



MSBA Bill Report 1 - Judicial Matters

(2024.01.20)

January 20, 2024

[MD - HB14 Election Law - Revisions](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/25 at 1:00 p.m. (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Ways and Means Committee

Committee: Ways and Means (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Ways and Means (House)

Date: January 25, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 130, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the information that clerks of the circuit court for each county and administrative clerks for each District Court are required to report to the State Administrator of Elections to include the names of persons convicted of a felony and currently serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment; requiring a public official responsible for the use of a public building requested by a local board of elections for an early voting center to make the building available to the local board in accordance with a certain provision of law; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB271

[MD - HB15 Police Discipline - Order to Show Cause](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Police Discipline - Order to Show Cause (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Jon S. Cardin (D)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Summary:

Authorizing a police officer who is denied a certain right to apply to the circuit court at a certain time for an order that directs the law enforcement agency to show cause why the right should not be granted.

[MD - HB48 Courts - Justices and Judges - Selection and Retention](#)

Last Action: Reassigned to Judiciary Ways and Means (January 12, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Jon S. Cardin (D)

Committees:

Judiciary (House)

Ways and Means (House)

Summary:

Decreasing the term of office for the judges of the circuit courts; increasing the number of years between successive retention elections for judges of the Appellate Court of Maryland and justices of

the Supreme Court of Maryland; providing for a transitional period during which the terms of certain amendments are to become effective; and providing that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by the Act be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the next general election in November 2024.

[MD - HB73 Criminal Procedure - Expungement - Completion of Sentence](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Criminal Procedure - Expungement - Completion of Sentence (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett (D)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Summary:

Altering certain provisions of law relating to waiting periods for the filing of certain petitions for expungement to authorize the filing of a petition a certain amount of time after the completion of the sentence.

[MD - HB79 Family Law Child Custody Determinations](#)

Last Action: Hearing canceled (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Nicole A. Williams (D)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judiciary (House)

Date: January 25, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 100, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing the court, in determining legal and physical custody in certain child custody proceedings, to consider certain factors; and authorizing the court to modify a child custody or visitation order if the court determines that there has been a material change in circumstances since the issuance of the order that relates to the needs of the child or the ability of the parents to meet those needs and that modifying the order is in the best interests of the child.

[MD - HB83 Civil Actions - Noneconomic Damages - Personal Injury and Wrongful Death](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Civil Actions - Noneconomic Damages - Personal Injury and Wrongful Death (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Natalie Ziegler (D)

Cosponsors:

Delegate Regina T. Boyce (D)

Delegate Lorig Charkoudian (D)

Delegate Jen Terrasa (D)

Delegate Sheila Ruth (D)

Delegate Linda Foley (D)

Delegate Aaron M. Kaufman (D)

Delegate Chao Wu (D)

Delegate Malcolm Ruff (D)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Summary:

Repealing certain limitations on noneconomic damages in civil actions for personal injury or wrongful death; and applying the Act prospectively.

[MD - HB115 Criminal Procedure - Victims' Rights - Notification of Release From Confinement \(Jaycee Webster Victims' Rights Act\)](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/01 at 1:00 p.m. (January 16, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Aaron M. Kaufman (D)

Cosponsors:

Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk (D)

Delegate Dana Stein (D)

Delegate Jason C. Buckel (R)

Delegate Robin L. Grammer, Jr. (R)

Delegate Kevin B. Hornberger (R)

Delegate Edith J. Patterson (D)

Delegate Dalya Attar (D)

Delegate Jared Solomon (D)

Delegate Jim Hinebaugh, Jr. (R)

Delegate Todd B. Morgan (R)

Delegate Andrew C. Pruski (D)

Delegate Karen Simpson (D)

Delegate Chao Wu (D)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judiciary (House)

Date: February 1, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 100, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Requiring a certain commitment unit to include in a notification given to a victim, victim's representative, or witness regarding the release from confinement of a sentenced defendant or child respondent the name and telephone number of the lead victim services employee of the State's Attorney's office of the county in which the sentenced defendant or child respondent was prosecuted.

Cross-filed Bill: SB4

MD - HB125 Courts Military Records Recordation and Inspection

Last Action: Hearing 1/24 at 1:00 p.m. (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Mike Rogers (D)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judiciary (House)

Date: January 24, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 100, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering certain provisions of law relating to the recordation and inspection of certain military records kept by the clerk of a circuit court.

