



REPORT FROM STATE CIRCLE

Published by the League of Women Voters of Maryland, Inc.

121 Cathedral Street, Suite 2B, Annapolis MD 21401

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February 23, 2020

Issue No. 3

Maryland General Assembly website: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>

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ELECTIONS

HB 859 Election Law – Absentee Ballot Requests, Delivery, and Marking

(Washington plus four) would limit the internet and fax delivery of absentee ballots. Currently, any Maryland voter may apply for an absentee ballot and may request that the ballot be delivered by mail, fax, or by internet delivery. This bill would limit the use of fax and internet delivery, permitting it only for voters covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, voters with disabilities, and “any other voter who would be unable to vote if the voter could not receive an absentee ballot electronically Hrg. 2/18, 1 pm, W&M.

HB 873 Election Law – Party and Public Offices – Prohibitions (Boyce plus 13) would prohibit a person from holding, or being a candidate for, both a party office and a public office. Under current law, a person may be a candidate for a party office and a public office, unless party rules prohibit such dual candidacy. Hrg. 2/18, 1pm W&M

HB 1094 Election Law - Early Voting Centers - Hours of Operation (Washington, W. Fisher) would require that Early Voting Centers open at 8am in both presidential and gubernatorial elections. Under current law, Early Voting Centers open at 8am during presidential elections and at 10am during gubernatorial elections. Hrg. 2/27, 1pm W&M.

SB 408/HB 426 Department of Legislative Services – Voting by Mail – Study (Kramer plus four/Mosby) would require a study of voting by mail. Maryland residents can currently vote by mail by using an absentee ballot. Some states (Oregon, Washington, Colorado, and Hawaii) use mail-in ballots rather than voting at polling places for all elections and some other states use mail-in ballots for specified elections. This bill directs the Department of Legislative Services, in consultation with the State Board of Elections and the Maryland Association of Election Officials, to study the administrative, technological, legal, security, and fiscal requirements to implement voting by mail and to make recommendations to the General Assembly by December 1, 2020. Hrgs. 2/20, 1pm EHE; 2/24 HRU

SB 648 Election Law - County Central Committees - Democratic Party Requirements (Lam) would repeal special provisions related to the Democratic Party and substitute a provision that the selection of central committee members will be governed by party rules and the bylaws of the state and county parties. Hrg. 2/20, 1pm EHE

SB 666 Election Law – Time Off For Employee Voting (Lee) would expand the availability of time off for voting. Maryland employers are required to allow an employee who claims to be registered to vote in Maryland up to two hours paid leave on election day to vote, provided that the voter submits proof on a form prescribed by the State Board of Elections. SB 666 would expand the requirement to apply to employees who are registered in other states and, by repealing the reference to election day, would apply to early voting as well as election day. Hrg. 2/20, 1pm EHE

[SB 757](#) Election Law – Voting Systems – Accessibility for Voters With Disabilities (Lam plus seven) would require that all voters use the same type of ballot. Maryland currently uses paper ballots that are then scanned for counting. In addition, at least one ballot marking device must be provided in each precinct so that voters with disabilities (and other voters who choose to use it) can use a touch-screen that can increase the size or color contrast or play an audio recording of the text of the ballot. The machine prints the voter's choices on a card that is scanned, but the card is smaller than the standard ballot used by most voters. This has raised concerns that the privacy of ballots is compromised for disabled voters. SB 757 would require that all voters use the same ballot marking device for casting their ballots. Hrg. 3/5, 1pm EHE

[SB 800](#) Election Law - Casting General Election Ballot in Multiple Locations - Prohibition (Ready) would make it a crime to cast a ballot in a general election in more than one location. Maryland law already prohibits a person from voting or attempting to vote more than once in the same election or to vote in more than one election district or precinct. Hrg. 3/5, 1pm EHE.

[SB 936](#) Election Administration – Duties of State Administrator, Local Boards of Elections, and Election Directors and Cybersecurity Requirements (Hayes, Ellis, Kagan) sets new requirements to guard against hacking of election systems. Maryland elections are administered by the State Board of Elections with a State Administrator of Elections and local Boards of Elections with local administrators under laws assigning specific responsibilities to each. SB 936 would grant the State Administrator of Elections the power to supervise local administrators to ensure compliance with state laws and regulations and require the Administrator to instruct local boards regarding cybersecurity measures protecting the statewide voter registration list. Hrg 2/20, 1pm EHE

Update on bills previously reported in RSC:

[HB 197](#) Election Law - Qualification of Voters - Proof of Identity ([RSC 1](#))
Unfavorable report by W&M on 2/14.

[HB 245/SB 647](#) Election Law - Institutions of Higher Education - Voter Registration and Voting by Students (Student Voter Empowerment Act of 2020)
(Lam, Patterson, Rosapepe) ([RSC 2](#)) Cross-file of HB 245. Hrg. 2/20, 1pm EHE

[SB 10](#) General Assembly – Special Election to Fill a Vacancy in Office ([RSC 1](#))
Passed Senate 44-0 on 1/29

[SB 22/HB 1107](#) Election Law - Polling Places at Continuing Care Retirement Communities ([RSC 1](#)) House version (Mangione plus six) filed 2/6. Unfavorable report by EHE on 2/10. Hrg. 3/3, 1pm W&M

[SB 33/HB 881](#) Election Law - Voting by Absentee Ballot - Prepaid Postage for Return of Ballots (Smith plus 16) ([RSC 1](#)) Passed Senate 33-13 on 2/5. HB 881 was introduced on 2/3. Hrg. 2/18, 1pm W&M

SB 56 Election Law - Petitions and Ballot Questions - Plain Language

Requirement ([RSC 1](#)) Reported favorably with amendments by EHE on 2/10. Passed Senate 45-0 on 2/13.

SB 89 State Board of Elections - Certification of Voting Systems - Standards ([RSC](#)

1) Reported favorably by EHE on 2/10. Referred to B&T on 2/11.

SB 145 Election Law - References to Absentee Voting in Communications - Mail-In Voting ([RSC -1](#)).

Reported favorably with amendments by EHE on 2/10. Passed Senate 45-0 on 2/14.

SB 372 Election Law - Correctional Facilities - Voter Registration and Voting ([RSC](#)

2). Hrg. 3/5, 1pm EHE

SB 390 Election Law - Candidate Defeated in Primary Election - Write-In Candidacy in General Election Prohibited ([RSC 2](#))

Hrg. 2/20, 1pm EHE

SB 396 Election Law - Deadline for Selection of Lieutenant Governor ([RSC 2](#))

Hrg. 2/20, 1pm EHE

Ralph Watkins

CAMPAIGN FINANCE**HB 1125/SB 613 Public Financing Act – Candidate and Matching Fund Revisions**

(Maryland Fair Elections Act) (Feldmark plus 24/ Pinsky plus six) There is currently a voluntary public finance program for gubernatorial candidates. It has been used by 3 candidates in the last 2 gubernatorial elections. This legislation expands that program by extending it to candidates for Comptroller and Attorney General. It also incentivizes candidates to raise more funds from small donors than the current program, by making it more of a matching fund approach rather than a grant approach. Participating candidates can only accept donations of \$250 or less and cannot take checks from corporations. The legislation goes into great detail about the amount and type of donations that a candidate may receive to qualify for public money, how the contributions are to be reported, and penalties for failure to abide by the rules.

The bill does not identify a dedicated funding source. Rather, it requires the State Board of Elections to notify the Department of Budget and Management of the current Fair Elections Fund balance, at a specified time before an election, and the amount of money needed to provide for the public contributions as envisioned in this legislation.

The Governor must then include an appropriation in his budget to cover the cost of the matching funds. Hrgs. 2/27 W&M; 2/20 EHE

HB 1351/SB 947 Public Financing Act – State Senate and House of Delegates

Candidates and Matching Fund Revisions (Mosby plus two/Pinsky) is very similar to the legislation described above except that it applies to candidates for the General Assembly. Hrgs. 2/27 W&M; 2/20 EHE

[HB 1222](#) State Board of Elections – Campaign Finance Enforcement and Compliance – New State Positions (Wilkins) requires the Department of Budget and Management to create positions at the Maryland State Board of Elections to assist in the enforcement of campaign finance laws. Hrg. 3/3 W&M

Update on bills previously reported in RSC:

[HB 99](#) Election Law - Campaign Finance Entities – Termination (By Request – State Board of Elections) ([RSC 2](#)) received a favorable report from W&M and passed the House. It will now be sent to the Senate for a first reading.

