



Office of the General Counsel Legislative Report April 2025

Debra Borden
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Message from the Office of General Counsel

The Office of the General Counsel (OGC) is pleased to present its annual legislative report covering the 2025 Session of the Maryland General Assembly (MGA). The MGA is the legislative branch of the Maryland state government. This legislative report includes summaries of legislation regarding major issues, state and local government, environment and transportation, Legislative Bond Initiatives (LBIs aka Bond Bills) and state budget. Proposed bills for this session originated from a variety of sources including constituents, government agencies, special interest groups and lobbyists. This year, as in most legislative sessions, several bills were reintroduced from previous years before. The most relevant previously introduced bills have been identified within this report.

As we look back on the 90-day session, we give a special thanks to Maryland- National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC or “the Commission”) Commissioners, Directors, and Department staff who helped educate the general assembly members on our legislative priorities. We thank our stakeholders and local elected officials for giving us the time and platform to inform members on critical legislation involving housing, solar, land use and economic development, and the potential impacts on both Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties.

As always, we look forward to collaborating with you in the interim and again during the next legislative session.

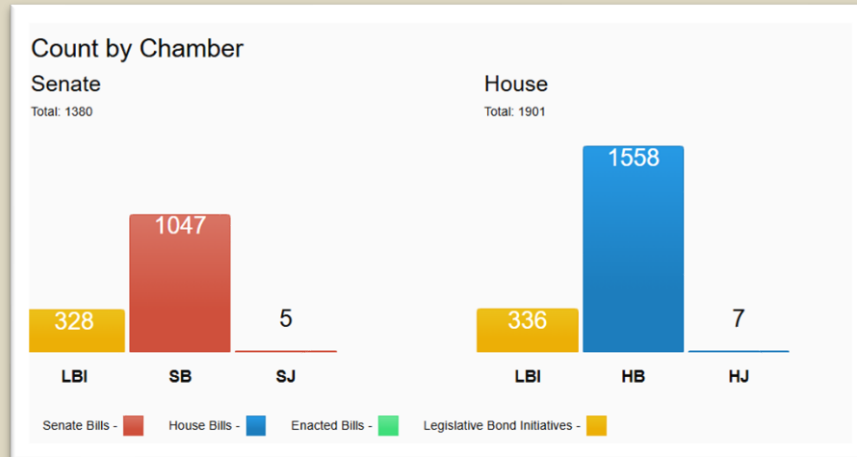
Respectfully,

Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

Introduction

The MGA celebrated its 447th session this year, and by law, the Maryland legislature is required to meet in Regular Session for 90 calendar days each year in Annapolis. The 2025 legislative session commenced on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, and concluded on Monday, April 7, 2025. The House of Delegates introduced 1558 House bills, 336 LBIs and seven Joint Resolutions (JR). The Senate introduced 1047 Senate bills, 328 LBIs and five JR. A total of 878 bills were passed by both chambers.



This year, 2025, is the third year of Governor, Wes Moore and Lieutenant Governor, Aruna Miller's administration. The Moore-Miller administration's top priorities this year were to stimulate the State's economic growth through the [Housing for Jobs Act](#) and protect federal workers in the event of a catastrophic event or federal government shutdown through the [Protect our Federal Workers Act](#). Due to concurrent events at the national level, jobs and the federal workforce were the most heavily discussed topics during this session and gained widespread media coverage. To expand opportunities for employers and apprentices, the administration passed the [RAISE Act](#) which establishes the Maryland Office of Registered Apprenticeship Development and alters the duties of the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council.



Pictured above: Director Lakisha Hull, Deputy Director James Hunt, Deputy Director Robert Kronenburg and Government Affairs Liaison Jordan Baucum Colbert

Section I: Budget, Bond Bills, Grant Funding and Fiscal Impacts

Like previous legislative sessions, the Moore-Miller administration made strides to balance the state budget. However, this legislative year had some challenges as the state started out with a \$3 Billion projected deficit. After extensive negotiation, the House and Senate successfully passed a \$67 Billion spending plan which includes budget spending reductions, cost shifts, fund transfers and revenue enhancements to balance the fiscal year 2026 budget.



The MGA passed [HB 350 Budget Bill](#) which is the state operating budget appropriations for fiscal 2026. The MGA also passed the state capital budget [HB 351 Creation of a State Debt – Maryland Consolidated Bond Loan of 2025](#) in the amount of \$1,814,825,000. [HB 352 Budget Reconciliation Financing Act](#) passed and reduced millions of dollars of general fund spending. As well as [HB 1519 Prior Authorization of State Debt – Alternations](#) which amends certain prior authorizations of state debt to adjust the names of certain grantees, alter the authorized uses of certain grants, and extend termination dates of certain grants. More detailed information on the outcome of the state's budget this year can be found in the [Joint Chairman's Report of 2025](#).

Legislative Bond Initiatives

Legislative Bond Initiatives - LBIs are bond authorization requests filed by members of the MGA to support specific local or non-State-owned capital projects. The Commission received a total of \$6,458,000 in LBIs and grants this legislative session. Below are a photos of Commission-owned properties that received funding this legislative session. A full list of LBIs and miscellaneous grant funding approved for the Commission's Prince George's County (DPR) and Montgomery County (MCParks) is provided on the following page.



Wheaton Regional Park - Montgomery County



Publick Playhouse – Prince George's County



Centerway Local Park – Montgomery County



Ardmore Park – Prince George's County

Prince George's Parks and Recreation

Project Title	Amount Requested	Total Funding
Ardmore Park District Members: Jazz Lewis, Andrea Harrison, Tiffany Alston and Joanne Benson District: 24	<i>\$155,000</i>	<i>\$155,000</i>
Hartman-Berkshire Park District Members: Karen Toles, Kent Roberson, Denise Roberts, and Nick Charles District: 25	<i>\$100,000</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>
Publick Playhouse District Members: Dana Fennel, Julian Ivey and Malcom Augustine District: 47A	<i>\$5,000,000</i>	<i>\$1,200,000</i>
Total: \$ 1,455,000		

Prince George's County Boys and Girls Club

Project Title	Amount
Prince George's Community Boys and Girls Club	<i>\$300,000</i>
Community Boys and Girls Club	<i>\$300,000</i>
Laurel Boys and Girls Clubs	<i>\$500,000</i>
Total: \$1,100,000	

Montgomery Parks

Project Title	Amount Request	Total Funding
Calverton Galway Local Park District Members: Anne R. Kaiser, Bernice D. Mireku-North, Pamela E. Queen and Craig Zucker District: 14	\$800,000	\$275, 000
Dalewood Dr. Playground District Members: Aaron Kaufman, Emily Shetty, and Jared Solomon, Jeff Waldstreicher District: 18	\$600,000	\$400,000
Centerway District Members: Gabe Acevero, Lesley Lopez, and Greg Wims/ Nacy J. King District: 39	\$450,000	\$500,000
New Hampshire Estates District Members: District 20 – Lorig Charkoudian, David H. Moon, Jheanelle K. Wilkins and Will Smith District: 20	\$750,000	\$828,000
Wheaton Regional Park District Members: Charlotte Crutchfield, Bonnie Cullison and Vaughn Stewart and Benjamin Kramer District: 19	\$1,200,000	\$3,000,000
Total: \$5,003,000		

Program Open Space

Program Open Space (POS) –Provides financial and technical assistance to local subdivisions for planning, acquisition, and/ or development of land for recreation and open space. POS is a partnership between the Counties in Maryland and the Department of Natural Resources to provide open space, natural resources, and outdoor recreational opportunities for Prince George’s County and Montgomery County residents. A total of **\$35,472,393** was provided to twenty-four counties in the state of Maryland. The Department of Natural Resources allotted the Commission a total of **\$8,386,360 combined in both Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties** in program open space funds this legislative session. The information below captures the amounts awarded by county in the state. More detailed information can be found in [The 90-Day Report, A Review of Legislative Session](#).

