



MSBA Bill Report 2A - State Government and Administrative Law (2024.01.24)

January 23, 2024

MD - HB136 Employment Standards, Prevailing Wage, and Living Wage - Employer Adverse Actions - Prohibition

Last Action: Hearing 1/24 at 1:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Economic Matters Committee

Committee: Economic Matters (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Economic Matters (House)

Date: January 24, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 230, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Prohibiting employers from taking or threatening to take adverse action against an employee because the employee takes certain actions regarding rights and responsibilities, complaints, investigations, proceedings, or hearings under certain provisions of law; and authorizing the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to investigate a violation of the Act on the Commissioner's own initiative or on receipt of a written complaint.

Cross-filed Bill: SB233

MD - HB409 Public Utilities - Street Lighting Equipment - Acquisitions and Reporting (County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act)

Last Action: Text - First - Public Utilities - Street Lighting Equipment - Acquisitions and Reporting (County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act) (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Aaron M. Kaufman (D)

Committee: Economic Matters (House)

Summary:

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; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB37

MD - HB412 General Assembly Special Election to Fill a Vacancy in Office

Last Action: Hearing 2/06 at 1:00 p.m. (January 22, 2024)

Administrative Law (2024.01.24)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Linda Foley (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:

Proposing a constitutional amendment to require that a special election be held at the same time as the regular statewide primary and general elections that are held in the second year of the term to fill a vacancy in the office of Delegate or Senator in the General Assembly if the vacancy occurs on or before the date that is 55 days before the deadline for filing certificates of candidacy for the regular statewide election; and requiring the amendment to be submitted to the qualified voters of the State for adoption or rejection.

[MD - HB418 Grant Applications and Reporting - Maryland Efficient Grant Application Council - Alterations](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/06 at 1:00 p.m. (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Dana Stein (D)

Committee: Health and Government Operations (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Health and Government Operations (House)

Date: February 6, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 240, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the composition of the Maryland Efficient Grant Application Council by adding the Comptroller or a designee and the Legislative Auditor or a designee; requiring the Council to study and make recommendations to the Governor's Grants Office and the Department of Budget and Management regarding the creation of a State Grants Ombudsperson by July 1, 2025; altering certain reporting requirements; and extending the termination date of the Council to June 30, 2028.

Cross-filed Bill: SB459

Statutes Amended:

2020 Article - Chapter of the Acts

2-209,

2-210 Article - State Finance and Procurement

MD - HB423 Montgomery County Voting Methods MC 24

Last Action: Hearing 2/06 at 1:00 p.m. (January 22, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Montgomery County Delegation

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 the Montgomery County Council to adopt, by law, a ranked choice voting method or an approval voting method for elections for certain local offices; and authorizing the Montgomery County Council to provide for the format of ballots to be used in an election conducted by ranked choice voting or approval voting.

MD - HB431 Department of Veterans Affairs - Renaming and Deputy Secretary of Military Family Policy and Programs

Last Action: Hearing 2/06 at 1:00 p.m. (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Andrew C. Pruski (D)

Committee: Health and Government Operations (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Health and Government Operations (House)

Date: February 6, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 240, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Renaming the Department of Veterans Affairs to be the Department of Veterans and Military Families; renaming the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to be the Secretary of Veterans and Military Families; requiring the Secretary to appoint a Deputy Secretary of Military Family Policy and Programs; and providing that the Department of Veterans and Military Families is the successor of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Cross-filed Bill: SB411

[MD - HB436 Election Law - Voter Registration - Age and Notification to Minors](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Election Law - Voter Registration - Age and Notification to Minors (January 23, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Kris Fair (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:

Altering, from 16 years old to 15 years and 9 months old, the age at which an individual may register to vote; requiring that a voter notification card sent to an individual under the age of 18 years include information regarding when the individual will be eligible to vote; and requiring the election director in the county where a registered voter under the age of 18 years becomes eligible to vote to send a notice that the voter is eligible to vote and information on the voting methods and locations available to the voter.