Nancy Soreng

REDISTRICTING REFORM

[HB 1491](#) Congressional Districts – Standards (Anti-Gerrymandering of Maryland’s Congressional Districts) (Malone plus 64) calls for a state constitutional amendment defining standards for Congressional districts, i.e. districts that are compact, contiguous, and give due regard to natural boundaries and political subdivisions (like county lines). Hrg. 2pm, 3/2 HRU

[HB 1460](#) Congressional Districts – Standards (Anti-Gerrymandering of Maryland’s Congressional Districts) (Malone, et al) calls for the same standards application as HB 1491 above but would also apply anti-gerrymandering language that prohibits the consideration of individual voting records and which party an individual currently or previously belonged to. Hrg. 2pm, 3/2 HRU

[HB 1495](#) Legislative Districts – Standards (Malone plus 40) calls for an amendment to the Maryland Constitution restricting the criteria that may be used when drawing legislative districts; disallowing consideration of voter registration, voting history, and political party affiliation. Hrg. 3/2 2pm, HRU

[HB 958](#) Legislative Districts - Single-Member Delegate Districts (One Person One Vote Act) (Buckel et al.) calls for a constitutional amendment mandating that each legislative district to be divided into single-member districts. The law now allows for the division of senatorial districts into three single-member districts; one at large district with three delegates; or, two districts with one containing two delegates, and the other one delegate. Hrg. 3/2 2pm, HRU

[HB 818](#) Redistricting and Apportionment – Population Count – Citizenship Status (Wilkins, et al.) would make it illegal to exclude people from population count used in the redistricting process based on citizenship status. Hrg. 2pm 3/2 HRU

[HJ 06](#) Participation by Maryland Residents in the 2020 Census (Wilkins, et al) is a call for a resolution by the General Assembly to make every effort to ensure that every Maryland resident is counted in the 2020 Census; and, that the General Assembly urges residents to work with nonprofits, community leaders, and other trusted voices to ensure a complete Census count. Hrg. 2pm 3/2 HRU

Other

[HJ 08](#) United States of America – District of Columbia – Statehood (Acevero, et al) is a joint resolution to urge members of the United States Congress to enact legislation or propose a constitutional amendment that would grant statehood and legislative autonomy to the District of Columbia. If passed the resolution would be sent on to leaders in the federal government, our Maryland delegation to Congress, the leadership members of the General Assembly and the Governor, as well as the presiding officers of other state legislatures with a request for it to be shared with leaders in their legislative branches. Hrg. 2pm 3/2 HRU

Updates on bills previously reported in the RSC:

[SB 284](#)/HB 346 Elections - Legislative and Congressional Redistricting and Apportionment - Commission and Process (By Request - Administration et al./Administration et al.) ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2pm 3/2 HRU

[SB 266](#)/HB 341 Legislative and Congressional Redistricting and Apportionment (The President By Request - Administration et al./Administration et al.) ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2pm 3/2 HRU

[SB 967](#)/HB 1431 Legislative and Congressional Districts – Criteria and Open Hearing Process (Fair Maps Act) (Washington, et al/Wilkins, et al) ([RSC 2](#)) House Cross-file dropped, HB 1431. Hrgs. 1pm, 3/5 EHE; 2pm 3/2 HRU

[HB 182](#)/SB 204 Potomac Compact for Fair Representation ([RSC 1](#)) Hrg. 2pm, 3/2 HRU

Ashley Oleson

TRANSPARENCY

[HB 502](#)/SB 590 Public Information Act – Revisions (Lierman plus 12/ Kagan and Lam) builds on reforms to the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) that were made in 2015. Legislation passed that year created a MPIA Compliance Board and an Ombudsman program. This 2020 legislation would give the Compliance Board comprehensive jurisdiction to review and decide MPIA disputes that are not resolved through mediation with the Ombudsman. The bill also requires custodians of public information to adopt a policy of proactive records disclosure, and to annually track and report information about their MPIA requests and responses. The provisions in HB 502 and SB 590 are based on policy recommendations in the [Final Report on the Public Information Act](#) that was published in December of 2019 by the Public Information Act Compliance Board and Public Access Ombudsman. Hrgs. 2/11 HGO; 2/13 EHE

Nancy Soreng

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Judiciary

[SB 703/ HB 1402 Circuit Court Judges - Selection and Tenure](#) (Beidle plus 15/ Baron and Bartlett) This proposed Constitutional amendment is prefaced by a list of “whereas’s” indicating that the goal of this amendment is to increase the diversity of the Circuit Court bench and to enhance the probability that the members of the court reflect the demographics of the community that it serves.

It proposes that when a vacancy on the Circuit Court occurs, the Governor, with the advice and consent of a majority of the Senate, shall appoint a qualified individual to fill the vacancy. An appointee approved by at least 80 percent of the Senate shall hold the office for a term of 15 years, or until a successor is appointed or elected or the judge reaches the age of 70. If the appointee is approved by less than 80 percent of the Senate, that judge must be accepted or rejected by the voters in the general election following the judge’s first year in office.

If the Governor appoints a Judicial Nominating Commission to propose nominees for judges, the Commission shall reflect the demographic diversity of the state or the relevant judicial circuit. Hrgs. 3/4, 12pm JPR; 2/26, 1pm JUD

[HB 1038 Circuit Court Judges - Retention Election](#) (Wilson) provides for uncontested retention elections for appointed Circuit Court judges one year after appointment and every 15 years thereafter at regularly scheduled general elections. Appellate judges would face retention elections every 10 years. Hrg. 2/26, 1pm JUD

Sentencing

[SB 817/ HB 1219 Correctional Services - Parole - Life Imprisonment](#) (Waldstreicher plus 13/ Clippinger and Queen) An inmate who has been sentenced to life imprisonment for a crime committed on or after October 1, 2020, is not eligible for parole until the inmate has served 20 years (currently 15 years) or the equivalent of 20 years allowing for diminution credits. Repeals the current requirement that parole for an inmate serving a sentence of life imprisonment must be approved by the Governor. Hrgs. 3/5 12pm JPR; 3/3, 1pm JUD

Marlene Cohn

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

[HB 1090 Law Enforcement - Complaints and Investigations and Use of Force \(Anton’s Law\)](#) (Acevero plus 46) A police officer is justified in using force against a person if: there is reasonable reason to believe that the person committed a crime; the force is used to prevent the person’s escape from lawful custody; the force is used to prevent the commission of a crime; the police officer uses no more force than is reasonably necessary. A police officer is justified in using deadly force if: the police officer believes deadly force is necessary to protect the officer or another person from serious injury or death; the police officer’s actions are reasonable given the totality of

the circumstances. A police officer is not justified in using deadly force based solely on a belief that a person poses a risk to themselves.

A record of formal complaint of job-related misconduct made against a law enforcement officer is not a personnel record. The Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission shall develop a uniform citizen complaint process to be followed by each law enforcement agency. Hrg. 3/3, 1pm JUD

HB 1251 Criminal Procedure - Attorney General - Independent Investigation of Law Enforcement-Involved Death (Bartlett plus six) A prosecution against a police officer alleging criminal conduct resulting in a person's death during an encounter with the police officer, acting in the officer's professional capacity or while the deceased is in the custody of a law enforcement agency, shall be brought in a county other than the county in which the death occurred.

The Attorney General shall conduct an independent investigation of the death to determine if any police officer involved acted in a criminally culpable manner. The Attorney General shall submit a final report to the State's Attorney for the county in which the death occurred. If the State's Attorney fails to pursue a criminal prosecution against the police officer, the Attorney General's report shall be made public. Hrg. 3/3, 1pm JUD

Update on bills previously reported in RSC:

SB 454 Public Safety - Mandatory Mental Health Training - First Responders and Law Enforcement Officers (Pinsky) (RSC 2) Cross filed with HB 1470 Hrg. 3/10, 1pm JUD

Marlene Cohn

CORRECTIONS

HB 1197 Criminal Procedure - Pretrial Release - Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer (Police Protection Act) (Rose et. al.) A District Court Commissioner may not authorize the pretrial release of a defendant who is charged with assault against a law enforcement officer. However, a judge may authorize pretrial release of a defendant charged with such an offense either on suitable bail or on conditions to ensure that the defendant will not flee or pose a danger to others. Hrg. 2/21, 1pm JUD

HB 82/SB 679 Criminal Procedure - Pretrial Release - Reimbursement of Special Condition Costs (Moon plus five/ Washington) requires a county to reimburse a defendant for any costs incurred to satisfy special pretrial conditions, imposed by a court or District Commissioner, if the defendant is found not guilty of all charges. Hrgs. 1/28 1pm JUD; 3/10 12pm JPR

SB 971 Correctional Services - Diminution Credits - Educational Milestones (Carter) Award diminution credits equal to 60 - 90 days of reduced sentence time if an inmate completes a technical or vocational training program approved by the

Secretary of Labor and Commissioner of Corrections, or earns a high school diploma or an Associate or Bachelor's degree. Hrg. 3/5 12pm JPR

HB 812/SB 922 Correctional Services - Diminution Credits - Education (Wilkins plus nine/ Carter) Similar to SB 971, but specifies 90 days credit for each program completed and excludes inmates serving a sentence for sexual offense subject to registration. Hrgs. 2/25, 1pm JUD; 3/5, 12pm JPR

HB 742/SB 1002 Corrections - Restrictive Housing - Serious Mental Illness - Assessments (Restrictive Housing Reform Act) (J. Lewis plus 25/ Waldstreicher) "Serious Mental Illness" includes any condition that indicates a high level of mental health needs and impairment of an inmate's ability to function in a correctional facility. An inmate with serious mental illness may not be placed in restrictive housing unless there are limited circumstances where reasonable alternatives are not available and there is a threat of violence. An inmate with serious mental illness may not be placed in restrictive housing for more than 15 days and shall have daily physical and mental health assessments to determine if the inmate may be released from restrictive housing. Hrg. 2/25, 1pm JUD/SRU

HB 740/SB 999 Correctional Services - Restrictive Housing - Direct Release (J. Lewis plus 30/ Waldstreicher) More than 180 days before an inmate, who has been in restrictive housing (solitary confinement) is due to be released, the Commissioner of Corrections shall provide the inmate with a transitional process that includes information about available community resources. An inmate may not be placed in restrictive housing within 180 days of a release date unless there is clear and convincing evidence that the inmate poses a grave risk to others or to the security of the facility or is an immediate flight risk. Hrg. 2/25, 1pm JUD; SRU

HB 658 Local Correctional Facilities - Requirement for Prerelease Program (Haynes plus eight) requires the governing body of each county that receives State funding for Public Safety to establish a prerelease program for inmates in local correctional facilities. The program should provide inmates with rehabilitative services such as job training, drug treatment and mental health treatment. The inmate is expected to pay for any expenses incurred by participation in the program. Hrg. 2/18, 1pm JUD