Chart of Program Open Space Funding by County

County	Amount
Montgomery County	\$4,610,730
Prince George’s County	\$3,775,630
Allegany County	\$289,184
Anne Arundel County	\$3,091,794
Baltimore City	\$12,057,189
Baltimore County	\$3,479,391
Calvert County	\$307,846
Caroline County	\$135,211
Carroll County	\$691,395
Cecil County	\$358, 223
Charles County	\$636,800
Dorchester County	\$117, 447
Frederick County	\$745, 503
Garrett County	\$146,379
Hartford County	\$1,029,868
Howard County	\$1,819,543
Kent County	\$87,920
Queen Anne’s County	\$3,775,630
St. Mary’s County	\$350,184
Somerset County	\$82,900
Talbot County	\$200,079
Washington County	\$544,413
Wicomico County	\$363,080
Worcester County	\$359,744
Total	\$35,472,393

Fiscal Notes

Fiscal Notes – In Maryland, a committee may not vote on a bill unless a fiscal note accompanies the bill. A fiscal note for a bill must contain an estimate of the fiscal impact of the bill on the revenue and expenditure of the state government and of local governments. The Maryland Department of Legislative Services (DLS) is responsible for providing written estimates of the fiscal impact on state and local government finances for all proposed bills. By law, organizations are required to respond to fiscal note impact requests from DLS. Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison leads the Commission’s fiscal note impact group weekly meeting during the 90-day session. Members of the fiscal note group represent various departments throughout the Commission (Parks, Planning, Finance, Legal, and Human Resources, etc.). This year, the fiscal note group reviewed over forty fiscal note requests. **A brief summary of representative fiscal note responses the Commission provided are indicated below.**

Name	Fiscal Impact (Yes or No)	Brief Summary of Impact to the Commission	Bill Status
SB 236 - Maryland Department of Planning – Modernization	Yes	By repealing the State Finance and Procurement Article's Section 5–407, M-NCPPC has the potential to miss out on \$100,000 of annual revenue that could be realized from the state in the budget of the Maryland Department of Planning.	Passed
SB 822 Property Tax – Tax Credit for Nonprimary Residence	Yes	The Bi-County Commission revenue loss would depend on the specific number of processed credits (anticipated to be less than homestead credit) and the average value of the credit (which may be higher than homestead based on the percentage).	Failed
HB 1231 - Montgomery County and Prince George's County - Qualifying Municipal Corporation - Land Use MC/PG 114-25	Yes	Multiple jurisdictions interpreting and enforcing zoning laws will result in differing opinions and interpretations causing uncertainty and potential inequity in the development process throughout the County.	Failed

Name	Fiscal Impact (Yes, No or Maybe)	Brief Summary of Impact	Bill Status
SB 976 - Collective Bargaining - Local Government Employees and Public Employee Relations Act	Maybe	<p>Collective Bargaining with any additional employee groups would be handled at the Bi-County administration level of M-NCPPC rather than at the county department level within M-NCPPC.</p> <p>The Planning Department anticipated that this legislation could have had potential effects on the work that it does or the information that it provides to the Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM). However, the work would be accomplished with the current complement of staff and resources.</p>	Failed
SB 832 - Prince George's County - District Council Zoning Laws - Override by Municipal Corporation	Yes	This bill would have had an impact on the Commission and the County as a whole. Permitting all 27 municipalities in Prince George's County to "override" any provision of the County's 700+ page zoning ordinance would cause uncertainty in the county's development and permitting process.	Failed
HB 1064 Montgomery County Planning Board and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Open Meetings – Live Streaming Requirement	No	Montgomery Planning did not anticipate fiscal impact from this proposed legislation. Board meetings are routinely streamed from the Wheaton Headquarters already.	Passed

Section II: Selective Statewide Legislative Highlights

Below is a snapshot of legislation that passed with potential or actual impacts on the Commission's operations and business processes. A few bills have been highlighted for informational purposes only.

Economic Development



[HB 1424/ SB 0683 Catastrophic Event Account and, Federal Government Shutdown Employee Assistance Loan Fund, and Powers of the Attorney General – Alterations \(Protect Our Federal Workers Act\)](#)

Two months into the new presidential administration federal workers experienced mass layoffs initially aimed at probationary employees to promote plans for reduction in the federal workforce. In addition to layoffs, federal agencies experienced hiring freezes and closures of entire federal government departments as part of the Department of Government Efficiency's (DOGE) plan to significantly downsize the federal government. To assist with funding costs in connection with a closure, relocation, or mass layoff of a unit of the federal government, or similar circumstances Delegate Jazz Lewis successfully championed the [Protect Our Federal Workers Act \(HB 1424\)](#). Among other things, the proposed bill renames the Federal Government Shutdown Employee Assistance Loan Fund to be the Federal Government Employee Assistance Loan Fund and authorize funds appropriated to the Catastrophic Event Account. **The House version of this bill passed.**

Energy and Climate



[HB 1036/ SB 0931 Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting \(Renewable Energy Certainty Act\)](#)

Among other things, this bill establishes a distributed generation certificate of public convenience and necessity to authorize the construction and operation of a distributed solar energy generating system. It requires the Power Plant Research Program, by July 1, 2026, to develop and submit to the Commission proposed siting and design requirements and licensing conditions. It establishes development standards and requirements for the construction of solar energy generating stations or front-of-the-meter energy storage devices. This bill also prohibits a local jurisdiction from adopting laws or regulations or denying site development plans and requires local governments to expedite the review and approval of solar site development plans. On or before July 1, 2026, the Public Service Commission shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the results of the study. **Both the House and Senate versions of this bill passed.**

Land Use, Zoning and Planning

[HB 503/ SB 430 Housing Development Act](#)

The original version of this bill sought to require the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Planning to calculate regional housing infrastructure gaps. The bill was amended several times during the 90-day session and ultimately revised to periodically establish housing production targets for the State and certain local jurisdictions. The Commission worked closely with the Moore-Miller administration and Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) to support legislation that would help the state meet its housing goals. **This bill did not pass.**

Government Operations



Pictured above: Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison and Matthew Mills, Senior Counsel

HB 752 Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing Confederate Names

This bill was previously introduced in 2024. As reintroduced under a new sponsor, Delegate Matthew J. Schindler, this bill sought to establish the Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing Confederate Names. Due to the Montgomery Planning Department's experience with street renaming efforts and Prince George's Planning Department's experience in conducting research related to street naming, the Commission voted to support this bill. Matthew Mills, Senior Counsel and Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison were invited by the bill sponsor to testify in person as panelists before the Health and Government Affairs Committee. **For the second year in a row, this bill did not pass.**

Health and Safety

HB 176/ SB 0026 - Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act

This bill provides for development and adoption of occupational safety and health standards, including standards in the workplace. This bill aims to make the workplace of public bodies safer and healthier by requiring public bodies to create or improve programs and plans related to workplace violence. It requires that the workplace of public bodies be inspected regularly and maintained so that employees are provided with a place of employment that is safe, healthy and productive over the occurrences of their careers. This bill was later amended to require the Correctional Training Commission to adopt certain regulations for training, issuance, and use of body-worn cameras. **Both the House and Senate versions of this bill passed.**