Statutes Amended:

3-102,

3-301 Article - Election Law

[MD - HB459 Election Administration State Administrator, Local Boards, and Election Directors](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Election Administration State Administrator, Local Boards, and Election Directors (January 23, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Dana Jones (D)

Committee: Ways and Means (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Ways and Means (House)

Date: February 13, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

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

Summary:

Requiring the State Board of Elections to evaluate the performance of the State Administrator of Elections; requiring the State Administrator to provide a performance evaluation of the election director of each local board of elections to the local board; requiring each local board to confer

Administrative Law (2024.01.24)

with the State Administrator in appointing an election director, maintain a warehouse, and provide for early voting center expenses; requiring, rather than authorizing, election directors to take certain actions; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB417

Statutes Amended:

2-102,

2-103,

2-202,

2-203,

2-206 Article - Election Law

MD - HB465 Workplace Fraud and Prevailing Wage - Violations - Penalties and Referrals

Last Action: Text - First - Workplace Fraud and Prevailing Wage - Violations - Penalties and Referrals (January 22, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Adrian Boafu (D)

Committee: Economic Matters (House)

Summary:

Establishing certain criminal penalties for employers knowingly failing to properly classify individuals as employees and contractors and subcontractors knowingly violating State prevailing wage laws; and requiring the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to refer to the Comptroller, certain State's Attorneys, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the U.S. Department of the Treasury certain complaints that allege a violation of certain tax laws under certain circumstances.

Cross-filed Bill: SB436

Statutes Amended:

17-227 Article - State Finance and Procurement

3-909,

3-910 Article - Labor and Employment

MD - SB37 Public Utilities - Street Lighting Equipment - Acquisitions and Reporting (County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act)

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

Primary Sponsor: Senator Jeff Waldstreicher (D)

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

Scheduled Hearing:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: February 1, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

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

Summary:

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; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: HB409

[MD - SB233 Employment Standards, Prevailing Wage, and Living Wage - Employer Adverse Actions - Prohibition](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/01 at 1:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Finance Committee

Committee: Finance (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Finance (Senate)

Date: February 1, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 3, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Prohibiting employers from taking or threatening to take adverse action against an employee because the employee takes certain actions regarding rights and responsibilities, complaints, investigations, proceedings, or hearings under certain provisions of law; and authorizing the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to investigate a violation of the Act on the Commissioner's own initiative or on receipt of a written complaint.

Cross-filed Bill: HB136

[MD - SB411 Department of Veterans Affairs - Renaming and Deputy Secretary of Military Family Policy and Programs](#)

Administrative Law (2024.01.24)

Last Action: Text - First - Department of Veterans Affairs - Renaming and Deputy Secretary of Military Family Policy and Programs (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Dawn Gile (D)

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

Summary:

Renaming the Department of Veterans Affairs to be the Department of Veterans and Military Families; renaming the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to be the Secretary of Veterans and Military Families; requiring the Secretary to appoint a Deputy Secretary of Military Family Policy and Programs; and providing that the Department of Veterans and Military Families is the successor of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Cross-filed Bill: HB431

MD - SB413 Discrimination - Military Status - Prohibition

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

Primary Sponsor: Senator Dawn Gile (D)

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 discrimination based on military status with regard to public accommodation, housing, employment, financial transactions, education, insurance, the provision of public utility services, and State personnel actions.

Statutes Amended:

12-305,

12-503,

12-603,

12-702,

12-704 Article - Commercial Law

13-303,

2-206,

26-701,

26-703,

26-704 Article - Education

15-1A-22,

2-202 Article - Insurance

17-402,

17-402.1,

7-507 Article - Public Utilities

19-342,

19-355,

2-1001,

2-1002,

2-1003,

2-1004 Article - Health - General

20-101,

20-1103,

20-302,

20-304,

20-401,

20-402,

20-501,

20-601,

20-602,

20-603,

20-604,

20-605,

20-606,

20-610,

20-702,

20-704,

20-705,

20-707 Article - State Government

2-302 Article - State Personnel and Pensions

8-707 Article - Human Services

[MD - SB417 Election Administration - State Administrator, Local Boards, and Election Directors](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Election Administration - State Administrator, Local Boards, and Election Directors (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Antonio Hayes (D)

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

Summary:

Requiring the State Board of Elections to evaluate the performance of the State Administrator of Elections; requiring the State Administrator to provide a performance evaluation of the election director of each local board of elections to the local board; requiring each local board to confer with the State Administrator in appointing an election director, maintain a warehouse, and provide for early voting center expenses; requiring, rather than authorizing, election directors to take certain actions; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: HB459

Statutes Amended:

2-102,

2-103,

2-202,

2-203,

2-206 Article - Election Law

MD - SB423 Real Property - Recordation - Procedures

Last Action: Text - First - Real Property - Recordation - Procedures (January 19, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Mary-Dulany James (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Summary:

Requiring a county treasurer, tax collector, or director of finance to provide a certificate enumerating certain taxes, assessments, and charges against a property and to establish certain procedures to facilitate the issuance of a certificate; requiring a collecting agent presented with a certificate to endorse a deed and establishing that this endorsement is sufficient authority for a transfer on the assessment books; authorizing a county or municipality to collect a fee of up to \$55 for the issuance of a certain certificate; etc.