SB 682/HB 608 Correctional Services - Prerelease Unit for Women - Requirement to Operate (Washington plus 19/ Crutchfield plus 61) requires, rather than authorizes, the operation of a separate prerelease unit for women where they would receive appropriate services before release from incarceration. Hrgs. 2/26, 12pm JPR; 2/18, 1pm JUD

SB 683/HB 828 Corrections - Women's Prerelease Unit - Requirements (Women's Prerelease Equity Act) (Washington plus 18/ Crutchfield plus 11) A prerelease unit for women would be a separate structure with services and security for women who are not at risk for violence or escape and have a satisfactory behavior record. The unit should

be in an area where the largest percentage of inmates will likely be released and the inmates will have access to the community. Inmates may be allowed to leave the unit on special or compassionate leave and to make personal or family visits. Hrgs. 2/26 12pm JPR; 2/25 1pm JUD

[SB 684](#)/HB 801 Correctional Services - Prerelease Unit for Women - Facilities and Services (Gender - Responsive Prerelease Act) (Washington plus 18/ Crutchfield plus 14) sets out the services and programs that should be provided at a prerelease unit for women. Hrgs. 2/26, 12pm; JPR; 2/25 1pm JUD

Update on bills previously reported in RSC:

[SB 68](#)/HB 49 Criminal Procedure - Pretrial Release - Pretrial Risk Assessment Instruments (Waldstreicher) ([RSC 2](#)) Passed Senate 46 -0 with amendments. Word "assessment" changed to "scoring". Complying jurisdictions eligible for grants.

[SB 513](#) Criminal Procedure - Conditions of Pretrial Release - Home Detention Monitoring (Waldstreicher) ([RSC 2](#)) Cross filed with HB 1377. Hrg. 3/10, 1pm JUD

Marlene Cohn

JUVENILE JUSTICE

[HB 834](#) Juvenile Law – Juvenile Court Jurisdiction – Attempted Carjacking (Malone plus 15) states that the Juvenile Court does not have jurisdiction over a child 16 or older alleged to have attempted carjacking or armed carjacking. Hrg. 2/20, 1pm JUD

[HB 933](#) Juvenile Offenders – Dual Sentencing (Wilson) provides that if a minor pleads guilty to an offense outside the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court, the court may in some circumstances impose both a juvenile disposition and an adult criminal sentence – and may suspend the adult sentence if the provisions of the juvenile disposition are successfully completed and no new adult offense is committed. Hrg 2/20, 1pm JUD

[HB 1004](#)/ SB 769 Department of Juvenile Services – Juvenile Strategic Reentry Program (Barron/Patterson) require the Secretary of Juvenile Services to establish a Juvenile Strategic Reentry Program and to have a reentry specialist meet with a child at least 45 days before the child's release from out-of-home placement to oversee the child's return to the community, including engaging the child's family in planning for return, connecting the child to educational and/or employment resources and health resources (if needed) to ensure continuity of care – and the reentry specialist shall follow up after the child's return to assess whether the child has accessed needed resources. Hrgs. 2/20, 1pm JUD; 3/03, 12pm JPR

[HB 1136](#) Department of Juvenile Services – Juvenile Strategic Reentry Program (Haynes plus nine) is similar to HB 1004 (above) Hrg. 3/5, 1pm JUD

HB 1323 Juvenile Services Education – Education Services and School Enrollment – Records (Haynes plus seven) requires the Department of Education and the Department of Juvenile Services, after consultation with the Education Coordinating Council for Juvenile Services Educational Program, to develop and implement a procedure to transfer a copy of the education records from the school in which the student is enrolled to the facility in which the student is placed within 7 days and a procedure for the reenrollment of a school aged child before the child is released from the custody of the Department of Juvenile Services. Hrg 3/4, 1pm JUD

HB 1437 Juveniles Convicted as Adults – Sentencing – Limitations and Reduction (Juvenile Restoration Act) (J. Lewis plus 12) authorizes a court, when sentencing a minor as an adult, to impose a sentence less than the minimum term required by law and prohibits a court from imposing a sentence of life without the possibility of parole or release. An individual convicted as an adult for an offense committed when the individual was a minor may file a motion to reduce the duration of the sentence; a court shall conduct a hearing on the motion and the individual shall be able to be present (in person or by video) and present evidence at the hearing. The bill also sets conditions for such a reduction. Hrg. 3/5 JUD

HB 1513/SB 798 Education – Juvenile Services Education System – Establishment, Powers and Duties (Luedtke plus seven/Kelley) repeals certain provisions regarding educational programs for juveniles in residential facilities, establishes a Juvenile Services Education System, establishes the Board of Education for the Juvenile Services Education System, and gives that board authority and responsibility for all functions related to juvenile services education programs. Hrgs 3/4, 1pm W&M; 2/18, 1pm EHE

Judy Morenoff

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

HB 820 Child Abuse and Neglect – Training of Health Care Professionals (McComas plus 12) requires the Department of Health to provide to boards that issue licenses or certification to health care professionals a list of recommended courses on the identification of and the obligation to report abuse and neglect. It requires such boards to post that information prominently on their websites and to provide it in connection with license renewal. Hrg. 2/20, 1pm JUD

HB 986/SB 662 State Child Welfare System – Reporting (Guyton plus seven/ Zucker and Kelley) requires the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education to include in their annual reports a lot of information about the health, safety, and educational progress of the children in the child welfare system. Hrgs. 2/25 1pm APP; 2/25 12pm JPR

HB 1103/ SB 924 Maryland Child Abduction Prevention Act (Cardin plus four/ Ready and Salling) authorizes the court in a custody or visitation proceeding to require a party to provide written notice of an intent to travel internationally with the child at least 90

days prior to the planned travel and to order child abduction prevention measures in custody proceedings. Hrgs. 3/5, 1pm JUD; 3/4, 12pm JPR

HB 1114 Child Custody and Visitation – Best Interest of the Child – Factors

(Charles plus ten) requires the court, in determining the allocation of custody and visitation, to consider the ability of each of the parties to meet the child’s developmental and day-to-day needs and the relationships between the child, the parties, siblings and other relatives, and other factors. Hrg. 2/27, 1pm JUD

HB 1204 County Boards and Public and Nonpublic Prekindergarten Programs and Schools – Discrimination – Prohibition

(Wilkins plus 18) extends to nonpublic prekindergarten programs and schools that receive state funds the prohibition against discriminating against a person because of race, ethnicity, color, religion, etc. However, pre-K programs that have, since their establishment, limited admission to students of only one sex may continue to do that. Hrg. 2/26, 1pm W&M

HB 1231/SB 949 Family Law – Authorization for a Minor to Marry

(Atterbeary plus 24/Elfreth plus 13) extends the jurisdiction of the equity court to include a petition for authorization of a minor who is 17 years old to marry, prohibit a minor less than 17 from marrying, and set requirements and procedures for such petitions. Hrgs. 2/20 1pm JUD; 3/4 12pm JPR

HB 1337 Family Law – Grandparent Visitation (Shoemaker plus 11) alters the circumstances under which an equity court may grant visitation rights to grandparents of a child by deleting “if the court finds it to be in the best interests of the child” and substituting “if both of the child’s living parents consent to visitation” unless one or both of the living parents are “unable to consent”. Hrg. 2/27, 1pm JUD

HB 1386/SB 1018 Child Care Centers – Employee Qualification – Requirements and Application Review

(Kelly/King) requires that regulations adopted by the State Board of Education to govern the licensing and operation of child care centers include provisions that establish qualifications for child care teachers and require each child care employee to complete training within 90 days of hiring and require the State Department of Education to review an individual’s qualifications for employment in a child care center within 14 days of receiving an application. Hrg. 3/4, 1pm W&M; SRU

HB 1550 Child Care Providers – Notice of Allegations of Child Abuse or Neglect

(Aiden’s Law) (Arikan) requires that a family child care provider (or another person selected by the State’s designee) shall provide notice to the parents or guardians of all children under the care of that child care provider within 24 hours of first having knowledge of a report of suspected child abuse or neglect that is alleged to have occurred on the premises – unless the local department or law enforcement agency advises that providing such notice would interfere with their ongoing investigation. Hrg. 3/5, 1pm JUD

[HB 1558/SB 818 Residential Treatment Centers and Facilities – Sexual Abuse and Harassment – Reporting and Prevention](#) (Valentino-Smith plus 11/Klausmeier) extends provisions of law regarding the reporting and prevention of abuse and harassment in State facilities to forensic residential centers and residential treatment centers for emotionally disturbed children and adolescents and require certain reports and the development and implementation of related policies and procedures. Hrgs. 3/10, 1pm JUD; 3/11 1pm FIN

[HB 1559 Child Care Scholarship Program – Alterations \(Child Care for Working Families Act\)](#) (Queen) changes the name of the Child Care Subsidy Program to the Child Care Scholarship Program. It provides that the Department of Education, in determining whether a child is eligible for subsidized childcare, shall consider family income and size – and sets family income eligibility levels rising from 250% of the Federal poverty level (7/1/21 -6/30/25) to 300% (7/1/25-6/30/26) to 350% (7/1/26-6/30/27) and 400% (7/1/27-6/30/28), after which all children would be eligible. It further provides that the Department may limit the amount of childcare subsidies based on the available resources and funding, and in case of a waiting list, sets priorities to be followed. Hrg. 3/10, 1pm APP