HB 1163 Task Force to Study Fencing for Bodies of Water and Playgrounds - Established

This bill proposed to establish a Task Force to Study Fencing for Bodies of Water and Playgrounds. After reviewing this bill, the Commission believed its participation would add value to the task force membership as the Commission owns and operates playgrounds and parkland in both Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. The Commission requested that the bill sponsor, Delegate Edith H. Patterson, add both park departments to the taskforce membership list. The proposed amendments were adopted. In addition to fencing, the Commission encouraged the task force to also consider other safety features and/or interventions to prevent injuries and fatalities. The Commission

submitted a written statement to support this bill with amendments. **This bill did not pass.**

Capital Budget and Appropriations

HB 1078 / SB 997 Prince George's County - Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters - Mandated Appropriation

The new Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Headquarters was slated to bring in 7,500 new jobs and 4 billion over economic activities. Securing funds for future redevelopment and improvements was vital and would help ensure investments in the state of Maryland. This bill indicated that if the U.S. General Services Administration applies to Prince George's County or the State of for a permit associated with the relocation of the FBI Headquarters to Prince George's County, the Governor shall include in the annual operating or capital budget bill an appropriation of at least \$200,000,000 for site development and to improve transportation infrastructure for the FBI Headquarters relocation project. **The House version of this bill passed.**

HB 717 Natural Resources – Public Lands – Acquisition, Staffing, Operations and Funding

This bill alters the provisions of law regarding the Department's acquisition of real property by the Department of Natural Resources. It creates sustainable funding sources to protect public lands and authorizes the department to have affiliate foundations and create partnerships for Maryland residents. It aims to work with local governments to support development in local communities. Among other things, this bill also establishes a Land and Property Management Program in DNR to process certain real property transactions. **This bill passed.**

Energy and Environment

SB 250 Department of the Environment - Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation

This bill was previously introduced in 2024. This bill alters the authorized use of the Maryland Clean Air Fund to include certain activities relating to mitigating and reducing air pollution in the State. It specifies that money deposited into the Maryland Clean Air Fund may not revert to the General Fund of State. It alters the maximum amount of the air quality control permit fee. Additionally, this bill establishes a new dam safety permit fee for constructing, reconstructing, repairing, removing, or modifying a dam and a new dam annual registration fee. Beginning July 1, 2027, to register with the department, a dam owner must comply with these dam fees and registration requirements. **This bill passed.**

Section III: Bi-County Legislative Highlights

This section features selected highlights of various Bi-County bills in which the Commission either voted to support or oppose, submitted a written statement, or engaged bill sponsors and stakeholders on the bill. A full list of bills can be found in section 6 of this report.

HB 1064 Montgomery County Planning Board and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Open Meetings – Live Streaming Requirement (MC/ 101-25)

Due to technical challenges with mobile streaming and the existing statutory requirement to stream meetings, the Montgomery County Planning Board were required to conduct several sessions of any tour or site visit related to master plans and parks, in an effort to avoid a quorum. This required six or more planning staff for at least three to four hours each tour, numerous vehicle trips, coordination for access to specific sites to educate the Planning Board members about a master plan area or park facility. The Commission, Chair, Artie Harris and planning staff introduced the bill idea to the Montgomery County Delegation Chair, Julie Palakovich Carr.

As written, HB 1064, establishes that certain project site visits and educational field tours do not constitute open meetings subject to the requirement that the Montgomery County Planning Board and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, respectively, stream live video or audio of their open meetings. Chair Artie Harris, testified before the Montgomery County Delegation bill hearing. With the help of Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr, the Montgomery County Delegation and staff, **the bill passed. The effective date is July 1, 2025.**



Pictured above: M-NCPPC, Chair Artie Harris, and Montgomery County Delegation Chair Julie Palakovich Carr



Pictured above: Montgomery County Delegation Chair Julie Palakovich Carr, Governor Wes Moore, Lt. Governor Aruna Miller, Senate President Bill Ferguson, House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones, Ilana Branda, Jordan Baucum Colbert, and Jason Sartori, et. al.

HB 964 Montgomery County – Task Force on the Displacement of Residents of Emory Grove (MC 5-25)

Emory Grove was originally founded by freed African Americans in 1864. For more than 100 years, Emory Grove represented a thriving close-knit African American community in the Montgomery County. As a result of Urban Renewal in the 1960's and 1970's many residents were left displaced. To identify how urban renewal caused the displacement of residents, Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield introduced HB 964, which establishes the task force on the Displacement of Residents of Emory Grove. The task force will be staffed by the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights to study how the urban renewal program carried out from 1960 through 1985 that caused the displacement of residents of Emory Grove. If deemed appropriate by the task force, it will recommend remedies for past inequities in the purchase of land by Montgomery County through the urban renewal program in Emory Grove. As indicated in the bill, **the task force must hold its first meeting no later than July 1, 2025.** The task force must submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Montgomery County Council, the Montgomery County Executive, and the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly by December 15, 2025, and a final report by December 15, 2026. The Commission voted to support this bill with amendments to add the "Montgomery Planning Board Chair or his designee" as a task force member. The proposed amendments were adopted. Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison testified in support of this bill and a written position statement was submitted on behalf of the Commission. **This bill passed.**



Pictured above: Delegate Charlotte A. Crutchfield, Delegate Greg Wims, Governor Wes Moore, Lt. Governor Aruna Miller, Senate President Bill Ferguson, House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones, Ilana Branda, Jordan Baucum Colbert, and Jason Sartori, et. al.

HB 1266 Taskforce on Land Use Issues in Prince George's County (MC/ PG 117-25)

This bill was previously introduced in 2024. As reintroduced this year by the same bill sponsor, Delegate Tiffany Alston, the original version of this bill sought to remove all approval authority of the Prince George's County Planning Board and the Board of Appeals and give exclusive approval authority to Prince George's County District Council. Approval of all development plans, subdivision plans, tree conservation plans, variances, appeals, etc. would fall under the authority of Prince George's County District Council. The Commission voted to oppose the original version of this bill and submitted a written position statement in opposition. However, during the 90-day session the Prince George's County delegation heavily amended this bill removing the transfer of authority and instead creating a taskforce to study land use issues in Prince George's County. **This bill did not pass.**

SB 832 Prince George's County – District Council Zoning Laws – Override by Municipal Corporation

This bill sought to authorize a municipal corporation in Prince George's County in the regional district to override zoning laws made by the district council and by a majority vote of the governing body of the municipal corporation. This would have allowed all 27 municipalities in Prince George's County to “override” any provision of the County's 700+ page zoning ordinance which would cause uncertainty in the county's development and permitting process. The Commission voted to oppose this bill. A written position statement was submitted on behalf of the Commission. **This bill did not pass.**

HB 1231 Montgomery County and Prince George's County Qualifying Municipal Corporation Land Use (MC/PG 114-25)

This bill was previously introduced in 2024. As reintroduced by the same bill sponsor, Delegate Marvin Holmes, the original language of this bill authorized qualifying municipalities with at least 15,000 residents to exercise zoning and subdivision authority utilizing the same zoning code and regulations as the County. During the 90-day session, the bill sponsor amended the bill to add subdivision authority to the powers granted to qualifying municipalities. The proposed amendment also altered “qualifying municipality” to be defined as a municipality of any size which employs a single planner. The Commission voted to oppose this bill. A written position statement was submitted on behalf of the Commission. Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison offered testimony on behalf of the Commission during the Prince George's County delegation bill hearing. **This bill did not pass.**