Statutes Amended:

3-104,

3-703 Article - Real Property

MD - SB431 Workers' Compensation - Occupational Disease Presumption - Long COVID (Home of the Brave Act of 2024)

Last Action: Text - First - Workers' Compensation - Occupational Disease Presumption - Long COVID (Home of the Brave Act of 2024) (January 19, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Jeff Waldstreicher (D)

Committee: Finance (Senate)

Summary:

Establishing that governmental essential workers are presumed to have an occupational disease that is compensable under workers' compensation law after being diagnosed with long COVID under certain circumstances; and applying the Act retroactively.

MD - SB436 Workplace Fraud and Prevailing Wage - Violations - Penalties and Referrals

Last Action: Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m. (January 22, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Dawn Gile (D)

Committee: Finance (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Finance (Senate)

Date: February 15, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 3, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Establishing certain criminal penalties for employers knowingly failing to properly classify individuals as employees and contractors and subcontractors knowingly violating State prevailing wage laws; and requiring the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to refer to the Comptroller, certain State's Attorneys, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the U.S. Department of the Treasury certain complaints that allege a violation of certain tax laws under certain circumstances.

Cross-filed Bill: HB465

MD - SB446 Local Government - Condominium and Homeowners Associations - Repair and Rehabilitation Funds

Last Action: Text - First - Local Government - Condominium and Homeowners Associations - Repair and Rehabilitation Funds (January 22, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator C. Anthony Muse (D)

Committee: Budget and Taxation (Senate)

Summary:

Authorizing a county or a municipality to establish a certain fund for the purpose of providing support for the repair of infrastructure in a community subject to a condominium association or a homeowners association; and requiring that certain property tax revenues be assigned to a fund created under the Act.

Cross-filed Bill: HB280

Statutes Amended:

1-1319 Article - Local Government

[MD - SB453 Mental Health - Emergency Evaluation and Involuntary Admission Procedures and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Mental Health - Emergency Evaluation and Involuntary Admission Procedures and Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs (January 22, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: President

Committee: Finance (Senate)

Summary:

Requiring a peace officer, when the peace officer receives a petition for emergency evaluation for an individual, to transport the emergency evaluatee to a nearby emergency facility, rather than the nearest emergency facility; authorizing a psychiatric nurse practitioner to evaluate an emergency evaluatee for purposes of involuntary admission; requiring each county to establish an assisted outpatient treatment program; etc.

[MD - SB458 Campaign Finance - Political Organizations - Prohibitions and Disclosures](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Campaign Finance - Political Organizations - Prohibitions and Disclosures (January 22, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Cheryl C. Kagan (D)

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

Summary:

Prohibiting certain political organizations from fraudulently claiming to be acting on behalf of a candidate or political party; prohibiting certain political organizations from making expenditures or disbursements to an entity owned or controlled by certain individuals; prohibiting certain political organizations from employing certain individuals or allowing certain individuals to volunteer on behalf of the political organization; requiring certain political organizations to make certain disclosures; etc.

Statutes Amended:

1-101,

13-223 Article - Election Law

[MD - SB459 Grant Applications and Reporting - Maryland Efficient Grant Application Council - Alterations](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Grant Applications and Reporting - Maryland Efficient Grant Application Council - Alterations (January 22, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Cheryl C. Kagan (D)

Committee: Budget and Taxation (Senate)

Summary:

Altering the composition of the Maryland Efficient Grant Application Council by adding the Comptroller or a designee and the Legislative Auditor or a designee; requiring the Council to study and make recommendations to the Governor's Grants Office and the Department of Budget and Management regarding the creation of a State Grants Ombudsperson by July 1, 2025; altering certain reporting requirements; and extending the termination date of the Council to June 30, 2028.

Cross-filed Bill: HB418

Statutes Amended:

2020 Article - Chapter of the Acts
2-209,

2-210 Article - State Finance and Procurement

MD - SB469 Maryland Cannabis Administration Cannabis Licensing Protests of Renewal

Last Action: Text - First - Maryland Cannabis Administration Cannabis Licensing Protests of Renewal (January 22, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Cory V. McCray (D)

Committee: Finance (Senate)

Summary:

Authorizing certain individuals who are residents, commercial tenants who are not holders of or applicants for a license, or real estate owners, and who are located within 1,000 feet of the licensed premises to file a protest with the Maryland Cannabis Administration against the renewal of a cannabis license; providing that a protest against a license renewal may be filed with the Administration by at least 10 individuals; and establishing standards and requirements for the Administration's consideration of a protest filed under the Act.