[SB 637 Children – Therapeutic Nursery Program – Funding](#) (King) establishes the Therapeutic Nursery Program to provide specialized childcare and early education to children who have delays in development, social or emotional functioning or physical disabilities and requires the governor to include funding for it in his budget beginning in FY 2022. Hrg. 2/19, 1pm B&T

[SB 680 Family Law – Emancipation](#) (Washington, et al) extends the jurisdiction of the equity court to include a petition for the emancipation of a minor, authorizes a minor to file that petition in the minor’s own name (and prohibits parents from doing so) sets conditions and requirements for the petition and requires the court to appoint an attorney to represent the petitioner. Hrg. 2/25, 1pm JPR

Update on bills previously reported in RSC:

[HB 250/SB 227 Family Law – Final Protective Order – Extension](#) (Atterbeary/Waldstreicher plus 4) ([RSC 1](#)) favorable reports with clarifying amendments by JUD and JPR

[HB 460 Department of Human Services – Child Abuse Prevention – Online Course](#) (Shetty plus 32) ([RSC 2](#)) favorable report by JUD

Judy Morenoff

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

[SB 230/ HB 590 Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense](#) ([RSC 1](#)), Favorable with Amendments Report by JPR

Deborah Mitchell

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

[HB 242/SB 206](#) Criminal Procedure—Criminal Procedure—Motion to Vacate Judgment—Human Trafficking (True Freedom Act of 2020) ([RSC 1](#)), First Reading JUD, First Reading JPR

Deborah Mitchell

IMMIGRATION

[SB 649](#)/HB 892 Public Information Act – Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA)– Warrant for Personal Information and Reporting (Lam et al/Stein et al) requires the confidentiality of Maryland Motor Vehicles records of a personal nature. United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is to be denied such information unless the custodian of records of MVA is provided a valid warrant or subpoena from a federal or Maryland state court. Hrgs. 2/27 ENT; 2/27 JPR

[SB 901](#) State and Local Government – Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement (Smith) is rather comprehensive in its instructions to and protections for state and local government employees with regard to their sharing with federal immigration authorities immigration information - disallowing them to do so - and provides for their immunity from criminal and civil liability for refusing to provide such information SB 901 provides some helpful information for non-US citizens. It assists educational and health facilities and courthouses with the creation of and publishing of policies for protecting the privacy of citizenship information from inquiries of federal immigration authorities. State and local officials and employees are to heed inquiries arising from subpoenas as a result of State or Federal Law, a lawful subpoena, etc. Hrg. 2/26 JPR

Carole Conors

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

[HB 331](#) /[SB 605](#) Public Schools – Medical Cannabis – Guidelines for Administration to Students (Connor’s Courage) (Lisanti and three/Feldman) requires the State Department of Education and the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission jointly to develop guidelines for public schools regarding the administration of medical cannabis to certain students during school hours and school-sponsored after-school activities. Hrgs. 2/19, 1pm HGO; 2/18, 1pm EHE

Update on bills previously reported in RSC:

[HB 03/SB 233](#) Flavored Tobacco Products – Prohibition (Davis/Augustine et al.) ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2/6, 1pm ECM, HGO; 2/13, 1pm B&T

[SB 54](#) Electronic Smoking Devices – Added Flavoring – Prohibition on Shipping, Import or Sale (Lam and Kelley) ([RSC 2](#)) withdrawn.

[SB 166](#) Drugs and Devices - Electronic Prescriptions - Controlled Dangerous Substances (Kelley) ([RSC 1](#)) Hrg. 2/20, 1pm FIN

[SB 218 /HB 705](#) Crimes Involving Controlled Dangerous Substances - Penalties – Methamphetamine (West/ Pippy et.al) ([RSC 1](#)) Hrg. 2/18, 1pm JUD

[HB 193](#) Criminal Law - Use or Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance - De Minimis Quantity (Cardin et.al.) ([RSC 1](#)) Hrg. 1/28, 1pm JUD

[HB 455/SB 334](#) Health Insurance - Coverage for Mental Health Benefits and Substance Use Disorder Benefits - Treatment Criteria (Kelly/Augustine and Hester) ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2/19, 1pm FIN; 2/20, 1pm HGO

[HB 512](#) Drugs and Devices – Electronic Prescriptions – Controlled Dangerous Substances (Barron, et.al.) ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg 2/18, 1pm HGO

Chris Hager

GUN SAFETY

[HB 910/SB 958](#) Criminal Law – Untraceable Firearms (Dumais, et al/Lee, et al) proposes a ban on “ghost guns.” Specifically, it prohibits a person from manufacturing, assembling, constructing possessing, selling, offering to sell, purchasing or using a 3-dimensional printer and distributing computer software to manufacture untraceable firearms. Hrgs. 2/26, 1pm JUD; 3/3 12pm JPR

[HB 914 /SB 674](#) Gun Theft Felony Act of 2020 (Beitzel, et al/Edwards) Currently, the theft of a gun is considered a misdemeanor under Maryland state law. This bill proposes to make the theft of a firearm a felony and increases the penalties according to the convictions. Hrgs. 3/4 1pm, JUD; 3/3 3pm, JPR

[HB 968](#) Regulated Firearms – Straw Purchase - Penalties (Kipke, et al) Maryland law currently prohibits any person from knowingly or willfully participating in a “straw purchase” of a “regulated handgun.” It also prohibits being a knowing participant in a straw purchase of a regulated firearm to a minor or other prohibited person. This bill amends the penalties to prohibit a court from suspending any part of a mandatory minimum sentence; and provides that a person is not eligible for parole during a mandatory minimum sentence for knowingly participating in a straw purchase. Hrg. 3/4, 1pm JUD

[HB 1104](#) Regulated – Firearms – Transfer (Lopez, et al) defines the term “transfer” as it relates to an exchange of a regulated firearm between two individuals to conform to changes that mean sale, rental furnishing, gift, or any other delivery with or without consideration. Hrg. 3/4, 1pm JUD

[HB 1261](#) Weapon Crimes – Assault Long Guns and Copycat Weapons (Speaker, Atterbeary, Luedtke) requires registration of assault weapons and mandates a registration fee for those registered after October 1, 2020. JUD

[HB 1267](#) Public Safety – Handgun Permit – Church Property (Worshipper Protection Act of 2020) (McComas, et al) authorizes a person, with written consent of

a bona fide church, to carry a handgun on the property of the church during services and gatherings. The person is given consent with the intent to wear, carry, or transport a handgun for certain purposes related to self-protection or the protection of others while on the church property may, without a permit, and with advance notice to the primary law enforcement in a county. Hrg. 3/4, 1pm, JUD

[HB 1501](#) Public Safety – Regulated Firearms – Reporting Loss or Theft (Cain, et al) reduces the time period within which an owner of a lost or stolen firearm must report the loss or theft from 72 hours to 48 hours. Hrg. 3/4, 1pm JUD

[HB 1502](#) Handgun Permits – Qualifications – High Risk Occupations (Hartman, et al) identifies high-risk occupations and requires the Secretary of State Police to issue a permit to carry, wear, or transport a handgun to a person who meets these requirements and is employed in the following professions: correctional officer, probation and parole officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, rescue squad member, a security guard for church or religious organization, physician, physician's assistant, nurse, or nurse practitioner. Hrg. 3/4, 1pm JUD

Update on bills previously reported in RSC:

[HB 173](#) National Resources – Sunday Hunting ([RSC 1](#)) Hrg. 2/12, 1pm ENT

[HB 265/SB 156](#) Handgun Qualification License – Training Requirement – Exemption ([RSC 1](#)). Passed the Senate (45-0), referred to House Judiciary. Hrg. 2/5, 2pm JUD

[HB 591](#) Public Safety – Lost or Stolen Regulated Firearm – Reporting (Clippinger) ([RSC-2](#)) Hrg. 3/4, 1pm JUD

[HB 618](#) Sales and Use Tax – Exemption – Firearm Safety (Parrott, et al) ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2/20 1pm W&M

[SB 290/HB 1288](#) Criminal Procedure – Forfeiture of Firearms – Sale to Dealer (Edwards, et al; Buckel, et al) ([RSC 2](#)) Cross-filed with House bill. Hrgs. 2/11, 1pm JPR; 2/26, 1pm JUD

[SB 646](#) Public Safety – Access to Firearms – Storage Requirements (Stein, et al; Smith, et al) amends current law to prohibit a person from leaving or storing a loaded or unloaded firm arm where a minor can access it. Cross file of HB636 Hrgs. 2/19 2pm JUD; 2/20 12pm JPR

Gloria Salas Kos

EDUCATION

[HB 1300/SB 1000](#) Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation (Speaker by request - Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education plus seven/The President by request - Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education plus five) increases state aid for public schools beginning in FY2022. The bill

also establishes by law the policy recommendations of the Kirwan Commission and creates a new Accountability and Implementation Board to oversee implementation. For funding, there is per pupil foundation amount (PPFA) that increases from \$7,991 for FY2022 to \$11,326 in FY2030. Subsequent increases will be determined by inflation. Increased costs for the PPFA under the Blueprint include salary increases, additional teachers to provide professional learning and collaborative time for teachers, career counseling, behavioral health, instructional opportunities for students to become college and career ready and supplies and materials for teachers.

As with the Thornton formula, the PPFA is multiplied by the number of Full Time Enrolled (FTE) students. State and local shares are adjusted according to the per pupil wealth of each county. Wealth includes (1) net taxable income; (2) 100 percent of the assessed value of utilities; (3) 40 percent of the adjusted value of other real property; and (4) 50 percent of the assessed value of personal property. Tax increment financing (TIF) amounts are deducted from property wealth in the calculations. To adjust for cost differences among counties, a Comparable Wage Index (CWI) replaces the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI). To help 12 lower wealth counties with the required local share, Blueprint Transition grants are provided, but will be phased down through FY2029.