HB 1167 – Montgomery County - Municipal Authority to Regulate Structures - Alterations MC/PG 116-25

This bill applies to municipalities in Montgomery County over which the Commission has planning and zoning authority (i.e., Takoma Park, Kensington, Garrett Park, Somerset, Glen Echo, Martin's Addition, Town of Chevy Chase, Chevy Chase View, Chevy Chase Village, Village of Chevy Chase, Section 3, and Village of Chevy Chase, Section 5). The bill is intended to allow municipalities to impose additional or stricter building requirements that are required by county zoning on residential buildings with four or fewer dwelling units and their accessory structures without regard to the zoning for the land where the building is located. Montgomery Planning Director, Jason Sartori worked closely with the municipalities and the bill sponsor, Delegate Jared Solomon, to identify key components of this legislation that would align with the County's goals. The Commission voted to support this bill. **This bill passed.**

HB 1228 Department of Commerce – Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve Study

Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve represents one-third of the total land area in Montgomery County. Regular monitoring and studying of this area is critical to ensure that it maintains economic viability. This bill requires the Maryland Department of Commerce, in coordination with certain county agencies and organizations, to study economic development and the tourist and visitor economy of the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve. On or before June 30, 2026, findings must be reported to the members of the Montgomery County Delegation to the General Assembly. Commission staff have offered to share data and/or other available resources for this study. The Commission voted to support this bill. A written position statement was submitted on behalf of the Commission. **This bill passed.**

HB 1466/ SB 0089 Land use and Real Property - Accessory Dwelling Units - Requirements and Prohibitions

This bill requires, on or before October 1, 2026, each legislative body to adopt a local law authorizing the development of accessory dwelling units subject to certain requirements to meet housing needs. This bill also indicates that a local law adopted under this law shall exclude the development of an accessory dwelling unit from calculation of density and the application of any measures limiting residential growth that pertain to the lot, parcel, or tract proposed for the development of the accessory dwelling unit. To align the bill more closely with local goals for housing, the Commission proposed amendments that were accepted by the sponsor of this bill, Delegate Vaughn Stewart. The Commission voted to support this bill with amendments and a written position statement was submitted. **Both the House and Senate versions of this bill passed.**

HB 1470 – Prince George's County - Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program - Cutting or Clearing Trees MC/PG 113-25

This bill is applicable only in Prince George's County. The bill indicates that in order to enforce a violation involving the clearing or cutting of trees in the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area (CBCA), the Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement must record a lien on property that is the subject of the violation. The bill further establishes limits, prohibitions, requirements, and authorizations on actions the local jurisdiction may take if a lien is not recorded as required by the Act.

It also requires Prince George's County government to vacate administrative enforcement actions related to a violation occurring on or before November 7, 2018, where the current property owner purchased the property in good faith after the previous owner's violation, and Prince George's County to reimburse the current property owner for all costs and fees associated with such enforcement actions. The Commission did not take an official vote on this bill. However, staff submitted a written informational statement to clarify that M-NCPPC has no enforcement authority in Prince George's County and has no control over fines levied for violations of the CBCA Act. This bill was amended to remove M-NCPPC from the bill. **This bill passed. The effective date is October 1, 2025.**

Section IV: Montgomery Parks and Planning Department

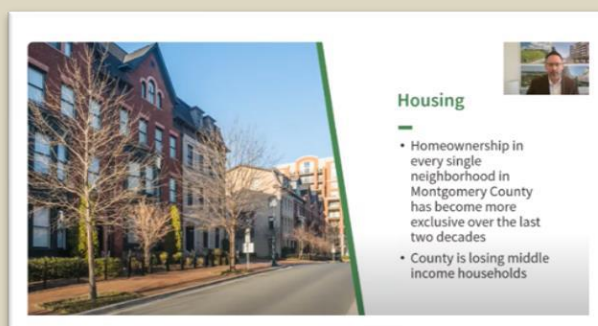
Montgomery County Delegation Annual Briefing

Each legislative session, the Montgomery County Parks and Planning Departments brief the Montgomery County Delegation on various projects and inform members about what county residents can expect in the future. On [February 7, 2025, the annual legislative delegation briefing](#) was led by Artie Harris, Montgomery County Planning Board Chair, Jason Satori, Montgomery Planning Director, and Miti Figueredo, Montgomery Parks Director.

During this important briefing, the delegation received updates from the Montgomery Parks and Montgomery Planning on pending and proposed park projects, as well as housing and equitable engagement. The Planning Department shared its goals for the Montgomery Planning Community Planning Academy and offered updates on the Development Review Committee Workgroup. The Montgomery Parks Department provided updates on priority projects and development plans.



Pictured above: Chair Artie Harris commences the legislative briefing with opening remarks.



Pictured above: Director Jason Sartori providing updates on planning as it relates to housing in the county.



Pictured above: Director Miti Figueredo sharing goals for Wheaton Regional Park.

Section V: Timeless Prince George's Exhibition Reception

Every year, Prince George's Parks, and Recreation Department partners with MGA to host its art exhibition reception. *Timeless Prince George's* highlights a broad range of artwork being created in Prince George's County and aims to foster inclusive spirit among participating artists. Artwork is generally displayed in the House Building throughout the 90-day session. This year's display was coordinated by Stuart Diekmeyer in the Prince George's Parks Department. The public reception was held on March 11, 2025, which also offered attendees the opportunity to mix and mingle with the featured artists, learn more about the beautiful artwork and engage with elected officials.








Pictured above: Delegates Nicole Williams, Dana Fennel and Veronica Turner







Section VI: Full List of Final Legislative Outcomes

I. Bi-County Related Bills




Bill Number, Title, Sponsor	Short Summary
<p><u>HB 1064 Montgomery County Planning Board and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Open Meetings – Live Streaming Requirement (MC/PG 101-25)</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Montgomery County Delegation (Delegate Palakovich Carr)</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted a letter of support and offered verbal testimony.</p>	<p>Establishes that certain project site visits and educational field tours do not constitute open meetings subject to the requirement that the Montgomery County Planning Board and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, respectively, stream live video or audio of their open meetings.</p> <p>The Montgomery Planning Board Chair, Artie Harris and planning department staff introduced the idea for this bill to Delegate Palakovich Carr and helped champion bill during the legislative session.</p> <p>Status: Passed </p>
<p><u>HB 964 Montgomery County – Taskforce on Displaced Individuals of Emory Grove (MC 5-25)</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Montgomery County Delegation (Delegate Charolette Crutchfield)</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted a letter of support and offered verbal testimony.</p>	<p>Emory Grove was originally founded by freed African Americans in 1864. For more than 100 years, Emory Grove represented a thriving close-knit African American community in the Montgomery County. As a result of Urban Renewal in the 1960’s and 1970’s many residents were left displaced. To identify how urban renewal caused the displacement of residents, Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield introduced HB 964, which establishes the task force on the Displacement of Residents of Emory Grove. The task force will be staffed by the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights to study how the urban renewal program carried out from 1960 through 1985 that caused the displacement of residents of Emory Grove. If deemed appropriate by the task force, it will recommend remedies for past inequities in the purchase of land by Montgomery County through the urban renewal program in Emory Grove.</p> <p>As indicated in the bill, the task force must hold its first meeting no later than July 1, 2025. The task force must submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Montgomery County Council, the Montgomery County Executive, and the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly by December 15, 2025, and a final report by December 15, 2026. The Commission voted to support this bill with amendments to add the “Montgomery Planning Board Chair or his designee” as a task force member.</p> <p>Status: Passed </p>





