

State Board Letter

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LWVMD Calendar

- May**
- 1-31 Asian Pacific Heritage Month
 - 1-31 Jewish American Heritage Month
 - 7 LWNCA Annual Convention
virtual, 9:30am-1pm
 - 13 LWVMD Day on Capitol Hill
virtual, 9:30am-4:30pm
 - 14 Local League President's meeting
virtual, 10am
 - 24 LWVMD Attorney General -
Republicans Candidate Forum
virtual, 7-8:30pm
 - 25 LWVMD Attorney General -
Democrats Candidate Forum
virtual, 7-8:30pm
 - 31 LWVMD DEI Book Club
virtual, 4pm-5pm

- June**
- 1-30 LGBTQ Pride Month
 - 4 Vote411 goes live
 - 4 LWVMD Council 2022
virtual, 9:30am-12pm
 - 19 Juneteenth
 - 23-26 LWVUS Convention
virtual and in Denver

- July**
- 7 Early voting begins
 - 12 Deadline for registered voters to
request a mailed or faxed mail-in
ballot
 - 14 Last day of early voting
 - 19 Primary Election Day

The SBL is a monthly LWVMD publication that seeks to strengthen understanding and collaboration between the Board and local Leagues statewide

President's Message

It's spring, and the LWVMD is in the process of transitioning from a heavy focus on advocacy before the Maryland General Assembly to full steam ahead on serving voters with voter information and support.

To wrap up the LWVMD's 2022 General Assembly work, the Action Team met with the leaders of the Advocacy Teams to talk about what went well and what could be improved for the next session. I'm happy to report that many of the priority bills that our teams worked on were passed; see the Legislative Wrap-up article on page 7 to learn more about these bills. As mentioned previously in this column, the League had more advocates and weighed in on a wider variety of bills than in recent history. We learned a lot from the teams about how to improve the League's training, resource materials, and administrative procedures, and will be talking over the summer about how to put those changes in place for next year.

Barbara Crain and her legion of volunteers are busily preparing to send out invitations to candidates to participate in the League's Vote411 service. These will go to every candidate in the state who qualified for the primary election ballot. Voter Services volunteers have been dealing with changes in the software of Vote411.org, the Primary

Election's date change, and all of the election calendar deadline changes that resulted from that delay. However, they have not let these challenges deter them from continuing to put in all of the many hours necessary to produce this much-appreciated voter resource.

The Candidate Forum Committee, led by Gail Sunderman, is planning exciting forums for the candidates for Attorney General and Comptroller; see page 4 for more details. These are critical positions that are elected statewide, yet most voters know little about the responsibilities of these positions or the candidates running for them. The forums will be recorded so that voters who can't attend the live event will still be able to tune in at a later date.

None of this work could be done without the fabulous LWVMD Board, committee chairs, and volunteers, each one of them also a local League member. We appreciate their willingness to support state-wide League goals while also engaging in their own Leagues and communities. It is an impressive commitment for which I am truly grateful.



LWVMD President Nancy Soreng

State Board Meeting Highlights

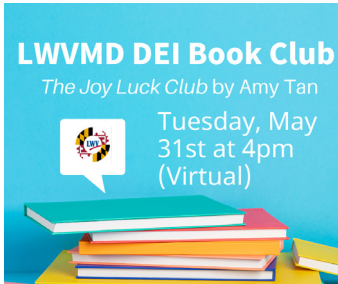
A local League networking meeting for all members involved in youth engagement and civic education is coming soon; details will be shared once they become available. Interested in being part of this effort? Contact Youth Engagement Chair Genie Massey at gmassey@lwvmd.org.

LWVMD's Living Wage study committee held its first meeting in April. The committee is hoping to recruit a co-chair to help lead this committee. If you'd like to serve in this capacity, please contact Linda Kohn, VP of Programs, at lkohn@lwvmd.org.