Transitional Supplemental Instruction (TSI) grants are provided for tutoring students in kindergarten through third grade who are identified as struggling learners. There are formula weights added to the PPFA for special education, compensatory education and English learners (EL). A State alternative income eligibility form for students eligible for free and reduced-price meals (FRPM) or direct certification including Medicaid will be used to calculate the compensatory education formula beginning in FY 2022.

Concentration of Poverty Grants provide personnel grants for a community school coordinator and a full-time health care professional and a per pupil grant for each qualifying school. In FY20 and FY21 the school must have 80% poverty. The required poverty level gradually decreases to 55-69% in FY27.

There is a **four-level career ladder for teachers** which requires minimum salary increases for teachers at each level beginning in FY2025. By fiscal 2030 all teachers must receive a salary of at least \$60,000.

College and Career Readiness (CCR). The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), in consultation with experienced teachers, must develop curriculum standards and resources for each subject and grade level. Assessments must identify low-performing schools. An Expert Review Team can require a low-performing school to use the model curriculum. The bill has provisions for adopting College and Career Ready standards, an assessment, and evaluation of the assessment. There are provisions for developing programs for students who have or have not met the CCR standards. Dual enrollment in high school and college or career training programs must be free for students.

Publicly Funded Full-day Prekindergarten. Beginning in FY2022, a new funding formula for voluntary full-day prekindergarten for four-year-olds from low-income families (300% of the federal poverty level-\$79,000 for a family of four) is phased in. Three-year-old full-day programs will also be expanded. There will be public and private providers who must meet specified requirements to participate. Additional Judy Centers, Family Support Centers and early childhood accreditation programs will be phased in. Beginning in the 20-21 school year, a statewide kindergarten assessment must be given to all incoming kindergarten students.

Maintenance of Effort and Local Share. In addition to the local share of the foundation formula, counties must pay a local share for compensatory education, English learners, special education, CWI, full-day pre-K, CCR, TSI and career ladder grant programs beginning in FY2022. 75% of most formula funding must follow the students to the schools they attend. By July 1, 2022, MSDE must implement a financial management system and student data system.

Teacher Quality and Diversity. The bill requires appropriations for the Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarships, the Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Teachers (for teaching in a school with concentrated poverty), grants for colleges to increase quality and diversity of teacher training applicants, teacher induction programs, and teacher training practicums. Teacher certification exams would be more rigorous. School leadership programs are established.

Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB). A seven-member board of experts is appointed by the Governor from a slate of names submitted by a six-member nominating committee and is subject to Senate confirmation. The board is to develop comprehensive statewide implementation plans, require local implementation plans, and arrange for evaluations. Beginning in FY2022, 25% of the increase for the next fiscal year in the State share of major education aid can be withheld if a local school system has not developed an acceptable implementation plan or if steps have not been taken to improve student progress. There are also provisions for an Expert Review Team Program to deploy teams of teachers and other experts to work collaboratively with schools, especially to improve progress in the lowest performing schools.

Career and Technical Education Committee. A CTE Committee within the Governor's Workforce Development Board is created to build an integrated, globally competitive framework for providing CTE to Maryland students in public schools and postsecondary education and the workforce. Beginning with the 23-24 school year, school CTE programs must be aligned with committee standards. By FY2030 45% of high School students should complete an industry-recognized credential before graduation. Hrg. 2/17, 12pm APP, W&M, B&T, EHE

Update on Bills Previously Reported in the RSC:

[HB 769](#) Education - High School Students - Graduation and Attendance Credit for Vocational Training ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2/19, 1pm W&M

[SB 418](#) Education Savings Account Program – Established ([RSC 2](#)) Unfavorable report; EHE; **[HB 1552](#)** Crossfile. Hrg. Canceled W&M

[HB 718/SB 575](#) State Department of Education - Early Literacy and Dyslexia Practices - Guidance and Assistance ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2/19 W&M; 3/3 EHE

[HB 769](#) Education - High School Students - Graduation and Attendance Credit for Vocational Training ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2/19 W&M

Lois Hybl

EDUCATION: SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

[SB 655](#) High Performance and Green Buildings–Community Colleges and Public Schools-Repeal of Requirements and Guidelines (Hettleman) proposes to repeal the requirement that construction or renovation of certain community college buildings result in them rated as high performance buildings. It would also repeal the requirement to establish a process allowing community colleges to get a waiver from high performance building requirements. This legislation would also repeal the requirement that the Maryland Green Building Council develop guidelines for new public school buildings to achieve the equivalent of the current version of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System Silver rating or comparable rating system without requiring independent certification. Hrg. 2/19, 1pm EHE

[SB 1026](#) Interagency Commission on School Construction-Project Approval–Prioritization (McCray) provides that the Interagency Commission on School Construction shall give priority to a public school construction project located in or near a school facility that closed during the school year due to severe issues in the facility. SRU

[HB 1295](#) Public School Construction-School District Energy Use-Policy and Study (Solomon et al.) provides that the Interagency Commission on School Construction may not approve a public school construction project for a school district that has not adopted or updated a school district energy policy. This policy must address purchasing, conservation and efficiency of energy for the school district, monitor and report the amount of electricity from renewable sources and include current and historical data about school energy usage. The school district is encouraged to set targets to increase use of renewable energy and decrease greenhouse gas emission. School districts will report the amount and percentage of electricity from renewable sources and overall electricity use. Hrg. 3/10, 1pm APP

Kathy Vanston

EDUCATION: SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

[SB 459](#) Public Schools–School Resource Officers–Firearms Required (Jennings et al.) provides that a school resource officer shall carry a firearm while present on the premises of the school to which the officer is assigned. A school resource officer has

been previously defined as a law enforcement officer assigned to a school in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between the chief law enforcement agency and the local education agency or a Baltimore City school police officer. Hrg. 3/10, 1p.m. EHE

SB 830/HB 1022 Education-Alternative Schools-Reporting Requirements (McCray et al./D.M. Davis et al.) imposes reporting requirements on each county board of education for alternative schools in its district. Alternative schools are online or home-based instruction for students who exhibit disruptive classroom behavior, have been suspended or expelled, have been arrested for a reportable offense or have been removed to an interim alternative educational setting. The report must include a number of items including breakdown of enrollment, information pertaining to discipline and complete documentation of each instance of restraint and seclusion, available mental health services, social emotional curricula and behavioral support services. The Department of Education is to provide an annual report. Hrg. 3/3, 1pm EHE; 2/26, 1pm W&M

HB 802 Civil Actions-Civil Immunity-Educator Intervention in Student Violence (Good Teacher Protection Act) (Cox et al.) proposes that a member of the administrative, education or support staff of any public, private or parochial school is immune from civil liability for any personal injury or property damage resulting from an intervention in an altercation between students or other student disturbances if the member was acting in good faith to protect the students from harm and the action was not grossly negligent. Hrg. 2/19, 1pm JUD

HB 846 Public Schools-Reporting of Assaults, Crimes of Violence, and Felonies (Report Act of 2020) (Grammer) provides that if an assault, crime of violence or a felony occurs at a public school and is reported to the school administration, the school shall file a report with the police department, file an administrative incident with the county board that includes the police report number and provide the police report number and administrative incident report to the victim and the parent if the victim is a student. Each county board will adopt regulations implementing these requirements and file an annual report with the Department of Education which will, in turn, report to the State. Hrg. 3/4, 1pm W&M

HB 1043 Education-Physical Restraint and Seclusion-Guidelines and Reporting (Wilkins et. al) requires that each public agency and nonpublic school report the total number of physical restraint and seclusion incidents disaggregated by student jurisdiction, disability, race, gender, age and type of placement. The Department of Education will make specific recommendations on how to reduce the use of restraint and seclusion to the top 30% with the highest incidents. The Department will identify gaps in teacher and service provider preparation regarding positive behavior strategies and trauma-informed care, issuing guidelines detailing best practices for behavior interventions and develop a mandatory professional development program with regard to these issues for teachers and service providers. Hrg. 2/26, 1pm W&M

[HB 1078](#) Public Safety-Education-Firearms Funding (No Funding for Firearms Act) (Solomon et al.) provides that no county board or public school may spend money from any source to provide a teacher with a firearm or train a teacher in the use of a firearm. Excluded from the prohibition are school-approved sport or clubs using firearms. Hrg. 2/27, 1pm APP

[HB 1443/SB 896](#) Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment (Bagnall et al./Hester) This proposed legislation establishes a Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment. Commission shall study behavioral health treatment and practices for students, make recommendations for improvements to current practices, revise guidelines for student behavioral health treatment in school-based health centers and research ways to coordinate school-based practices with health care provider practices to improve treatment available to students. Hrg. 3/06,1pm W&M; 2/26, 1pm EHE

[HB 1468](#) Education-Student Behavior-Parent Notice and Required Counseling (Parent Accountability Act) (Long et. al.) provides that it is unlawful for a parent or guardian of a student, after receiving notice of a child's violent or disruptive behavior on school premises or during school-related activities, to fail to seek and participate in counseling with the child. A parent or guardian convicted under this section may be ordered by the court to perform community service. If a public school student engages in two or more incidents of violent or disruptive behavior at school or during a school related activity during the school year, the principal shall provide written notice requiring the parent to participate in counseling with the student, advise that the failure to participate in counseling is unlawful and include referrals and information about relevant programs. Hrg. 3/4, 1pm W&M