<p><u>1266 Taskforce on Land Use Issues in Prince George's County (MC/PG 117/ 25)</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Prince George's County Delegation (Tiffany Alston)</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted an opposition letter based on the original version of the bill.</p>	<p>This bill was previously introduced last session in 2024. As reintroduced this year by the same bill sponsor, Delegate Tiffany Alston, the original version of this bill sought to remove all the Prince George's County Planning Board and the Board of Appeals jurisdiction and give exclusive approval authority to Prince George's County District Council.</p> <p>Approval of all development plans, subdivision plans, tree conservation plans, variances, appeals, etc. would fall under the authority of Prince George's County District Council. The Commission voted to oppose the original version of this bill and submitted a written position statement in opposition. However, during the 90-day session the Prince George's County delegation heavily amended this bill to create a taskforce to study land use issues in Prince George's County</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>
<p><u>1231 Montgomery County and Prince George's County - Qualifying Municipal Corporation - Land Use (MC/PG 114-25)</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Prince George's County Delegation (Delegate Marvin Holmes)</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted written testimony in opposition to this bill and provided verbal testimony before the Bi-County delegation.</p>	<p>This bill was previously introduced last session in 2024. As reintroduced by the same bill sponsor this year, Delegate Marvin Holmes, the original language of this bill authorizes qualifying municipalities with at least 15,000 residents to exercise zoning and subdivision authority utilizing the <u>same</u> code and regulations as the County. During the 90-day session, the bill sponsor amended the bill to add subdivision authority to the powers granted to qualifying municipalities.</p> <p>The proposed amendment also altered "qualifying municipality" to be defined as a municipality of any size which employs a planner. Subdivision in the county includes review of conformance with the county's APF, tree conservation, transportation mitigation requirements, and other ancillary reviews including archeology and historic preservation.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>
<p><u>HB 1167 – Montgomery County - Municipal Authority to Regulate Structures - Alterations (MC/PG 116-25)</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Montgomery County Delegation (Delegates Jared Solomon)</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted a letter of support with amendments.</p>	<p>This bill applies to municipalities in Montgomery County over which the Commission has planning and zoning authority (i.e., Takoma Park, Kensington, Garrett Park, Somerset, Glen Echo, Martin's Addition, Town of Chevy Chase, Chevy Chase View, Chevy Chase Village, Village of Chevy Chase, Section 3, and Village of Chevy Chase, Section 5). The bill is intended to allow municipalities to impose additional or stricter building requirements that are required by county zoning on residential buildings with four or fewer dwelling units and their accessory structures without regard to the zoning for the land where the building is located. Montgomery Planning Director, Jason Sartori worked closely with the municipalities and the bill sponsor, Delegate Jared Solomon, to identify key components of this legislation that would align with the county's goals. The Commission voted to support this bill.</p> <p>Status: Passed </p>




<p><u>HB 1228 Department of Commerce – Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve Study (MC 15-25)</u></p> <p>Sponsor (s): Montgomery County Delegation (Delegates Lily Qi)</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted a letter of support with amendments.</p>	<p>Montgomery County’s Agricultural Reserve represents one-third of the total land area in Montgomery County. Regular monitoring and studying in this area is critical to ensure that it maintains economic viability. This bill requires the Department of Commerce, in coordination with certain county agencies and organizations, to study economic development and the tourist and visitor economy of the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve. On or before June 30, 2026, findings must be reported to the members of the Montgomery County Delegation to the General Assembly. Commission staff have taken an interest in offering data sharing and/or resources for this study.</p> <p>Status: Passed </p>
<p><u>HB 1470 – Prince George's County - Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program - Cutting or Clearing Trees (MC/PG 113-25)</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Prince George’s County Delegation (Delegate Kris Valderrama)</p> <p>Notes: The Commission did not take a position on this bill but rather offered informational statements.</p>	<p>This bill is applicable only to Prince George’s County. It indicates that in order to enforce a certain violation involving the clearing or cutting of trees in the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area (CBCA), the Prince George’s County Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement must record a lien on the property that is the subject of the violation in a certain manner, establishing certain limits, prohibitions, requirements, and authorizations on actions certain local jurisdictions may take if a lien is not recorded as required by this Act.</p> <p>It also requires Prince George’s County government to vacate certain administrative enforcement actions related to a specified violation occurring on or before November 7, 2018, where the current property owner purchased the property in good faith after the previous owner’s violation, and requires any administrative enforcement actions for the violation to be vacated and Prince George’s County to reimburse the current property owner for all costs and fees associated with such enforcement actions. The Commission did not take an official vote on this bill. However, staff submitted a written informational statement to clarify that M-NCPPC has no enforcement authority in Prince George’s County and has no control over fines levied for violations of the CBCA Act.</p> <p>Status: Passed </p>



<p><u>HB 1173 Montgomery County – Speed Monitoring Systems – High-Risk Highway (MC/ PG 17-25)</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Montgomery County Delegation (Jared Solomon)</p> <p>Notes: The Commission closely monitored this bill.</p>	<p>This bill authorizes the placement and use of speed monitoring systems on highways in Montgomery County that are at high risk for certain motor vehicle crashes. It prohibits the placement and use of speed monitoring systems on certain highways in Montgomery County.</p> <p>Additionally, it requires the fines collected by Montgomery County or by a municipal government in Montgomery County as a result of violations enforced by a speed monitoring system to be used to fund the study, design, and construction of certain safety-related projects.</p> <p>Status: Passed </p>
<p><u>HB 963 Montgomery County - Highways - Maximum Speed Limits (MC 1-25)</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate David Moon (Montgomery County Delegation)</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill authorizes a local authority in Montgomery County to decrease the maximum speed limit on a highway without performing an engineering and traffic investigation.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>

II. Parks and Recreation Related Bills




Bill Number, Title, Sponsor	Short Summary
<p><u>SB 250 Department of the Environment - Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Requested by the Department of Environment</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill was previously introduced last session in 2024. This year the bill had more success and passed. This bill alters the authorized use of the Maryland Clean Air Fund to include certain activities relating to mitigating and reducing air pollution in the State.</p> <p>It specifies that money deposited into the Maryland Clean Air Fund may not revert to the General Fund of State. It alters the maximum amount of a certain air quality control permit fee. Additionally, this bill establishes a new dam safety permit fee for constructing, reconstructing, repairing, removing, or modifying a dam and a new dam annual registration fee. Beginning July 1, 2027, to register with the department, a dam owner must comply with these dam fees and registration requirements.</p> <p>Status: Passed </p>
<p><u>HB 150/ SB 252 Child Care Centers - Certificated Staff Ratio Requirement - Alteration</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Department of Education</p> <p>Notes: None</p>	<p>This bill Requires that a childcare center serving more than 20 children must have in attendance certificate holders in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation under certain circumstances set by the Department of Education.</p> <p>Status: Passed  (Both House and Senate)</p>
<p><u>HB 114 / SB 249 Pesticide and Pest Control - Revisions to Pesticide Applicator's Law and Repeal of Obsolete Provisions</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Department of Agriculture</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill establishes the requirements for the commercial application of general use pesticides, the commercial application of restricted use pesticides, and the private application of restricted use pesticides. It requires a certified private applicator to ensure that certain individuals working under the certified applicator's supervision meet certain requirements. It also requires specifying the responsibility and liability of certified applicators for the application of certain pesticides.</p> <p>Status: Passed  (Both House and Senate)</p>