Statutes Amended:

36-411 Article - Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

MD - SB472 State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)

Last Action: First Reading Education, Energy, and the Environment (January 22, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: President

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

Summary:

Requiring certain departments and independent units to create a certain catalog of information relating to permits, licenses, and certificates issued by the department or independent unit and submit

the catalog to the Governor on or before September 1, 2024; requiring certain departments and independent units to post certain information relating to permits, licenses, and certificates on the website of the department or independent unit on or before December 1, 2024; establishing the Government Efficiency Commission; etc.

Statutes Amended:

8-506, 9-3801, 9-3802 Article - State Government

MD - SB475 Center for Firearm Violence Prevention - Establishment

Last Action: First Reading Finance (January 22, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: President

Committee: Finance (Senate)

Summary:

Establishing the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention in the Maryland Department of Health to reduce firearm violence, harm from firearm violence, and misuse of firearms in the State by partnering with federal, State, and local agencies and affected communities to implement a public health approach to firearm violence reduction; requiring the Center, by May 1, 2025, to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a preliminary State Plan for a Public Health Approach to Reducing Firearm Violence; etc.

Statutes Amended:

13-5201 through 13-5205 Article - Health - General

MD - SB476 Workers' Compensation - Occupational Disease Presumptions - First Responders (Caring for Public Employees in the Safety Professions - CAPES Act)

Last Action: First Reading Finance (January 22, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: President

Committee: Finance (Senate)

Summary:

Providing that certain firefighters, fire fighting instructors, rescue squad members, advanced life support unit members, and members of the Office of the State Fire Marshal who have thyroid, colon, or ovarian cancer are presumed, under certain circumstances, to have an occupational disease that was suffered in the line of duty and is compensable under workers' compensation law.

Statutes Amended:

9-503 Article - Labor and Employment

MD - SB477 Time to Serve Act of 2024

Last Action: First Reading Budget and Taxation (January 22, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: President

Committee: Budget and Taxation (Senate)

Summary:

Increasing, from 15 to 30, the maximum number of days of disaster service leave for employees in the Executive Branch of State government; and increasing, from 15 to 30, the maximum number of days of paid leave the Secretary of Budget and Management may provide for uniformed services training or active uniformed services duty in a reserve unit of the armed forces or organized militia.

Statutes Amended:

9-1102,

9-1104 Article - State Personnel and Pensions

MD - SB480 Protecting Election Officials Act of 2024

Last Action: First Reading Education, Energy, and the Environment (January 22, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: President

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

Summary:

Prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully making a threat to harm an election official or an immediate family member of an election official because of the election official's role in administering the election process; and establishing that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or both.

Statutes Amended:

16-904 Article - Election Law

MD - SB482 Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

Last Action: First Reading Education, Energy, and the Environment and Budget and Taxation (January 22, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: President

Committees:

Budget and Taxation (Senate)

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Summary:

Establishing the Governor's Office for Children and the Special Secretary of the Governor's Office for Children as the head of the Office; requiring the Special Secretary to establish the ENOUGH grant program, subject to certain requirements; requiring the Office to assign certain staff for a certain purpose; establishing certain reporting and evaluation requirements; establishing the ENOUGH Grant

Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; requiring the Governor to appropriate \$15,000,000 to the fund for fiscal year 2026; etc.

Statutes Amended:

190., 6-226 Article - State Finance and Procurement
9-2801 through 9-2805 Article - State Government

MD - SB485 Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications

Last Action: First Reading Finance (January 23, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Antonio Hayes (D)

Committee: Finance (Senate)

Summary:

Modifying provisions of law governing application, administration, and enforcement of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, including provisions related to the payment of contributions, the calculation of the average weekly wage, the submission of claims for benefits, the application of the Program to self-employed individuals, the satisfaction of Program requirements through private employer plans or insurance, and the use of contributions or other funding by the Secretary of Labor.

Statutes Amended:

8.3-101,
8.3-102,
8.3-201,
8.3-302,
8.3-403,
8.3-601,
8.3-701,
8.3-703,
8.3-705,
8.3-903,
8.3-905,
8.3-906 Article - Labor and Employment