[HB 1546](#) Education-Reportable Offenses Alterations (Atterbeary et al.) provides that upon notification that a student has been charged with a reportable offense, alleged to have occurred off school property and not at a school-sponsored event, the school must convene a student support team to determine whether and/or what type of change must be made to the student's educational program. The student support team will consider all options for maintaining the student's regular program while mitigating risk. The student may be removed from school only if the support team determines that the student's presence would pose an imminent threat of serious harm to other students or staff. If the student is to be removed, a plan to provide comparable educational service and behavioral support services will be implemented within five school days after the student support team meeting. This decision may be appealed by the student or parent/guardian to the Superintendent and must be decided within ten days. The State's Attorney must notify the local superintendent, school principal and school resource officer within 24 hours of arrest and charges. Prompt notice of the disposition of the reportable offense should be provided by the appropriate entity to the superintendent or principal. Hrg. 2/27, 1pm JUD

Update on bills previously reported in RSC:

[HB 01](#) Built to Learn Act of 2020 ([RSC 1](#)) Third Reading Passed APP (128-6)

[HB 338](#) Building Opportunity Act of 2020 ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 3/3, 1p.m. APP, cancelled

[SB 276](#) Building Opportunity Act of 2020 ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2/19, 1 p.m. B&T

[SB 65](#) Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks – Safe Alternative Routes to Public School ([RSC 2](#)) Unfavorable report by EHE

[SB 367](#) State Department of Education – Guidelines on Trauma – Informed Approach ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 3/3, 1pm EHE

Kathy Vanston

MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

[HB 559/SB 452](#) Family Investment Program – Temporary Cash Assistance – Funding(Valentino-Smith/McCray) requires the Governor to provide sufficient funds in the budget to ensure that the value of temporary cash assistance, combined with federal food stamps, is equal to at least 61% of the State minimum living level for fiscal year 2021, increasing to at least 71% of the State minimum living level by fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter. Hrg. 2/18 APP; 2/12 B&T

[HB 1372](#) Real Property-Residential Leases- Repair of Dangerous Defects and Failure to Pay Rent (Wells et al) A landlord has an obligation to repair and eliminate conditions that constitute serious and substantial threat to life, health or safety of tenants. If the landlord refuses to do so in a reasonable time, the tenant may bring an action of rent escrow or an action for money damages against the landlord. The allegation of past due rent may not be a reason to deny escrow, and landlord may be responsible for costs incurred by tenant to repair defects, cost to the tenant of relocation, and economic losses caused by the defects. Hrg. 3/3 ENT

[HB 1524/SB 858](#) Procurement and Correctional Facilities – Employment Opportunities for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals (D.M. Davis et al) requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and county departments of corrections to give a preference to bidders and offerors for goods and services based on the number of formerly incarcerated individuals the bidder or offeror employs. Contractors must list on the Maryland Workforce Exchange website all jobs they are hiring for and give preference to formerly incarcerated individuals. Contractors must submit a report annually on their listings and hiring. Hrg. 3/10 HGO; 2/6 JPR

[HB 1532](#) Human Services Food Supplement Program-Eligibility (Protect Against Hunger Act) (Solomon, et al) Eligibility for Maryland’s Food Supplement Program shall be determined under the state’s eligibility requirements in effect July 1, 2019. The state shall provide Food Supplement Program benefits to eligible individuals for who federal funding is not available. Hrg. 3/10 APP

[HB 1561](#) Discriminatory Housing Practices – Intent (Rosenberg) prohibits an individual in Maryland to act in a manner, regardless of intent, that has a discriminatory

effect against any person in the terms or conditions of the sale or rental of a dwelling or the provision of services or facilities in connection with the sale or rental of a dwelling. Hrg. 3/6 HGO

Update on bills previously reported on in RSC:

HB 123/SB 217 Labor and Employment – Wage History and Wage Range (Young, et al/Lee, et al) ([RSC 1](#)) Hrg. 2/13 FIN

HB 417/SB 400 State Employment – Wage History and Range (Barron et al/Kagan et al) ([RSC 2](#)) Hrgs. 3/3 APP; 2/20 FIN

HB 744 Landlord and Tenant – Residential Leases – Tenant Rights and Protections (Tenant Protection Act) (Stewart, et al) ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2/18 ENT

SB 530/ HB 231 Housing Opportunities Made Equal Act (Smith et al)([RSC 2](#)) JPR passed with amendments, Passed second reading Senate with amendments.

SB 539 /HB 839 Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program Establishment (Hayes et al) ([RSC 2](#))Hrg. 2/27 FIN

Ruth Crystal

HEALTH

In the last few weeks several consumer-oriented health insurance bills have been dropped.

HB 1356/SB 623 Health Insurance – Out-of-Pocket Maximums and Cost Sharing (P. Young, et al/Benson, et al) changes the method with which out-of-pocket sharing is calculated. Hrg. 3/5, 1pm HGO; 2/26 FIN

HB 1165/SB 484 Health Insurance - Provider Panels – Coverage for Non-Participating Providers (Sample-Hughes, et.al./Klausmeier) gives patients coverage when forced to see a physician or provider for mental health and/or substance abuse problems who is not participating in their plan. Hrgs. 2/20 HGO; 2/26 FIN

HB 959/SB 782 Health Insurance – Consumer Protections (Pendergrass and Penamelyk/ Feldman, et. al) is a 30-page emergency bill aimed at protecting patients from changes at the Federal level in the Affordable Care Act. There are 19 listed provisions, such as coverage for minors to 26, pre-existing conditions, wellness programs, etc. There are also five provisions for dental programs sold on the exchange. It delineates, down to what font size to use, how carriers and HMOs can disseminate information about policies. A bill like this only affects the small market, the individual market and large markets that purchase a plan rather than self-insuring with an ERISA plan. Hrg. 2/20, 1pm HGO; 2/26, 1pm FIN

[HB 457/SB 371 Environment – Drinking Water Outlets in Schools - Testing for Elevated Level of Lead](#) (Rosenberg/Carter, et. al.) would encode 5 parts per billion as the standard rather than the Federal Government Standard and would mandate testing every 18 months. Hrg. 2/19, 1pm ENT; 2/11 EHE

[HB 1475/SB 992, School Buildings – Drinking Water Outlets – Elevated Levels of Lead \(Safe School Drinking Water Act\)](#) (Solomon, et. al/McCray) increases the level to 5 parts per billion but does not mandate frequency. Hrg. 3/6 ENT; 2/11 EHE

[HB 1020/SB 940 Health Services Initiative – Vision Care for Low Income Children,](#) (Lierman/Hayes) establishes a vision program in schools that have more than 51 percent of the students receiving free or reduced meals. The program would be coordinated with the providers in the county who participate in the program or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Hrgs. 3/4, 1pm HGO; 2/26, 1pm EHE

[HB 1079 Sickle Cell Trait Screening, Treatment, Education, and Public Awareness \(Journey’s Act\)](#), (Acevero, et al) would mandate the Health Department develop an awareness program on the importance of screening, treatment, etc. for Sickle Cell disease particularly among the African American and Hispanic communities. Hrg. 2/26, 1pm HGO

[HB 316, Public Health – Schedule II Controlled Dangerous Substances – Partial Filling of Prescriptions](#) (Hill, et al) would allow a pharmacist to fill only part of a Schedule II prescription at the patient’s request and then fill the remainder within 60 days. Hrg. 2/11 HGO

[HB 1518 Opioid Exposed Newborns and Parents addicted to Opioids – Mobil Application – Pilot Program \(I Am Alive Today Act\)](#) (McKay) establishes a pilot program in the three Western Maryland counties using an app to communicate with addicted parents of newborns. Hrg. 3/11, 1pm HGO

There is a plethora of scope of practice bills covering Health Care Practitioners as a group and individually Podiatrists, Pharmacists, Nurse Practitioners and Naturopathic Doctors. They would allow these professionals to perform functions they currently are not allowed to do.

[HB 428 Health Occupations – Podiatric Physicians](#) (Kerr, et al) would change the designation “Podiatrist” to Podiatric Physician throughout the Maryland Code. Hrg. 2/18, 1pm HGO

[HB 530/SB 355 Health Occupations – Pharmacists – Administration of Vaccinations](#) (Kelly, et. al./ Augustine and Feldman) allows pharmacists to administer vaccinations to children between the ages of 9 and 19 and alters the requirements on the written protocols. Hrgs. 2/18 HGO; 2/13 EHE

[SB 440/](#)HB 1594 **Pharmacists – Aids for the Cessation of Tobacco Product Use, (Hayes, et al/Kelly) allows a pharmacist to prescribe and dispense tobacco cessation prescriptions. Hrg. 2/13, 1pm EHE; HRU**

[HB 656/](#)SB 545, **Pharmacists - Administration of Self-Administered Medications and Maintenance Administered Medications (K. Young, et. Al/ Young) allows pharmacists to administer certain drugs and requires the Board of Pharmacists to develop protocols with the Maryland Board of Physicians and the Board of Nursing. Hrgs. 2/18 HGO; 2/13 EHE**

[HB 691/](#)SB 576 **Health Occupations – Nurse Practitioners – Certificate of Competency and Incapacity (Cullison/ Ekhardt) would substitute Nurse Practitioners for “the second physician” in the Maryland Code. Currently it must be two physicians. Hrg. 3/3, 1pm HGO; 2/13 EHE**

[HB 937](#) **Naturopathic Doctors – Formulary Council Membership, Formulary Content, and Scope of Practice (Krebs, Kelly, and Pena-Melnyk) would significantly increase their ability to prescribe and administer certain medications and prescriptions. Hrg. 3/3, 1pm HGO**