Cross-filed Bill: SB159

MD - HB134 Juvenile Law - Juvenile Court Jurisdiction - Age of Child

Last Action: Text - First - Juvenile Law - Juvenile Court Jurisdiction - Age of Child (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Nino Mangione (R)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Summary:

Altering the age, from 13 years old to 11 years old, at which a certain child is subject to the exclusive original jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

MD - HB141 Criminal Procedure - Child Abuse Victim - Testimony Taken Outside the Courtroom

Last Action: Hearing 1/25 at 1:00 p.m. (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Jesse T. Pippy (R)

Cosponsor: Delegate Karen Simpson (D)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judiciary (House)

Date: January 25, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 100, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Establishing a rebuttable presumption that the testimony of a certain child victim who is under the age of 13 years be taken outside the courtroom and shown in the courtroom by closed circuit television; establishing a way for the defendant or child respondent to overcome the rebuttable presumption; and applying a certain provision of law authorizing a court to order a certain child victim to give testimony outside the courtroom to be shown in the courtroom by closed circuit television to children who are at least 13 years old.

[MD - HB158 Courts - Prohibited Indemnity and Defense Liability Agreements](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/31 at 1:00 p.m. (January 16, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Jon S. Cardin (D)

Cosponsors:

Delegate Aaron M. Kaufman (D)

Delegate Cheryl E. Pasteur (D)

Delegate Kym Taylor (D)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judiciary (House)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 100, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Prohibiting a provision in a contract or agreement relating to architectural, engineering, inspecting, or surveying services that requires the promisor to defend a promisee against claims brought by a third party.

Cross-filed Bill: SB31

[MD - HB181 Failure to Pay Rent Proceedings - Prohibition on Rent Increases and Shielding of Court Records](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Failure to Pay Rent Proceedings - Prohibition on Rent Increases and Shielding of Court Records (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Terri L. Hill (D)

Cosponsors:

Delegate Jen Terrasa (D)

Delegate Sheila Ruth (D)

Committees:

Judiciary (House)

Environment and Transportation (House)

Summary:

Prohibiting a landlord from increasing a tenant's rent because a judgment was entered against the tenant in a failure to pay rent action; requiring the District Court to shield all court records within 60 days after the final resolution of a failure to pay rent proceeding under certain circumstances; requiring the District Court to shield all court records relating to a failure to pay rent proceeding, on motion by a tenant, under certain circumstances; requiring the Maryland Judiciary to publish a certain form; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB19

MD - HB214 Family Law Adoption of an Adult

Last Action: Hearing 1/25 at 1:00 p.m. (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Regina T. Boyce (D)

Cosponsor: Delegate Robin L. Grammer, Jr. (R)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judiciary (House)

Date: January 25, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 100, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Establishing that certain provisions of law requiring the issuance and service of a show-cause order on a prospective adoptee's parents do not apply if the prospective adoptee is an adult; authorizing a court to order, for good cause shown, certain investigations before ruling on certain adoption petitions involving a prospective adoptee who is an adult; and establishing that parental consent to an adoption is not required if the prospective adoptee is an adult.

MD - HB257 Election Law - Affiliating With a Party and Voting - Unaffiliated Voters

Last Action: Hearing 2/06 at 1:00 p.m. (January 17, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Lily Qi (D)

Committee: Ways and Means (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Ways and Means (House)

Date: February 6, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 130, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing unaffiliated voters to request to affiliate with a political party at an early voting center during a primary election and vote a provisional ballot for the voter's preferred political party.

Cross-filed Bill: SB99

MD - HB259 [District Court - Traffic Cases - Surcharges](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/31 at 1:00 p.m. (January 16, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Mark S. Chang (D)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judiciary (House)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 100, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Increasing from \$7.50 to \$9.50 the surcharge the District Court is required to add to any fine imposed in certain traffic cases.

MD - HB269 [Criminal Procedure - Disclosure of Expunged Records - Alterations](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Criminal Procedure - Disclosure of Expunged Records - Alterations (January 12, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Robin L. Grammer, Jr. (R)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Summary:

Clarifying that refusal by a person to disclose information about criminal charges that have been expunged may not be the sole reason for a unit, an official, or an employee of the State or political subdivision of the State to deny the person's application for a license, permit, registration, or governmental service or for an educational institution to expel or refuse to admit the person.

