can, if they wish, obtain a voter registration form and hand in completed forms to also include having local Bd. of Election officials, employees, or authorized volunteers visit classrooms within a school, during school hours, distributing voter registration applications to each employee of and student enrolled in the school who is or will be 16 years old or older during the immediately following year and accepting completed VR forms for transmittal to the appropriate election official. Requires a VR Drive in every high school every year.	W&M; Hearing cancelled; Del. Kelly EHE; Str. Washington	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	OPPOSE. It is intimidating and coercive to have election officials or volunteers to go into the classroom and hand out VR forms and collect completed forms during school hours. The bill does not require a volunteer from both major political parties be present to register student voters. A better approach is a table in main hall at lunch time where it is voluntary to obtain a VR form.
HB 0212	Requires Signature Verification of Absentee Ballots (AB) & AB applications and ballot canvassing.	W&M; Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m.; Del. Parrott	1 st Reader	
HB 0291 SB 0101	Election Law – Allow use of campaign funds to pay for expenses in contesting an election result. A candidate may not petition for a recount if the margin of difference between the number of votes received by an apparent winner and the losing candidate with the highest number of votes for the office is greater than 5% of the total votes cast for those candidates	W&M; Hearing 2/01 at 1 p.m.; Del. Kaiser EHE: Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 p.m. Str. Kagan	1 st Reader	
HB 0306	Election Law - Circuit Court Judges. Requires circuit court judges to be elected on a nonpartisan basis only in a general election. Candidates will not appear on	JUD; Hearing 2/16 at 1 p.m.; Del. Qi and Ruth	1 st Reader	

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	the ballot in a primary election or be nominated by a political party or by petition. Candidates for circuit court judge shall file a certificate of candidacy no later than 5 p.m. on the first Monday in August in the year of the general election for the office.			
HB 0313	Recall Elections. Constitutional Amendment. Would subject all State and County offices to recall. Provides for petition signed by at least 25% of the total votes cast in the most recent election for that office.	W&M; Hearing 2/08 at 1 p.m.; Del. Novotny	1 st Reader	
HB 0320 SB 0063	Defines factors to be considered when determining Residency of members of the General Assembly and enforcement factors.	W&M; Hearing 2/08 at 1 p.m.; Del. Wilkins EHE; Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 p.m. Str. Kelley	1 st Reader	
HB 0328	Repealing restrictions on holding an election in a building or part of a building used, or occupied by an establishment that holds an alcoholic beverages license; and repeals the 100 ft. distance requirement.	W&M; Hearing 2/08 at 1 p.m. Del. D. Jones	1 st reader	
HB 0329 SB 0352	Local Bd. of Elections may accept, reject, open or process AB starting at 8 a.m. 8 days before Early Voting. Provides for a Voter who fails to sign the oath on the AB ballot return envelope.	W&M; Del. Moon EHE; Str. Lam	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	See also SB 0163. Very similar, but HB 329 doesn't prohibit tallying the votes as they are collated.
HB 0344	Campaign Contributions "Pay to Play" prohibits contributions from lobbyists and contractors to candidates for state offices, but allows a registered lobbyist to contribute personal funds to a candidate in the district where lobbyist lives.			
HB 0362	Montgomery County Voting Methods RANKED CHOICE VOTING AND APPROVAL VOTING (MC 13-22). A local law enacted under this subsection may provide for: (i) the ballot format; (ii) procedures for tabulating votes; and (iii) any other provision necessary to implement ranked choice voting or approval voting	W&M; Hearing 2/08 at 1 p.m. Montgomery County Del.	1 st Reader	STRONGLY OPPOSE – Could set a statewide precedent. Confusing to voters. Bill applies to all local offices even State's Attorney and Circuit Court Judges. Could Co. Council allow non-citizens to vote?