[HB 448/](#)SB 402, **Health Care Practitioners – Telemedicine (Rosenberg/ Kagen and Lam) this is a broad bill allowing any health care practitioner to evaluate and prescribe for patients using Skype or other similar programs rather than an in-office visit. Hrg. 2/18, 1pm HGO; 2/13 EHE**

Update on bills previously reported on in RSC:

[HB 643/](#)SB 701 **The End of Life Option Act (Richard E. Israel and Roger “Pip” Moyer Act), (Pendergast & 52 others/ Waldstreicher, et. al) ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2/28 JPR**

[HB 455/](#)SB 334 **Health Insurance – Coverage for Mental Health Benefits and Substance Use Disorders Benefits – Treatment Criteria, (Kelly/ Augustine, and Hester) ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2/20, 1pm HGO; 2/19, 1pm FIN**

[SB 309/](#)HB 808 **Drugged Driving – Oral Fluid Tests- Pilot Program (Kagan and West/Valentino-Smith, et al) ([RSC 2](#)) Hrgs. 2/21, 1pm, JPR; 2/26, 1pm JUD**

[SB 112](#) **Health Insurance – Health Information – Disclosure Between Carriers (Finance Chair for the Maryland Insurance Commissioner) ([RSC 2](#)) passed the Senate 46-0 with patient protection amendments and moved to HGO.**

[SB 124/](#)HB 196 **Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, Establishment of State-Based Health Insurance Subsidies Program (Feldman/ Pena-Melnyk) ([RSC 1](#)) Hrg. 2/2, 2pm FIN; 2/20, 1pm, HGO**

[HB 53](#) **Public Health - Contraceptive Devices – Minors (Parrott, Hartman, Arikan, and Metzgar) ([RSC 1](#)) Hrg. 3/13, 1pm HGO**

[HB 66](#) Public Health – Immunizations – Minor Consent (Grammar) ([RSC 1](#))
Unfavorable in Committee, withdrawn. HGO

Neilson Andrews

TRANSPORTATION

[HB 1220](#) Public-Private Partnerships – Highway and Bridge Toll Facilities – Rates (No Lexus Lane Act) (Barve plus 2) establishes enforceable guidelines dealing with tolls involved with a P3. These standards include methods and terms for adjusting toll rates, performance criteria, operation and maintenance standards, and many responsibilities of both the private partner and the state. Hrgs. 3/05 ENT

[HB 1233](#) State Vehicle Fleet – Conversion to Zero-Emission Electric Vehicles (Fraser-Hidalgo plus 40) aids in transitioning to a fleet of electric state vehicles by requiring the state from 2022 onwards to only enter into a contract or purchase electric vehicles. Hrg. 3/05 ENT

[HB 1236](#) Transit – Maryland Area Regional Commuter Train – Expansion of Service (Solomon plus 33) stipulates how Maryland will negotiate and reach a written agreement with the District of Columbia and Virginia so that two MARC trains in the morning and two MARC trains in the evening will include stops at L'Enfant Plaza, Crystal City, and Alexandria Station. This service would be a pilot program for two years including an evaluation. Hrg. 3/05 ENT

[HB 1249](#) I-495 and I270 Public-Private Partnership – Partnership Agreement – Requirements (Maryland State Department of Transportation Promises Act of 2020) (Korman plus 48) Earlier, the Board of Public Works passed a P-3 agreement with a vote of 2-1 and certain terms were agreed to. This bill would codify in writing the terms of revenues derived from tolls and the disbursements; community benefit agreements; transit vehicle use; and positive net environmental, economic and health benefits to the state. Hrg. 3/05, ENT

[HB 1367](#) Transportation – Western Maryland MARC Rail Extension – Study (Corderman plus 21) stipulates that a study should be done to expand rail service in the I-70 and I-81 corridors. This bipartisan study bill includes which localities and groups should be involved, what areas it should encompass, costs, with a completion date of December 1, 2021. Hrg. 3/03, APP

[HB 1424](#) Public-Private Partnerships – Process and Oversight (Solomon plus 7) revises the current P-3 legislation for a project greater than \$500 million that was established so the Purple Line could be built. It incorporates review by the legislature, environmental stipulations, and contract processes with particular timing incorporated. A ten member governing board is established including delegates and senators, appointees by the governor, persons from the comptroller's and treasurer's office, a chair, and also some staff. Hrg. 3/05, ENT

Update on bills previously reported in the RSC:

[HB 72](#) Maryland Transportation Authority – Video Streaming and Archiving – Open Meetings ([RSC-1](#)) ([RSC-2](#)) cross filed with SB 123, third reading passed unanimously with amendments and crossed to EHE

Bee Ditzler

ENVIRONMENT: CLIMATE CHANGE

[SB 926](#)/HB 1425 Climate Solutions Act of 2020 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act (Pinsky/Stein) requires the Department of the Environment to adopt a final plan that reduces greenhouse gases emissions by 60% by 2030 and moves toward 100% reduction by 2045. The planning process prohibits using highway widening as a method to reduce emissions; adjusts counting of methane and requires use of “best available scientific information.”

The bill proposes that one million trees be planted annually for the next ten years; increases energy efficiency requirements for state buildings; requires 50 percent of state buses and 100% of state light fleet to be electric vehicles by 2030; requires all new buildings with 25% or more state funding to be zero emissions starting in 2021; requires new large commercial buildings to install rooftop solar; requires all state agencies to consider climate impact in decision making. The bill requires a Climate Justice Workshop and creation of a temporary Just Transition Task Force. Hrg, 3/04 ENT

Update on bills previously reported in the RSC:

[HB 517](#) Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights (Stewart)
([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2/19 ENT

[HB 531](#)/SB 656 Utility Regulation – Consideration of Climate and Labor
(Charkoudian/Kramer) ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2/27 ECM; 2/25 FIN

[SB 538](#)/ HB1214 Public Service Commission – Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity – Preservation of Environmental Quality and the Climate (Kelley/Lierman) ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2/25 FIN; 3/5 ECM

[HJ 1](#) Declaration of a Climate Emergency and Implementation of a Climate Mobilization Effort (Hill) ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 2/24 HRU

Betsy Singer

ENVIRONMENT: RENEWABLE ENERGY

[HB 98](#)/SB 168 Electricity – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Qualifying Biomass (Davis/Kelley) removes some biomass categories (e.g., Black Liquor) from Tier one sources in the RPS. Hrgs. 2/20 ECM; 2/04 FIN

[HB 363](#)/SB 265 Clean and Renewable Energy Standard (CARES)
(Speaker/President) Governor’s bill to modify the Renewable Portfolio Standard to the new CARES. Hrgs. 2/28 ECM; 2/11 FIN

[HB 438](#)/SB 560 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources (Mosby plus 18/Hough plus 29) removes waste incineration as a tier one resource as a subsidized resource comparable to true clean energy sources such as wind and solar. Hrgs. 2/20 ECM; 2/25 FIN

[HB 561/SB 315 Electric Industry - Community Choice Energy](#) (Charkoudian plus 43/Beidel plus seven) enables municipalities across Maryland to set up Community Choice Aggregation/Energy programs, which are alternatives to the investor- owned energy supply system and can help drive an increase in renewable energy. Hrgs. 2/13 ECM; 2/25 FIN

[HB 1392/SB 677 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Municipal Electric Utilities](#) (Mautz/Eckardt) sets the renewable energy portfolio standard for municipal electric utilities for 2020 and later. Hrgs. 2/28 ECM; 2/25 FIN

[HB 1543/SB0912 Environment - Climate Crisis and Education Act](#) (Fraser-Hidalgo plus 67/Kramer) establishes a Climate Crisis Initiative in the Department of the Environment. Hrg. 3/12 ECM; B&T

[HB 1545/SB 887 Electric Generation Transition from Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account](#) (Barve plus eight/West plus three) sets a timeline by which the last six remaining coal-fired power plants must stop producing energy from coal, with a community transition plan that invests in the local communities and counties with coal plants. Hrg. ECM 3/5; FIN 2/25

Shari Glenn

ENVIRONMENT: STORMWATER, BAY, PHOSPHORUS, PESTICIDES, RECYCLING, AIR, & OTHER

[HB 354 Solid Waste Management - Personal Cleansing Products Provided at Lodging Establishments – Prohibition](#) (Lee plus 19) would prohibit an owner, an operator, or a manager of a lodging establishment from providing lodgers with small plastic bottles of personal cleaning products. Hrg 2/19 ECM; ENT

[HB 359/SB 277 Clean Cars Act of 2020 – Extension, Funding, and Reporting](#) (Speaker plus five; President [Administration request] plus 11) would alter the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program and electric vehicle excise tax credit. Hrg 2/13, 1pm, ENT; 2/11, 1pm, FIN

[HB 395 Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund - Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - Use of Proceeds for Maryland Healthy Soils Program](#) (Krimm plus Stein) would specify using some of the funds in the renewable and clean energy programs account for the Maryland Healthy Soils Program. Hrg 2/20, 1pm, ECM

[HB 553 Environment - Sale and Application of Coal Tar Pavement Products – Prohibition](#) (Stewart plus 22) would set a date for banning coal tar pavement products. Hrg 2/26, 1pm, ENT

[HB 589](#) Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals (Charkoudian plus 16) would set up conditions for separating out food waste from other waste. Hrg. 2/19, 1pm ENT

[HB 614/SB 460](#) State Government - Office of the Environmental and Natural Resources Ombudsman - Establishment (Environmental Accountability and Transparency Act) (Lierman plus 17/Elfreth plus 12) would create the new office of the environmental and natural resources ombudsman. Hrgs. 2/19, 1pm, ENT; EHE