[MD - HB270 Criminal Procedure - Expungement - Failure to Obey a Court Order to Report to Confinement](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Criminal Procedure - Expungement - Failure to Obey a Court Order to Report to Confinement (January 12, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Robin L. Grammer, Jr. (R)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Summary:

Authorizing a person to file for a petition for expungement of a conviction of failure to obey a court order to report to a place of confinement.

[MD - HB300 Family Law - Marriage Ceremony - Designation of Deputy Clerk](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/01 at 1:00 p.m. (January 16, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Karen Toles (D)

Cosponsors:

Delegate Mary A. Lehman (D)

Delegate Adrian Boafo (D)

Delegate Elizabeth Embry (D)

Delegate Kevin M. Harris (D)

Delegate Cheryl E. Pasteur (D)

Delegate Kym Taylor (D)

Delegate Kent Roberson (D)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judiciary (House)

Date: February 1, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 100, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

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

Cross-filed Bill: SB136

[MD - HB311 Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/01 at 1:00 p.m. (January 16, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Karen Simpson (D)

Cosponsor: Delegate Kym Taylor (D)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judiciary (House)

Date: February 1, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 100, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

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

Cross-filed Bill: SB174

[MD - HB320 Criminal Procedure - Stops and Searches - Cannabis Odor and Admission of Evidence \(Drug-Free Roadways Act of 2024\)](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Criminal Procedure - Stops and Searches - Cannabis Odor and Admission of Evidence (Drug-Free Roadways Act of 2024) (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Jesse T. Pippy (R)

Cosponsors:

Delegate Mark N. Fisher (R)

Delegate Nicholaus R. Kipke (R)

Delegate Susan K. McComas (R)

Delegate Charles J. Otto (R)

Delegate Kathy Szeliga (R)

Delegate Steven J. Arentz (R)

Delegate Christopher T. Adams (R)

Delegate Jason C. Buckel (R)

Delegate Barrie S. Ciliberti (R)

Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist (R)

Delegate Kevin B. Hornberger (R)

Delegate Seth A. Howard (R)

Delegate Robert B. Long (R)

Delegate Ric Metzgar (R)

Delegate Matthew Morgan (R)

Delegate Teresa E. Reilly (R)

Delegate April Rose (R)
Delegate William J. Wivell (R)
Delegate Brian Chisholm (R)
Delegate Wayne A. Hartman (R)
Delegate Nino Mangione (R)
Delegate Jay A. Jacobs (R)
Delegate Mike Griffith (R)
Delegate Rachel Munoz (R)
Delegate Terry L. Baker (R)
Delegate Jim Hinebaugh, Jr. (R)
Delegate Thomas S. Hutchinson (R)
Delegate April Miller (R)
Delegate Todd B. Morgan (R)
Delegate Ryan Nawrocki (R)
Delegate Stuart Michael Schmidt, Jr. (R)
Delegate Joshua J. Stonko (R)
Delegate Chris Tomlinson (R)
Delegate William Valentine (R)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Summary:

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

Cross-filed Bill: SB396

MD - HB350 Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2025)

Last Action: Text - First - Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2025) (January 17, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Speaker

Committee: Appropriations (House)

Summary:

Making the proposed appropriations contained in the State Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in accordance with Article III, Section 52 of the Maryland Constitution; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB360

[MD - HB359](#) [Petition for Guardianship of the Property of Alleged Disabled Person - Stay of Civil Actions and Proceedings](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Petition for Guardianship of the Property of Alleged Disabled Person - Stay of Civil Actions and Proceedings (January 17, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Jeffrie E. Long, Jr. (D)

Cosponsors:

- Delegate Stephanie Smith (D)
- Delegate Marlon Amprey (D)
- Delegate Tiffany T. Alston (D)
- Delegate Elizabeth Embry (D)
- Delegate Kevin M. Harris (D)
- Delegate Cheryl E. Pasteur (D)
- Delegate Karen Simpson (D)
- Delegate Kym Taylor (D)
- Delegate Kent Roberson (D)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Summary:

Requiring an automatic stay of certain civil actions or proceedings on the filing of a petition for guardianship of the property of an alleged disabled person; and requiring, to effectuate service of process for certain civil actions against an alleged disabled person, the temporary or permanent guardian of the property of the disabled person to be served.