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HB 0428	Elections. Prohibits Bd. of Elections from contracting with foreign manufacture of election systems – notification and termination of contracts.	W&M; Hearing 2/08 at 1 p.m.; Del. Rosenberg	1 st Reader	
SB 0073	General Assembly – Special Election to fill vacancy in office	EHE; Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 p.m.; Str. Lam	1 st Reader	
SB 0088	Change deadline for candidate for Governor in a Primary Election to select a Lt. Governor to 21 days after the Primary Election instead of at the time of filing for Governor.	EHE; Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 p.m.; Str. Pinsky	1 st Reader	
SB 0101	Election Law – Contested Elections. A candidate or registered voter may not petition for a recount if the difference between the number of votes received by an apparent winner and the losing candidate with the highest number of votes is greater than 5% of the total votes cast for those candidates	EHE; Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 p.m.; Str. Kagan	1 st Reader	
SB 0112	Election Law – False Ballot Drop Boxes – Criminal Penalty. An individual, an organization, an association, a political party, or other person may not collect absentee ballots during an election in a container that: (1) is not a ballot drop box that is officially designated by the state board or a local board; but (2) is labeled, marked, or otherwise designated to appear to be an official or unofficial ballot drop box.	EHE; Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 p.m.; Str. Kagan	1 st Reader	DOES NOT PREVENT BALLOT HARVESTING. One cannot collect ballots in an unofficial ballot drop box, but SB 112 does not appear to prohibit one from collecting ballots from voters and depositing them in an approved ballot drop box.
SB 0163	Election Law- Absentee Ballots – Local Bd. of Elections may accept, reject, open or process AB starting at 8 a.m. 8 days before Early Voting. Local Bd may not count the votes until Election Day. If a Voter fails to sign the oath on the AB ballot return envelope, the Bd must within 3 days notify the voter and provide an opportunity for voter to add signature electronically, by text message, e-mail orat Election Board & sign in person. If voter fails to add signature within 10 days after election day the ballot is rejected. If the local	EHE; Hearing 1/26 at 1:30 p.m.; Str. Kagan	1 st Reader	SB 0163 adds a new requirement that the local Bd. of Elections begin verifying Absentee Ballots for signature of the oath and provide opportunity to add signature electronically or in-person. Changes law where more than one ballot is received from a person, the ballot with first properly signed oath is accepted.

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	board receives more than one legally sufficient ballot from a voter, in separate envelopes, the local board shall: count only the ballot with the [latest] FIRST properly signed oath; & reject any other ballot.			Current law states that the latest postmarked ballot be accepted. See also HB 329 and SB 352.
SB 0285	A person may not willfully and maliciously destroy, injure, or deface a campaign sign that is on another person’s property. Violator is guilty of a misdemeanor if convicted is subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 60 days or both	EHE; Str. Hough	1 st Reader	Support
SB 0358	Public Financing Act. Extend public financing of campaigns to State Senators & Delegates. Budget Mandate.	EHE & B&T	1 st Reader	
SB 0413	Emergency Act. Voting Rights Act of 2022 applies only to county and municipal elections. Prohibits a method for electing the governing body of a county or municipality that impairs the ability of members of a protected class to elect candidates of their choice, or influence the outcome of an election, as a result of the dilution or abridgement of their rights. Factors are: history of discrimination; (2) use of electoral devices or other voting practices that may enhance the dilutive effects of a method of election, including at large elections ; (3) the denial of access to the processes to receive financial or other support in a given election; (4) the extent to which members of a protected class bear the effects of past discrimination in areas such as education, employment, and health that hinders their ability to participate effectively in the political process; and (5) the use of overt or subtle racial appeals in political campaigns. “Protected class” means a class of voters who are members of a race, color, or language minority group, as is defined in the	EHE; Str. Sydnor	1 st Reader	Interesting that it does not apply to State House of Delegates districts or elections.

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BILL #	BILL DESCRIPTION	COMMITTEE/HEARING SPONSORS	BILL STATUS	COMMENTS
	Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, and related federal case law.			
SB 0544	Prohibiting a person from willfully or knowingly casting a ballot in a general election in more than one state in the same year.	EHE; Str. Ready	1 st Reader	
	ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY			
HB 0011	Renewable Energy Portfolio Std. – Tier 1. To exclude energy derived from qualifying biomass, methane from anaerobic decomposition of organic materials, certain fuel cells, poultry litter-to-energy, waste-to-energy, refuse-derived fuel, and thermal energy from a thermal biomass system from being eligible for inclusion in the renewable energy portfolio standard.	ECM; Del. Stewart	1 st Reader	
HB 0135	Expand restrictions on single-use plastics at food service businesses including condiment packages	ECM; Hearing 2/02 at 1 p.m.; Del. Love	1 st Reader	
HB 0171 SB 0135	Climate Crisis & Environmental Justice Act. Reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 60% from 2006 levels by 2030; and 100% from 2006 levels by 2040. After 2040, statewide greenhouse gas emissions shall be net negative. Imposes a Greenhouse Gas Pollution Fee on all fossil fuels brought into the state for combustion. Fee will increase each year.	ECM & ENT; Del. Fraser-Hidalgo EHE & B&T; EHE Hearing 2/15 at 1 p.m.; Str. Kramer	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 621	Require the Dept. of Environment to monitor and evaluate effluent discharged from sewage treatment plants; Hire an inspector for plants that have released effluents beyond the limits of the plant’s discharge permit; or failed to maintain basic operation and maintenance of the sewage treatment plant; or, failed to submit an updated wastewater capacity plan to the department and remain on site until issues corrected.	ENT: Hearing 2/16 at 1 p.m. Del. Grammer	1 st Reading	