[HB 824](#) Beverage Container Deposit Program - Establishment and Advisory Commission (Love plus 19) would establish a beverage container deposit program and an advisory committee for it. Hrg 2/26, 1pm, ENT

[HB 854](#) Department of the Environment - Nontidal Wetlands - Study of Vernal Pools (Kim) would require the Department to study vernal pools. Hrg 2/26, 1pm ENT

[HB 866](#) General Assembly - Environmental Impact Statements - Pilot Program (Shetty plus seven) would assess whether requiring environmental impact statements on relevant bills improves their processing by members of the General Assembly. Hrg 2/24, 2pm, HRU

[HB 896](#) Environment - Statewide Green Business Certification Program – Establishment (Shetty plus 27) would require that the Department of the Environment to establish and administer a statewide green business certification program. Hrg 2/26, 1pm, ENT

[HB 987](#) Environment – Recycling – Hotels (Smith plus 15) would require hotels to provide recycling. Hrg. 2/19, 1pm ECM; ENT

[HB 1032](#) Solid Waste Management - Refuse Disposal Systems - Incinerators, Scrap Tires, and Local Authority (Smith plus three) would forbid any new incinerators or expansion of existing ones and forbid either burning tires or using them to make artificial turf. Hrg 2/26, 1pm ENT

[HB 1223](#) Clean Cars Act of 2020 (Fraser-Hidalgo plus 18) would provide new specifications (i.e., zero emissions) regarding the types of electric cars that can receive tax credits. Hrg. 2/28, 1pm ENT

[HB 1312/SB 841](#) Water Pollution Control - Discharge Permits - Industrial Poultry Operations (Stewart plus 16/ Lam plus two) would ban issuing permits for any new or expanded industrial poultry operations. Hrg 3/04, 1pm ENT; 3/11, 1pm EHE

[HB 1465/SB 955](#) Federal Clean Water Act – Authority of State (Jacobs plus 43; Hershey plus 16) would prevent the state from waiving any of its authority under the federal Clean Water Act, particularly with respect to the Conowingo Dam. Hrg. 3/04, 1pm ENT; 3/11, 1pm EHE

[HB 1520/SB 737](#) Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment (Solomon plus 11/Elfreth) would establish a special fund to help communities to become “greener” (environmentally, economically, and socially more sustainable). Hrg 3/05, 1 pm, APP; 2/26, 1pm EHE; B&T

[SB 510](#) Natural Resources - Commercial Fishing - Use of Haul Seines (Bailey plus six) would establish an exception to a prohibition against fishing with haul seines. EHE.

[SB 538](#) Public Service Commission - Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Preservation of Environmental Quality and the Climate (Kelley plus 14) would require the Public Service Commission to consider environmental quality and the climate in its decision-making. Hrg 2/25, 1pm FIN

[SB 928](#) Environment – Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Construction or Expansion – Manure Transport Plan Requirement (Pinsky) would prevent the Department of Environment from giving a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) a permit unless the applicant has a manure transport plan. Hrg 2/19, 1pm EHE

Update on bills previously reported in the RSC:

[HB 13/SB 28](#) Solid Waste Management - Prohibition on Releasing a Balloon Into the Atmosphere (Hartman plus six; Lam plus three) ([RSC 1](#) & [2](#)) ENT favorable report on HB 13; SB 28 now in ENT

[HB 78/SB 172](#) Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses (Watson/Hester) Passed Senate; now in ENT ([RSC 1](#))

[SB 07](#) Maryland Green Building Council – Membership (chair, B&T, for Dept. of General Services) Passed Senate; ENT ([RSC 1](#) & [2](#))

[SB 86](#) Natural Resources - Fishing and Hunting Rights (Simonaire) Passed Senate; ENT ([RSC 1](#) & [2](#))

[SB 114](#) Natural Resources - Nuisance Organisms - Pilot Projects and Northern Snakeheads (Chair, EHE, for Dept. of Natural Resources) Passed Senate; ENT ([RSC2](#))

[HB 619](#) Environment - Use of Fire-Fighting Foam Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances – Prohibition (P. Young plus 11). Hrg 2/12, 1pm HGO ([RSC 2](#))

[HB 689](#) Maryland Environmental Policy Act - Consistency with National Environmental Policy Act (Rosenberg plus Stein) Hrg 2/21, 1pm ENT [\(RSC 2\)](#)

[HB 772/SB 478](#) Maryland Green Purchasing Committee - Food Procurement - Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Gilchrist plus 27; Lam plus five) Hrgs. 3/03, 1pm HGO; 2/19, 1pm EHE [\(RSC 2\)](#)

[SB 242](#) Natural Resources - Wild Waterfowl Policy – Repeal (Bailey) Passed Senate; ENT Hrg 1/29, EHE [\(RSC-2\)](#)

[SB 414](#) State Finance and Procurement - Chesapeake Bay Watershed States - Expenses and Contracts (Quit Polluting My Bay Act of 2020) (Kramer plus Carter) Hrg 3/05, 1pm, EHE [\(RSC 2\)](#)

[SB 495](#) Bay Restoration Fund – Use of Funds – Municipal Wastewater Facilities (Eckhardt plus 2) Cross-filed now with [HB 1035](#) [\(RSC 2\)](#)

[SB 582](#) Natural Resources - State Lakes Protection and Restoration Program and Fund (Edwards). Now cross-filed with [HB 877](#) [\(RSC 2\)](#) Hrg. 2/25, 1pm EHE; B&T

[HJ 03/SJ 03](#) Natural Resources - Fishing - Wild-Caught Blue Catfish (Stein/Guzzone plus 10). Hrgs. 2/24, 2pm HRU; 2/25, 1pm, EHE [\(RSC 2\)](#)

Linda Silversmith

BUDGET

[SB 192/HB 152](#)The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2020 (BRFA) is a separate act submitted by the governor which is used to help to balance the budget. It affects programs during the current fiscal year as well as having longer term effects. It has not been used extensively in the past few years, but the current act contains significant actions. According to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS), the current BRFA would reduce general fund spending by \$530.6 million and generate \$157 million in revenue.

The largest spending reductions are \$284.4 million to the Rainy Day Fund and \$83.3 million for unfunded liabilities. Some mandates would be eliminated completely including the mandates for the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission, the Community College Facilities Renewal Program, the National Strategic Economic Development Program, the Maryland Energy Innovation Fund and the Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Program. Mandates which would be reduced include the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, the City of Annapolis for services provided by the state, repayment to the Local Reserve Account and the transfer tax repayment.

One time changes to mandates include repeal of payments to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the requirement to distribute the general fund surplus to the State Retirement and Pension System and the Post-Retirement Health Benefits Trust fund.

BRFA also includes reductions in the rates paid to behavioral health care providers, the Developmental Disability Administration providers and Medicaid providers.

Changes to the use of special funds include allowing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund to be used to pay for pre-kindergarten expansion grants, making the \$8 million distributed to the Community Health Resources Commission a cap rather than a floor and making the \$14 million to the Senior Prescription Assistance Program a floor rather than a cap. BRFA would also authorize transfers from the Board of Physicians Fund balance to the Maryland Department of Health-Office of the Secretary and to the Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants.

Barbara Hankins

TAXES

HB 359/SB277 Clean Cars Act of 2020 – Extension, Funding and Reporting

(Speaker for the Administration, et al/President for the Administration, et al) would extend through fiscal 2023 the termination dates of the qualified vehicle excise tax credit and the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program. Hrgs 2/13 1 p.m. ENT; 2/11 1pm FIN

HB 473 Corporate Income Tax Throwback Rule (Stewart, et al) defines a “throwback” rule which determines whether certain sales are considered income for the purpose of the corporate income tax. Hrg 2/12 1pm W&M

HB 540/SB 645 State Income and Property Tax Credits – Purple Line Construction Zone (Wilkins et al/Smith) allows certain qualified businesses impacted by the construction of the Purple Line in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties a credit against the state income tax and the state property tax. Hrg. 2/29 1pm W&M; 2/26 1pm B&T

HB 788/SB 486 Income Tax – Itemized Deductions (Wivell, et al/Serafini, et al) would allow personal income tax filers to take deductions on their Maryland Income Tax even though they have taken the standard deduction on the Federal Income Tax. Hrgs. 1/21 W&M; 2/12 1pm B&T

HB 1056 Racing and Community Development Act of 2020 (Speaker) authorizes, subject to approval by the Board of Public Works, the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue up to \$375 million of bonds for the redevelopment of Laurel Park and Pimlico racing facilities. Imposes a mandated appropriation in future State Budget bills. The proceeds from the operation of video lottery terminals are to be diverted to pay off the bonds. Hrg. 2/25 1pm W&M, APP

SB 336 Income Tax Subtraction Modification – Catastrophe Savings Accounts (Guzzone) would allow taxpayers to set up a savings account to save for catastrophic events. Deposits and interest on the accounts would be tax deductible. Withdrawals could only be made to pay expenses after a catastrophic event. Hrg. 1/29 1pm B&T

Update on bills previously reported in RSC:

HB 71 Maryland Funding Accountability and Transparency Act – Nonbudgeted State Agencies (Carr et al) ([RSC 1](#)) In the Senate-First Reading EHE

SB 223 Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness (Feldman et al) a cross file of HB 185 ([RSC 2](#)) Hrg. 1/29, 1pm B&T

HB 1210 Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Expenses of Medical Cannabis Grower, Processor, Dispensary, or Independent Testing Laboratory (Wilkins, et al) a cross file of HB 146 ([RSC 1](#)) Hrg. 1/22, 1pm B&T

Barbara Hankins