[MD - HB372](#) [Montgomery County and Prince George's County - Rent Court Workforce Solutions Pilot Program](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Montgomery County and Prince George's County - Rent Court Workforce Solutions Pilot Program (January 17, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Kevin M. Harris (D)

Cosponsor: Delegate Vaughn Stewart (D)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Summary:

Establishing the Rent Court Workforce Solutions Pilot Program in Montgomery County and Prince George's County to provide residential tenants who are facing eviction for a failure to pay rent with information on workforce development and employment opportunities; and requiring by January 1, 2026 and each January 1 thereafter, a designated organization to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the number of individuals that were connected to workforce development programs or employment opportunities through the Program.

Cross-filed Bill: SB354

MD - HB405 Family Law - Child Custody Evaluators - Qualifications and Training

Last Action: Text - First - Family Law - Child Custody Evaluators - Qualifications and Training
(January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Aaron M. Kaufman (D)

Cosponsors:

Delegate Bonnie Cullison (D)
Delegate Susan K. McComas (R)
Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg (D)
Delegate Dana Stein (D)
Delegate Eric Ebersole (D)
Delegate Robin L. Grammer, Jr. (R)
Delegate Terri L. Hill (D)
Delegate Jazz Lewis (D)
Delegate Lauren Arikan (R)
Delegate Julian Ivey (D)
Delegate Jared Solomon (D)
Delegate Veronica Turner (D)
Delegate Linda Foley (D)
Delegate Karen Toles (D)
Delegate Nick Allen (D)
Delegate Andre V. Johnson, Jr. (D)
Delegate Jeffrie E. Long, Jr. (D)
Delegate Cheryl E. Pasteur (D)
Delegate N. Scott Phillips (D)
Delegate Stuart Michael Schmidt, Jr. (R)
Delegate Gary Simmons (D)
Delegate Karen Simpson (D)
Delegate Deni Taveras (D)
Delegate Kym Taylor (D)
Delegate Jamila J. Woods (D)

Committee: Judiciary (House)

Summary:

Specifying certain qualifications and training necessary for an individual to be appointed or approved by a court as a custody evaluator; specifying that certain expert evidence is admissible in certain child custody and visitation proceedings under certain circumstances; and requiring a

court, in any action in which child support, custody, or visitation is at issue to provide information to the parties regarding the role, availability, and cost of a custody evaluator.

Cross-filed Bill: SB365

MD - SB4 Criminal Procedure - Victims' Rights - Notification of Release From Confinement (Jaycee Webster Victims' Rights Act)

Last Action: Hearing 2/01 at 1:00 p.m. (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Jeff Waldstreicher (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 1, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Requiring a certain commitment unit to include in a notification given to a victim, victim's representative, or witness regarding the release from confinement of a sentenced defendant or child respondent the name and telephone number of the lead victim services employee of the State's Attorney's office of the county in which the sentenced defendant or child respondent was prosecuted.

Cross-filed Bill: HB115

MD - SB11 Criminal Procedure - Partial Expungement

Last Action: Hearing 2/01 at 1:00 p.m. (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Jill P. Carter (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 1, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing a person to file a petition for partial expungement for a certain eligible offense even if another charge arising out of the same incident, transaction, or set of facts is not eligible for

expungement; requiring a court to make a certain order where partial expungement is impracticable; and repealing a provision of law prohibiting partial expungement.

MD - SB19 Failure to Pay Rent Proceedings - Prohibition on Rent Increases and Shielding of Court Records

Last Action: Hearing 1/30 at 1:00 p.m. (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Charles E. Sydnor, III (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: January 30, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Prohibiting a landlord from increasing a tenant's rent because a judgment was entered against the tenant in a failure to pay rent action; requiring the District Court to shield all court records within 60 days after the final resolution of a failure to pay rent proceeding under certain circumstances; requiring the District Court to shield all court records relating to a failure to pay rent proceeding, on motion by a tenant, under certain circumstances; requiring the Maryland Judiciary to publish a certain form; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: HB181

MD - SB23 OrphansCourt Judges Elections

Last Action: Text - First - OrphansCourt Judges Elections (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Chris West (R)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Summary:

Requiring that candidates for judge of the orphans' court appear on the ballot without party designation.