<p><u>HB 717 Natural Resources – Public Lands – Acquisition, Staffing, Operations and Funding</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Department of Natural Resources</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill creates sustainable funding sources to protect public lands. Authorizes the department to have affiliate foundations and create partnerships for Maryland residents. This bill also aims to work with local governments to support development in local communities.</p> <p>Status: Passed </p>
<p><u>HB 701 Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers - Purchase, Use, and Sale - Prohibitions (Clean Air Quiet Communities Act)</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Lina Foley</p> <p>Notes: A similar version of this bill was introduced in 2023 and 2024.</p>	<p>Prohibits the State from purchasing gasoline-powered leaf blowers beginning July 1, 2025. Establishes a certain process to phase out the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers by the State or any contractor or subcontractor employed by the State beginning on a certain date.</p> <p>This bill also requires a person that sells or offers the sale a gasoline-powered leaf blower in the State to provide certain notice to the purchaser or potential purchaser, prohibiting the sale of gasoline-powered leaf blowers beginning on a certain date.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>
<p><u>SB 0095 State and Local Parks-Playgrounds-Safety Standards (Our Kids Play Safe Playground Safety Act of 2025)</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Senator Folden</p> <p>Notes: This bill was previously introduced in 2024.</p>	<p>Requires each unit of State or local government responsible for the construction and maintenance of a playground to ensure that the playground is constructed and maintained in accordance with certain safety standards. It requires a unit of State or local government to inspect a certain playground to evaluate compliance with certain safety standards and to keep an inspection record in a certain manner.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>
<p><u>HB 386 / SB 345 Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Shelia Ruth and Senator Benjamin Brooks.</p> <p>Notes: This bill was previously introduced in 2024.</p>	<p>Requires the Department of Agriculture to develop and maintain a list of certain registered pesticides that list PFAS chemicals as an active ingredient on the labeling accompanying the pesticide.</p> <p>It prohibits a person from using, for certain purposes and beginning on certain dates, certain PFAS pesticides and prohibits, beginning on a certain date, the Department from registering certain PFAS pesticides for sale in the State. Furthermore, this bill authorizes the Department and the Maryland Department of Health to list additional PFAS chemicals based on certain new information.</p> <p>Status: Failed  (Both House and Senate)</p>





<p><u>HB 1393 Youth Sports Programs - Registrations, Personnel, and Policy</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Terri L. Hill</p> <p>Notes: This bill was previously introduced in 2023.</p>	<p>This bill requires certain youth sports programs to maintain and update a registry of youth sports program personnel who participate in the youth sports programs.</p> <p>It requires a parent or guardian of a youth registered with a youth sports program to sign and submit to the youth sports program an acknowledgment of the receipt of certain information. It also requires a youth sports program to post its removal and return-to-play policy on its website, if available.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>
<p><u>HB 1163 Task Force to Study Fencing for Bodies of Water and Playgrounds - Established</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Edith J. Patterson</p> <p>Notes: The Commission voted to support this bill with amendments and submitted a written position statement to support with amendments.</p>	<p>This bill establishes a Task Force to Study Fencing for Bodies of Water and Playgrounds. After reviewing this bill, the Commission believed its participation would add value to the membership as the Commission owns and operates playgrounds and parkland in both Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. The Commission requested that the bill sponsor, Delegate Edith H. Patterson, add both parks' departments to the taskforce membership list. The proposed amendments were adopted. In addition to fencing, the Commission encouraged the task force to also consider other safety features and/or interventions to prevent injuries and fatalities.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>
<p><u>HB 1105 / SB 770 Public Schools and Youth Services – Crisis Support and Assistance and Workgroup Study</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Edith J. Patterson and Senator Daen Gile.</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted a letter of information.</p>	<p>The initial version of this bill required childcare centers and youth-serving organizations to require applicants for positions involving direct contact with minors to submit certain information, requiring county boards of education, nonpublic schools, and contracting agencies to require applicants for positions involving direct contact with minors to submit information relating to certain boundary-violating behavior.</p> <p>This bill on the Senate side was changed to a task force and among other things, would have required each local school system to provide crisis support and assistance to a public school when a teacher or another school employee is removed from the classroom or school building under certain circumstances.</p> <p>Status: Failed  (Both House and Senate)</p>





<p><u>HB 76/ SB 396 Public Safety Officer - Performance of Duties - Death Benefits</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Mary A. Lehman and Senator Mike McKay</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill alters circumstances under which certain individuals are presumed to have died as a direct and proximate result of an injury sustained in the performance of duties for purposes of eligibility for death benefits.</p> <p>Status: Passed  (Senate Version Only)</p>
<p><u>HB 257/ SB 317 Natural Resources – Food Forests and Foraging Program – Establishment</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Lorig Charkoudian and Senator Karen Lewis Young</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill establishes a Food Forests and Foraging Program within the Department of Natural Resources. It requires individuals who forage in a food forest to obtain a foraging permit. Requires the Department to charge a permit application fee and establish a fee waiver process for individuals who demonstrate financial need.</p> <p>Status: Failed  (Both House and Senate)</p>




III. Housing, Land Use, and Planning

Bill Number, Title, Sponsor	Short Summary
<p><u>HB 503/ SB 430 Housing Development Act</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Department of Planning</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted a written statement to support the original version of this bill with amendments.</p>	<p>The original version of this bill sought to require the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Planning to calculate certain regional housing infrastructure gaps. The bill was amended several times during the 90-day session and ultimately changed to periodically establish housing production targets for the State and certain local jurisdictions. The Commission worked closely with the Moore-Miller administration and Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) to support the legislation.</p> <p>Status: Failed  (Both House and Senate)</p>
<p><u>HB 286 / SB 266 Local Comprehensive Planning and State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy - Planning Principles</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Department of Planning</p> <p>Notes: The Commission voted to support this bill and submitted a written statement.</p>	<p>This bill alters the planning visions for local comprehensive planning to consist of certain planning principles. It alters the State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy to consist of certain planning principles. It also requires the publisher of the Annotated Code of Maryland, in consultation with the Department of Legislative Services, to correct cross-references and terminology in the Code that are rendered incorrect by this Act.</p> <p>Status: Passed  (Both House and Senate)</p>
<p><u>HB 272 / SB 236 Maryland Department of Planning – Modernization</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Department of Planning</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>Requires the State Administrator of Elections to submit certain information to the Secretary of Planning under certain circumstances. Alters a requirement that the Department of the Environment submits certain proposals to the Department of Planning and alters requirements related to the Department of Planning preparing population projections.</p> <p>Status: Passed  (Both House and Senate)</p>




<p><u>HB 38 School Construction and Housing - School Zones and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate David Moon</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted a written statement to support his bill with amendments.</p>	<p>This bill requires each county board of education to submit a report to the Department of Planning and the Interagency Commission on School Construction each year and repeals the authorization of the Interagency Commission on School Construction to make an enrollment deduction.</p> <p>This bill also seeks to prohibit a county’s adequate public facilities ordinance from restricting housing developments after a certain period of time; and generally relating to school zones, school construction, and adequate public facilities ordinances.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>
<p><u>HB 80 / SB 190 Land Use - Transit-Oriented Development – Alterations</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Department of Transportation</p> <p>Notes: The Commission worked on comments through the subcommittee but did not take an official position.</p>	<p>This bill alters the authority of local legislative bodies to regulate land use planning on land that is located within a certain radius of, or, contiguous to, transit stations exempting transit-oriented development from provisions of State procurement law, subject to exceptions adding the use of project labor agreements as a scoring preference for projects financed by the Transit-Oriented Development Capital Grant and Revolving Loan Fund.</p> <p>Status: Failed  (Both House and Senate)</p>
<p><u>HB 84/ SB 395 Transportation – Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025)</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Mark Eldelson and Senator Shelly Hettlemen</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted an informational statement.</p>	<p>This bill requires the Department of Transportation, as part of the planning and implementation of major highway expansion projects, to perform an impact assessment of the project and develop and implement a corresponding multimodal transportation program.</p> <p>Status: Failed  (Both House and Senate)</p>
<p><u>HB 422 Vehicle Laws - Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles – Crosswalks</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill authorizes a person operating a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle at an intersection who is facing a red signal to enter the intersection to cross the highway in the direction of a pedestrian control “walk” signal.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>