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BILL #	BILL DESCRIPTION	COMMITTEE/HEARING SPONSORS	BILL STATUS	COMMENTS
SB 0056	Program Open Space – Local Plans & Programs will be required to be approved by the General Assembly as legislation before implemented.	EHE; Hearing 1/25 at 1:30 p.m. Str. Ellis	1 st Reader	
SB 0366	The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 trust fund may be used only for implementation of nonpoint source pollution control projects in state & local watershed implementation plans & to improve the health of the Atlantic coastal bays and their tributaries, & cannot be moved to general fund, except in fiscal emergencies declared by Governor & approved by 3/5 of Legislature.	EHE & B&T; Str. Simonaire	1 st Reader	
SB 0528	Climate Solutions Act of 2022. Requires state to achieve Net Zero Statewide Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2045. Sets up processes and requirements including for schools, housing & pollution impacted communities.	EHE: Hearing 2/15 at 1 p.m.; Str. Pinsky + 26 “D” Senators	1 st Reader	
SB 0552	Requiring each county to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change in the county; and to submit its plan to the Department of the Environment for review and feedback and requiring each county to finalize its plan before January 1, 2024; and to review and update its plan once every 3 years.	EHE: Str. Kramer	1 st Reader	
	HEALTH RELATED			
HB 0008 SB0275	Establish Family & Medical Leave and Insurance Program	ECM Hearing 2/15 at 1 p.m. Del. Valderrama FIN; Hearing 2/10 at 1 p.m.; Str. Hayes	1 st Reader	See entry under Budget, Revenue & Taxes Heading for details.
HB 0014 SB 0048	Health – Advance Care Planning & Advance Directives	HGO; Hearing Cancelled; Del. Cullison FIN; Hearing 2/10 at 1 p.m.; Str. Kramer	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0056	Establish a Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment to study & recommend	W&M; Hearing 1/20 at 1 p.m. Del. Bagnail	1 st Reader	Mental & behavioral health issues are real and serious, but school

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	actions needed on behavioral health treatment & practices for students dealing with behavioral health & mental health issues, including the scope of practices, age of consent for services, types of service & duration of treatment. Investigate the unique behavioral health needs of students from different racial and ethnic backgrounds dealing with behavioral health and mental health issues, including differences by student racial and ethnic background in the provision of behavioral health services, scope of practice, types of service, and duration of treatment. Revise guidelines for student behavioral health treatment & practices in school-based health centers; and research ways to coordinate school-based practices with health care provider practices to improve treatment for students who need behavioral/mental health treatments.			<p>systems sometimes act w/o informing parents. Parents need to be included. This may be partially directed at treating sexual “health” and “Gender dysphoria” w/out parent knowledge/consent.</p> <p>Read: <u>Irreversible Damage</u> by Abigail Shrier for detailed discussion.</p> <p>Note: This is a redo of HB 0377 of 2021 that passed the House but not voted on in Sen. EHE.</p> <p>Also, in 2021 Session SB 41 lowered age from 16 to 12 for a minor to consent to consultation, diagnosis, & treatment of mental or emotional health disorders.</p>
HB 0267 SB 0298	Criminal Law- Threat against Public Health Official or hospital staff member.	JUD; Hearing 1/25 at 1 p.m. Del. K. Young JPC; Hearing 2/08 at 1 p.m.; Str. Young	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0609 SB 0548 HB0668	Local Health Officers – Removal Grounds & Process. Repealing provision providing that a health officer serves at the pleasure of the Secretary of Health and the governing body of the county; allows a health officer to be removed for reasons of immorality, misconduct in office, insubordination, incompetency, or willful neglect of duty.	HGO; Del. Pena-Melnyk FIN: Str. Lam HGO; Del. Lisanti	1 st Reader 1 st Reader 1 st Reader	HB 668 does not alter a county government’s ability to remove the Health Offices, but requires notification of the County’s State Senators & Delegates and provides for them to vote, but not require or prohibit removal.
SB 0282	Establish Workgroup on developing, and updating screening tools & make recommendations on actions	FIN; Hearing 2/08 at 1 p.m. Str. Augustine	1 st Reader	See comments above on HB 0056