MD - SB31 Courts - Prohibited Indemnity and Defense Liability Agreements

Last Action: Hearing 2/08 at 1:00 p.m. (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Chris West (R)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 8, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Prohibiting a provision in a contract or agreement relating to architectural, engineering, inspecting, or surveying services that requires the promisor to defend a promisee against claims brought by a third party.

Cross-filed Bill: HB158

MD - SB34 Courts - Jury Service - Disqualification

Last Action: Hearing 1/23 at 3:00 p.m. (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Jill P. Carter (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: January 23, 2024

Time: 3:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Providing that a person who has been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment exceeding 1 year and is currently serving the sentence imposed for the conviction, including a term of parole or probation, or has been convicted of a crime involving or relating to perjury, witness intimidation, jury intimidation, or fraud or a related crime is not qualified for jury service.

MD - SB82 Baltimore City - Arrest Warrants for Violation of Probation - Time Frame

Last Action: Hearing 1/23 at 3:00 p.m. (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Cory V. McCray (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: January 23, 2024

Time: 3:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Requiring a circuit court or District Court judge sitting in Baltimore City to respond to a certain request for an arrest warrant within 7 days after receiving written charges, filed under oath, that a probationer or defendant violated a condition of probation.

[MD - SB89 Child Abuse and Neglect - Reports and Records - Disclosure](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/07 at 2:00 p.m. (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Mary-Dulany James (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 7, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Requiring a local director of a local department of social services or the Secretary of Human Services to disclose certain reports and records of child abuse and neglect within 30 days after receiving a request if certain conditions are met; requiring the Secretary to notify the State's Attorney's office of a request to disclose certain reports and records of child abuse and neglect; requiring the State's Attorney's office to be given 30 days during which the office is authorized to redact certain portions of the reports and records; etc.

[MD - SB99 Election Law - Affiliating with a Party and Voting - Unaffiliated Voters](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/30 at 1:00 p.m. (January 17, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Cheryl C. Kagan (D)

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 30, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing unaffiliated voters to request to affiliate with a political party at an early voting center during a primary election and vote a provisional ballot for the voter's preferred political party.

Cross-filed Bill: HB257

[MD - SB111 Criminal Procedure - Protection of Identity of Minor Victim](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/01 at 1:00 p.m. (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Charles E. Sydnor, III (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 1, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Requiring, with a certain exception, a party or nonparty making a certain filing in a criminal or juvenile delinquency case to redact certain identifying information relating to a minor victim that appears in the filing; and authorizing the Supreme Court of Maryland to adopt rules to require or authorize a person making a redacted filing under the Act to also file an unredacted copy under seal.

[MD - SB120 Juvenile Law - Custodial Interrogation - Parental Consultation](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/13 at 1:00 p.m. (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Ron Watson (D)

Cosponsors:

Senator Mary Beth Carozza (R)

Senator Chris West (R)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 13, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing a child to consult with the child's parent, guardian, or custodian instead of an attorney before a law enforcement officer may conduct a custodial interrogation of the child.

[MD - SB123 Criminal Procedure - Petition to Reduce Sentence](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/01 at 1:00 p.m. (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Jill P. Carter (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 1, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing an individual who is serving a term of confinement to petition a court to reduce the sentence if the individual has served at least 20 years of the individual's term of confinement and at least 3 years have passed since the court decided any petition previously filed by the individual for a reduced sentence; and establishing procedures for a proceeding under the Act.

[MD - SB136 Family Law - Marriage Ceremony - Designation of Deputy Clerk](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Family Law - Marriage Ceremony - Designation of Deputy Clerk (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Michael A. Jackson (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Summary:

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

Cross-filed Bill: HB300

[MD - SB139 Driver's Licenses - Suspension for Child Support Arrearages - Exception](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/07 at 2:00 p.m. (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Ron Watson (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 7, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Establishing a certain exception to the authority of the Child Support Administration to notify the Motor Vehicle Administration of an individual's child support arrearages for the purpose of suspending the individual's driver's license or privilege to drive if the obligor's income is at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines; and authorizing the Child Support Administration to consider certain information in determining the income of an obligor under the Act.