<p><u>HB 362/ SB 290 Natural Resources – Roadside Tree Removal Permit Notification Act</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Sarah Wolek and Senator Sara Love</p> <p>Notes: The Parks Department offered comments to the bill sponsor to exclude M-NCPPC from the bill.</p>	<p>This bill requires an applicant for a permit for roadside tree removal to provide notice of application to all owners of property abutting and adjacent to the property subject to the application and the governing body of any common ownership community that has control over the land on which the tree is subject to where the application is located.</p> <p>Status: Withdrawn by Sponsor  (Both House and Senate Versions)</p>
<p><u>HB 724 / SB 631 Commission on Abandoned and Neglected Maryland Cemeteries – Establishment</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Gary Simmons and Senator M. Washington</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted a written letter of information.</p>	<p>This bill establishes the Commission on Abandoned and Neglected Maryland Cemeteries within the Office of Cemetery Oversight.</p> <p>Status: Failed  (Both House and Senate Versions)</p>
<p><u>MC 20-25 State Highway Administration – Montgomery County Streetscapes – Design Approval and Permitting</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Aaron M. Kaufman (Montgomery County Delegation)</p> <p>Notes: The Commission initially engaged the bill sponsor regarding this bill but did not take an official position. This bill never progressed to receive a state bill number.</p>	<p>This bill requires the State Highway Administration to delegate design decisions for a proposed private development project in Montgomery County that abuts a state highway to certain entities.</p> <p>This bill also provides that Montgomery County is responsible for approvals and permitting related to street lighting and street tree decisions on or adjacent to a state highway located in Montgomery County.</p> <p>Status: Withdrawn by Sponsor </p>
<p><u>HB 811/ SB 526 Counties - Construction of Sidewalks and Crosswalks - Safe Alternative Routes to Public Schools</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Jen Terrasa and Senator Arthur Ellis</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>Requires a board of education each year to prepare and post in a report that identifies pathways that public school students may use to travel to school using only safe alternative routes.</p> <p>Status: Failed  (Both House and Senate Versions)</p>

<p><u>HB 645 Transmission Line Siting - Comprehensive Plan, Recommendation, and Reporting Requirements</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Michele Guyton</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill requires each county and Baltimore City to update its comprehensive plan to include an element of electric system planning. Requires each electric company serving a county or Baltimore City to report to that county or the City regarding the electric company's compliance with provisions of the county's or City's electric system planning element.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>
<p><u>HB 0007 / SB 627 Vehicle Laws - Bicycles - Operation at Intersections</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Regina Boyce and Senator William Smith</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>Authorizes a person operating a bicycle that is approaching a stop sign at an intersection on highways to cautiously make a turn or proceed through the intersection without stopping if the person reduces the speed of the bicycle to a reasonable rate and yields the right-of-way to vehicles.</p> <p>Status: Failed  (Both House and Senate)</p>
<p><u>SB 559 Transportation – Study on Speed Limits – Interstate 495 and Connected</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Senator Joanne Benson</p> <p>Notes: This bill was previously introduced in the 2023 legislative session.</p>	<p>This bill requires the Department of Transportation to conduct a study on the implications of requiring the speed limit to deviate by a certain number of miles per hour at locations where a highway in the State connects to Interstate 495.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>
<p><u>HB 1128 Land Bank Authorities – Powers and Authority Bill</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Marvin Holmes</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill authorizes land bank authorities to create a special fund, make loans or grants, and enter into partnerships. This bill requires a land bank authority to include in the sale, lease, transfer, or disposition of the land bank authority's property a certain agreement.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>
<p><u>HB 1193 / SB 944 Housing Development Permits – Local Reporting Requirements (Maryland Housing Data Transparency Act)</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Sarak Wolek and Senator Shelly Hettlemen</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill requires counties to make quarterly reports to the Department of Planning regarding housing development permits issued by the local jurisdiction, beginning January 1, 2027. It authorizes municipalities to make quarterly reports to the Department regarding housing development permits issued by the municipality, beginning on January 1, 2027. It also requires the Department of Planning on or before July 1, 2027, and as the information becomes available thereafter, to make public the</p>




	<p>information reported by the local jurisdiction for the immediately preceding fiscal year.</p> <p>Status: Passed  (House version only)</p>
<p><u>HB 1466/ SB 891 Land use and Real Property - Accessory Dwelling Units - Requirements and Prohibitions</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Montgomery County Delegation (Delegate Vaughn Stewart)</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted a letter of support with amendments</p>	<p>This bill requires, on or before October 1, 2026, each legislative body to adopt a local law authorizing the development of accessory dwelling units subject to certain requirements to meet housing needs. This bill also indicates that a local law adopted under this law shall exclude the development of an accessory dwelling unit from calculation of density and the application of any measures limiting residential growth that pertain to the lot, parcel, or tract proposed for the development of the accessory dwelling unit.</p> <p>To align the bill more closely with local goals for housing, the Commission proposed amendments that were accepted by the sponsor of this bill, Delegate Vaughn Stewart. The Commission voted to support this bill with amendments and a written position statement was submitted.</p> <p>Status: Passed  (Both House and Senate Versions)</p>
<p><u>SB 832 Prince George's County – District Council Zoning Laws – Override by Municipal Corporation</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Prince George's County Delegation (Senator Nick Charles)</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted a letter of opposition to this bill.</p>	<p>This bill sought to authorize a municipal corporation in Prince George's County that is in the regional district to override zoning laws made by the district council and by a majority vote of the governing body of the municipal corporation. This would have allowed all 27 municipalities in Prince George's County to "override" any provision of the County's 700+ page zoning ordinance which would cause uncertainty in the county's development and permitting process. The Commission voted to oppose this bill. A written position statement was submitted on behalf of the Commission.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>


IV. Environment, Transportation and Economic Development Bills

Bill Number, Title, Sponsor	Short Summary
<p><u>HB 1036/ SB 0931 Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act)</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Senator Brian Feldman</p> <p>Notes: The Commission worked with MACO and county stakeholders on analyzing this bill.</p>	<p>This bill establishes a distributed generation certificate of public convenience and necessity to authorize the construction and operation of distributed solar energy generating systems. It requires the Power Plant Research Program, by July 1, 2026, to develop and submit to the Commission proposed siting and design requirements and licensing conditions. It establishes requirements for the construction of a solar energy generating station or front-of-the-meter energy storage device.</p> <p>This bill also prohibits a local jurisdiction from adopting laws or regulations or denying solar site development plans and requires a local government to expedite the review and approval of solar site development plans. On or before July 1, 2026, the Public Service Commission shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the results of the study.</p> <p>Status: Passed  (House and Seante Bills)</p>
<p><u>HB 1525 Municipalities - Annexation – Limitations</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Andrea Harrison</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted a written letter of support.</p>	<p>This bill prohibits municipalities from annexing land located in a different legislative district from that which the municipality or any part of it is located.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>
<p><u>HB 400/ SB 0055 State Finance - Prohibited Appropriations - Magnetic Levitation Transportation System</u></p> <p>Sponsor (s): Delegate Nicole Williams and Senator Alonzo Washington</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill prohibits the State and units and instrumentalities of the State from using any appropriation for a magnetic levitation transportation system in the State. It provides that the prohibition does not apply to expenditures on salaries.</p> <p>Status: Failed  (House and Seante Bills)</p>