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	that primary care providers can use to identify and treat minors who have a mental health disorder that may be caused by an adverse childhood experience. Workgroup to develop a Youth Risk Behavior Survey template for a State-County-level trends report on adverse and positive childhood experiences that includes the prevalence of individual adverse childhood experiences among middle & high school students, including disaggregated by gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and county.			
SB 0547	Repealing the prohibition on an individual from knowingly transferring or attempting to transfer the human immunodeficiency virus to another individual.	JPC; Str. Lam	1 st Reader	
	IMMIGRATION RELATED			
HB 0114 SB 0129	Access to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings Program. Establishes a program in the Attorney General's office to have non-profit legal groups represent illegal immigrants in immigration matters.	JUD; Hearing 2/02 at 1 p.m.; Del. N. Williams. JPC; Hearing 2/03 at 1 p.m.; Str. Hettleman	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	OPPOSE. Citizens only have right to counsel for criminal cases. Most deportation cases are civil cases. Fiscal Note from prior year's bill estimated the cost of representation as to exceed \$6 Million/year plus administrative costs of close to \$200,000 for the AG's office.
HB 0533 SB 0523	A state occupational or professional licensing board may not deny an occupational or professional license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual otherwise meets all educational, training, or professional requirements for licensure, certification, or registration	ECM; Hearing 2/15 at 1 p.m. Del. Pena-Melnyk EHE; Hearing 2/17 at 1 p.m.; Str. Kagan.	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0559	Probation NOT Deportation. Court may make findings of fact sufficient to support a guilty verdict. Court may stay a finding of guilt by signing agreement that if	JUD; Hearing 2/15 at 1 p.m.; Del. W. Fisher;	1 st Reader	Protects an illegal immigrant from receiving a formal sentence or Probation Before Judgement (PBJ).

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BILL #	BILL DESCRIPTION	COMMITTEE/HEARING SPONSORS	BILL STATUS	COMMENTS
SB 0265	defendant violates probation agreement the guilty finding & maximum sentence will be imposed.	JPC; Hearing 2/02 at 2 p.m.; Strs. Lee, Ferguson & Smith.		A PBJ is grounds for deportation. The agreement avoids a formal finding of guilt.
	LIFE ISSUES			
HB 0050	Abortion, Artificial Insemination, & Sterilization - Requires every licensed hospital, hospital directors and hospital boards to authorize performance of ANY medical procedure that results in artificial insemination, sterilization or termination of pregnancy or to refer to any source for these medical procedures.	HGO; Del. Amprey	1 st Reader	Oppose. Forces Catholic hospitals to perform abortion, etc. and/or refer patients for these services against their religious beliefs.
HB 0583	Providing that the prohibition on State interference with the decision of a woman to terminate a pregnancy at a certain time does not apply to a decision to terminate a pregnancy because the fetus has a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome except in cases where the fetus was conceived as a result of rape or incest or in cases of medical emergency.	HGO; Del. Cox	1 st Reader	
HB 0626	Pregnant Person's Freedom Act of 2022. Removes "woman" from the law and replaces it with "person". Removes any restrictions on abortion. Prohibits investigation or penalty for a person terminating or attempting to terminate the person's own pregnancy under any circumstances, or experiencing a miscarriage, perinatal death related to a failure to act , or stillbirth. A physician is not liable for civil damages or subject to criminal penalty for providing abortive care.	HGO; Del. Williams and 48 Dem. Delegates.	1 st Reader	<p>OPPOSE.</p> <p>"Pernatal" is defined in Webster's dictionary as: "occurring during or pertaining to the phase surrounding the time of birth from the 20th week of gestation to the 28th day of newborn life."</p> <p>Changing the word "woman" to "person" is the Left's action to deny a woman's unique characteristic of child bearing.</p>
SB 0669		JPC; Str. Smith	1 st Reader	
SB 0504	Equal Protection of Unborn Human Beings Act of 2022. Prohibits all abortions, chemical or surgical, except in cases of a clear and proximate danger to a woman's life. Violators are guilty of murder or manslaughter.	JPC Hearing 2/16 at 1 p.m.; Str. Sailing	1 st Reader	