[MD - SB145 Criminal Procedure Petition to Modify or Reduce Sentence \(Maryland Second Look Act\)](#)

Last Action: Hearing canceled (January 17, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Joanne C. Benson (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 1, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing an individual serving a term of confinement to petition a court to modify or reduce the sentence under certain circumstances; providing that a certain petitioner is entitled to assistance of counsel and, if indigent, representation by the Office of the Public Defender; and authorizing a certain person to apply to the Appellate Court of Maryland for leave to appeal a certain order in a certain manner and within a certain period of time after the court passes a certain order in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

[MD - SB147 Real Property - Access to Counsel in Evictions Program - Mandated Reports](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/30 at 1:00 p.m. (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Chris West (R)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: January 30, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the information relating to the Access to Counsel in Eviction Program required to be reported by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation each year to include disaggregation by case type, the amount paid to attorneys for each case managed, the geographic distribution of cases, disposition of cases decided, amount of state and federal funds allocated to each designated organization, and the number of individuals provided legal representation for multiple cases.

[MD - SB174 Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/07 at 2:00 p.m. (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator C. Anthony Muse (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 7, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

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

Cross-filed Bill: HB311

MD - SB271 Election Law - Revisions

Last Action: Hearing 1/30 at 1:00 p.m. (January 17, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 30, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the information that clerks of the circuit court for each county and administrative clerks for each District Court are required to report to the State Administrator of Elections to include the names of persons convicted of a felony and currently serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment; requiring a public official responsible for the use of a public building requested by a local board of elections for an early voting center to make the building available to the local board in accordance with a certain provision of law; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: HB14

MD - SB327 Family Law - Child Custody - Determinations

Last Action: Hearing 2/13 at 1:00 p.m. (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Chris West (R)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 13, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing the court, in determining legal and physical custody in certain child custody proceedings, to consider certain factors; and authorizing the court to modify a child custody or visitation order if the court determines that there has been a material change in circumstances since the issuance of the order that relates to the needs of the child or the ability of the parents to meet those needs and that modifying the order is in the best interest of the child.

[**MD - SB354** Montgomery County and Prince George's County - Rent Court Workforce Solutions Pilot Program](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/14 at 1:00 p.m. (January 19, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Jeff Waldstreicher (D)

Cosponsor: Senator Michael A. Jackson (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 14, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Establishing the Rent Court Workforce Solutions Pilot Program in Montgomery County and Prince George's County to provide residential tenants who are facing eviction for a failure to pay rent with information on workforce development and employment opportunities; and requiring by January 1, 2026 and each January 1 thereafter, a designated organization to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the number of individuals that were connected to workforce development programs or employment opportunities through the Program.

Cross-filed Bill: HB372

[**MD - SB365** Family Law - Child Custody Evaluators - Qualifications and Training](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/08 at 1:00 p.m. (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Mary Beth Carozza (R)

Cosponsors:

Senator Jeff Waldstreicher (D)

Senator Chris West (R)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 8, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Specifying certain qualifications and training necessary for an individual to be appointed or approved by a court as a custody evaluator; and specifying that certain expert evidence is admissible in certain child custody and visitation proceedings under certain circumstances.

Cross-filed Bill: HB405

[MD - SB389 Criminal Procedure - Incarcerated Seniors - Motion to Reduce the Duration of a Sentence](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/02 at 1:00 p.m. (January 19, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Chris West (R)

Cosponsors:

Senator Mary Beth Carozza (R)

Senator Shelly Hettleman (D)

Senator Ariana B. Kelly (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 2, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing an individual who is at least 60 years old and has been imprisoned for at least 20 years to file a motion to reduce the duration of the individual's sentence; requiring the court to conduct a hearing on a motion to reduce the duration of a sentence, unless the court has held a hearing on a similar motion in the preceding 5 years; and requiring a court to consider certain factors in determining whether to grant a motion to reduce the duration of a sentence and to issue its decision in writing or on the record in open court.

[MD - SB396 Criminal Procedure - Stops and Searches - Cannabis Odor and Admission of Evidence \(Drug-Free Roadways Act of 2024\)](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/02 at 1:00 p.m. (January 19, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator William G. Folden (R)

Cosponsors:

Senator Stephen S. Hershey, Jr. (R)

Senator Bryan W. Simonaire (R)

Senator Justin Ready (R)

Senator Johnny Ray Salling (R)

Senator Jack Bailey (R)

Senator Mary Beth Carozza (R)

Senator Chris West (R)

Senator Johnny Mautz (R)

Senator Mike McKay (R)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 2, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

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

Cross-filed Bill: HB320