<p><u>HB 0004 / SB 120 Restrictions on Use - Solar Collector Systems – Alteration</u></p> <p>Sponsor (s): Delegate Stephanie Smith and Senator Anthony C. Muse</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill prohibits land use restrictions that increase the cost of installing a solar collector system by a certain percentage or cost or that reduces the efficiency of the solar collector system by at least a certain percentage under a certain level of energy generation. This bill authorizes a community association to prohibit the installation of a solar collector system in the common area or common elements within the real estate development served by the community association.</p> <p>Status: Passed  (House and Senate Bills)</p>
<p><u>HB 0097 / SB 409 Economic Development - County or Municipal Corporation Economic Development Authority - Powers and Use of Proceeds</u></p> <p>Sponsor (s): Delegate Lily Qi and Senator Nancy J. King</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill expands the acceptable names authorized for an economic development authority established by a county or municipal corporation. Expands the powers of an authority, subject to limitations in the articles of incorporation of the authority and resolutions of the legislative body of a county or municipal corporation.</p> <p>Status: Failed  (Both House and Senate)</p>
<p><u>HB 1032 Baltimore City and Montgomery County – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems – Authorization</u></p> <p>Sponsor (s): Montgomery County Delegation (Delegates Charkoudian and Delegate Caylin Young – Baltimore)</p> <p>Notes: This bill was amended to include Baltimore County.</p>	<p>This bill authorizes the use of stop sign monitoring systems in school zones in Baltimore City and Montgomery County under the pilot program authorized for Prince George’s County, if authorized by local law.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>
<p><u>HB 1078/ SB 997 Prince George's County - Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters - Mandated Appropriation</u></p> <p>Sponsor (s): Delegate Nicole Williams and Senator Alonzo Washington</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill indicated that if the U.S. General Services Administration applies to Prince George’s County or the State of for a permit associated with the relocation of the FBI Headquarters to prince George’s County, the Governor shall include in the annual operating or capital budget bill an appropriation of at least \$200,000,000 for site development and to improve transportation infrastructure for the FBI Headquarters relocation project.</p> <p>Status: Passed </p>


V. Finance, Economic Matters and Government Operations

Bill Number, Title, Sponsor	Short Summary
<p><u>HB 176/ SB 0026 - Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Requested by the Department of the Environment</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill provides for development and adoption of occupational safety and health standards, including standards in the workplace. This bill aims to make the workplace of public bodies safer and healthier by requiring public bodies to create or improve programs and plans related to workplace violence. It requires that the workplace of public bodies be inspected regularly and maintained so that employees are provided with a place of employment that is safe, healthy and productive over the occurrences of their careers. This bill was later amended to require the Correctional Training Commission to adopt regulations for training, issuance, and use of body-worn cameras.</p> <p>Status: Passed  (Both House and Senate)</p>
<p><u>SB 58 Labor and Employment - Parental School Engagement Leave Act</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Senator Joanne Benson</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted a written letter of information.</p>	<p>Requires employers (a person that employs at least 50 individuals in the state) to provide employees with at least 12 hours of parental school-engagement leave each school year to attend meetings and conferences relating to the schooling of the employee's child. It requires the State Superintendent of Schools and the Commissioner of Labor to provide notice of provisions of the Act and develop and make available a document that may be used to validate an employee's use of parental school engagement leave.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>
<p><u>HB 102/ SB 225 Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Revisions</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Department of Labor</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>On or before July 1, 2027, the Secretary shall adopt regulations that establish an operational self-employed enrollment program and include contribution amounts, benefit amounts, and enrollment procedures. This bill repeals requirements related to the payment of contributions to the Program by participating self-employed individuals. Additionally, this bill excludes participating self-employed individuals from certain provisions of law governing the payment of benefits under the Program.</p> <p>Status: Passed  (House version only)</p>

<p><u>HB 752 Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing Confederate Names</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Matthew J. Schindler.</p> <p>Notes: The Commission submitted a letter of support with amendments and offered verbal testimony. This bill was previously introduced in 2024.</p>	<p>This bill was previously introduced in 2024. As reintroduced by a new sponsor, Delegate Matthew J. Schindler, this bill seeks to establish the Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing Confederate Names. Due to Montgomery Planning’s experience with street renaming efforts and Prince George’s experience in conducting research related to street naming, the Commission voted to support this bill.</p> <p>Status: Failed </p>

VI. Other Relevant Subject Areas

Bill Number, Title, Sponsor	Short Summary
<p><u>HB 489 / SB 436 Maryland Department of Labor - Study on Building Code Requirements for Single-Staircase Buildings</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Stewart Vaughn and Senator Jeff Waldstreicher</p> <p>Notes: The Commission voted to support this bill and submitted a written statement of support.</p>	<p>This bill requires the Maryland Department of Labor to study and make recommendations regarding building code requirements for single-staircase buildings.</p> <p>Status: Passed  (Both House and Senate)</p>
<p><u>HB 584/ SB 457 State Retirement and Pension System - Transfers Between Systems – Workgroup</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Catherine M. Forbes and Senator Micheal Jackson</p> <p>Notes: The Commission voted to support this bill and submitted a written statement of support.</p>	<p>Requires the State Retirement Agency to convene a workgroup to study transfers of member service between State and local retirement and pension systems.</p> <p>Status: Passed  (Both House and Senate)</p>
<p><u>HB 452 Outdoor Lighting - Guidance and Use of State Funds</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Michele Guyton</p> <p>Notes: This bill was previously introduced in 2024.</p>	<p>Requires the Maryland Green Building Council, on or before October 1, 2026, to update or develop guidance for the purchase of outdoor lighting fixtures in consideration of recommendations.</p> <p>Prohibits State funds from being used to install or replace permanent outdoor luminaires for lighting unless certain requirements are met. It alters the requirements for the use of State funds for the installation or replacement of permanent outdoor luminaires for lighting.</p> <p>Status: Passed </p>
<p><u>HB 698 / SB 814 Local Government - Development Impact Fees, Surcharges and Excise Taxes – Reporting</u></p> <p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Nick Allen and Senator Ron Watson</p> <p>Notes: None.</p>	<p>This bill requires the county governments to make a report on information related to the collection and expenditure of development impact fees, surcharges or excise taxes for the prior calendar year.</p> <p>Status: Passed  (Both House and Senate)</p>

<u>HB 321 / SB 303 Pharmacy Benefits Managers - Definition of Purchaser and Alteration of Application of Law</u>	<p>This bill alters the definition of “purchaser” for the purpose of provisions of State insurance law governing pharmacy benefits managers to exclude nonprofit health maintenance organizations.</p>
<p>Sponsor(s): Delegate Nicholaus R. Kipke and Senator Clearance K. Lam</p>	<p>Status: Failed  (Both House and Senate)</p>
<p>Notes: This bill was previously introduced in 2024.</p>	