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BILL #	BILL DESCRIPTION	COMMITTEE/HEARING SPONSORS	BILL STATUS	COMMENTS
SB 0535	Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortions Act. Makes exception for serious threat to the physical health or life of the mother.	FIN; Str. Ready, et al	1 st Reader	
	MARIJUANA AND DRUG RELATED			
HB 0001	Constitutional Amendment for Adult Use and Possession of (Marijuana) Cannabis.	JUD; Hearing 2/14 at 10 a.m. Del. Clippinger	1 st Reader	Oppose
HB 0033	Criminal Law – Controlled Dangerous Substances – Schedules - Adjustment	JUD; Hearing 1/25 at 1 p.m. Del. Shetty	1 st Reader	
HB 0481	Decriminalize Drug Paraphernalia for Administration – Repealing the prohibition against a person using or possessing with intent to use drug paraphernalia to inject, ingest, inhale, or otherwise introduce into the human body a controlled dangerous substance.	JUD; Hearing 2/15 at 1 p.m. Del. Moon.	1 st Reader	
SB 0509		JPC; Hearing 2/16 at 1 p.m. Str. Carter	1 st Reader	
HB 0837	Cannabis Reform. Requiring the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission to conduct a baseline study of cannabis use in the State; altering penalties, charging procedures, expungement, shielding, and sentencing for offenses involving marijuana; legalizing the use and possession of up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana by a person at least 21 years old; establish the Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council;	JUD; Hearing 2/14 at 10 a.m. Del. Clippinger	1 st Reader	
	REDISTRICTING			
HJ 0001	Maryland Citizens Legislative Districting Plan of 2022.	Rules & Executive Nominations; Joint Hearing with Senate Reapportioning & Redistricting January 18 at 3 p.m.	1 st Reader	SUPPORT – Call/email
SJ 0003			1 st Reader	
HJ 0002	Maryland Legislative Districting Plan	Rules & Executive Nominations; Joint Hearing with Senate Reapportioning & Redistricting January 18 at 3 p.m. House Rules Hearing 1/25; Voting w/follow immediately.	1 st Reader	OPPOSE – Call/email
SJ 0002			Passed 3 rd Reader 32-14. Passed 3 rd Reader in House (95-42)	Governor cannot Veto. Becomes law.

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	SECOND AMENDMENT & FIREARMS RELATED			
HB 0423 SB 0396	Crimes – Firearms Penalties. Violent Offenders Act.	JUD; Hearing 2/08 at 1 p.m.; Req. of Admin. + 30 “R” Dels. JPC; Hearing 2/16 at 1 p.m. Req. of Admin. + 13 “R” Strs.	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
HB 0425 SB 0387	Untraceable Firearms	JUD; Hearing 2/09 at 1 p.m.; Req. Aty.Gen. +Del. Lopez JPC; Hearing 2/16 at 1 p.m.; Req. of Aty. Gen.+ Str. Lee	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
	TRANSPORTATION			
HB 0060 SB 0126	Environment – New Motor Vehicles Pollution Fee of \$1.25 times US EPA pollution rating for vehicle in its model year. Minimum pollution level is 400 grams/per mile in 2023 and will decline 10 grams each year. Funds to provide rebates on electric cars and build electric car infrastructure..	ENT; Hearing 1/26 at 1 p.m. Del. Fraser-Hidalgo. EHE; Hearing 2/15 at 1 p.m.; Str. Kramer	1 st Reader	Note: The motor-fuel (or gas) tax provides substantial portion of funds for building and maintaining roads. Electric car owners do not pay gas taxes & this bill w/provide rebates on their purchase.
HB 0410 SB 0400	Alters the amounts of capital grants based on highway user revenues to Baltimore City, counties, and municipalities. Requires jurisdictions to provide reports of funds spent during the previous fiscal year, number of projects and projects delayed due to lack of funds.	ENT; Hearing 2/09 at 1 p.m. Req. of Admin. & 29 “R” Del. B&T; Hearing 2/09 at 1 p.m. Req. of Admin. & 13 “R” Strs.	1 st Reader 1 st Reader	
SB 0266	Establishes the Vehicle Litter Reporting Program in the Department of Transportation; requiring the Program to operate a hotline to receive complaints of littering from motor vehicles and to send a letter to the registered motor vehicle owners that littering from the vehicle has been reported and that littering is a crime.	B&T; Hearing 2/02 at 2 p.m. Str. Benson	1 st Reader	Littering is bad and is against the law, but a government program where anonymous reports of unsubstantiated violations result in formal gov’t warning letter to registered vehicle owner is a dangerous precedent. Could insurance companies access these records and deny re-insurance?