Stacey Morrison, SBL editor

Events

DEI Book Club



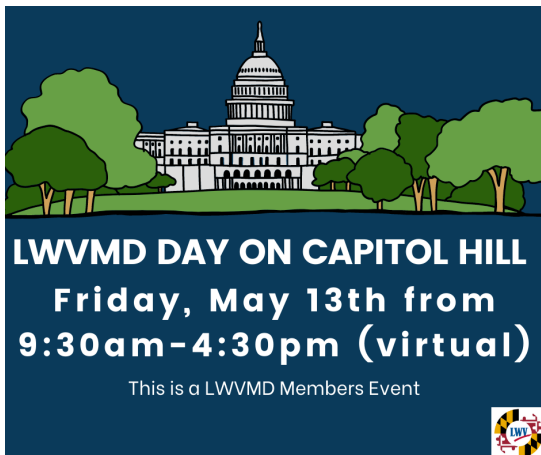
Join the LWVMD DEI Book club this month as we read the best selling book, *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan. In this book, we will read about the experiences of four different Chinese immigrant families growing up in the San Francisco Bay area. We hope you can join us as we continue our understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The book club is free and open to all. To join the conversation, register [here](#). If you have questions, email Executive Director Nikki Tyree at stateoffice@lwmmd.org.

The Joy Luck Club, by Amy Tan
Tuesday, May 31, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Nikki Tyree, Executive Director

LWVMD Day on Capitol Hill

Join LWVMD for a Day on Capitol Hill Friday, May 13, from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Like last year we are conducting our day virtually. This is a great opportunity to speak and hear from elected officials and share all the wonderful work the League has been doing. Please be advised this is a members only event. To register for this event, click [here](#).



LWVMD 2022 Council

Save the date for the LWVMD 2022 Council, to be held virtually on Saturday, June 4, from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. The Council is open to all League members and guests. Each local League is entitled to send two delegates, while the Carroll County Affiliate and LWV National Capital Area may each send one. In addition to hearing from guest speakers and participating in breakout rooms, delegates will vote on the proposed LWVMD budget for 2022-2023 and other League business.

Details and registration information will be posted on the [LWVMD website](#) as they become available.



Nikki Tyree, Executive Director

Committees

With the goal of making our LWV websites more interactive and impactful, Online Services Committee member Amanda SubbaRao enlisted her son, a web developer, to create an online function that connects Marylanders with their elected representatives at the local, state and federal levels through their residential address.

The Online Services Committee is pleased to offer this feature for implementation on all Maryland local League websites. Contact online@lwwmd.org for instructions and additional information.

New Website Feature Connects MD Residents with Elected Representatives

Niecy Chambers, Online Services Committee Member

Find Your Elected Officials

Enter address:

FIND MY ELECTED OFFICIALS

☒ Federal
☐ State
☐ Local

+ Joseph R. Biden President of the United States

+ Kamala D. Harris Vice President of the United States

+ Benjamin L. Cardin U.S. Senator

+ Chris Van Hollen U.S. Senator

LWVMD Primary Candidate Forums



image by [mary1826](#) from [Pixabay](#)

LWVMD and the [University of Baltimore Schaefer Center](#) are hosting primary candidate forums for state wide offices where the candidates meet League participation requirements. Dates for these virtual forums are listed below. Registration information will be forthcoming and updates will be posted to the [LWVMD website](#).

Candidates	Forum Date and Time
Attorney General - Republicans <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Anthony Peroutka• Jim Shalleck	Tuesday, May 24 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Attorney General - Democrats <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anthony Brown• Katie Curran O'Malley	Wednesday, May 25 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Comptroller - Democrats <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tim Adams• Brooke Elizabeth Lierman	Date and Time: TBD

Gail Sunderman, Candidate Forums Chair

Committees

Redistricting: Maryland Has New Maps

Maryland has Congressional, Legislative, and all but one county and city maps! Baltimore County still has a possible appeal by the ACLU to the ruling of a lawsuit filed in March 2022; the local Board of Elections had to submit their precinct maps to the State Board of Elections by April 19. If you live outside the US and would like a ballot mailed to you, request one [here](#) before the July 12 deadline.

The Primary Election is finally set for July 19. There were many changes made during this redistricting process, so make sure you are up to date as to which Congressional, Legislative and local district you now live in; the precinct you are assigned to; and where that precinct votes. It's particularly important to vote in this primary since all of Maryland's federal and state representatives are up for election, from Congress to Governor, Senate to House of Delegates; visit the [Maryland State Board of Elections](#) for a complete list of offices up for election.

If you would like to be more involved in the elections, consider volunteering at your local board of election as a paid election judge; they can use the help since the primary is now being held when many of their regular election workers are on vacation. Personally, I have already volunteered to be an election judge and requested a [mail-in ballot](#) to simplify matters.

Congressional Maps – Lawsuit in the Anne Arundel Circuit Court

In an historic first, Maryland's Circuit Court applied the Maryland Constitution to the Congressional map and rejected the original map passed by the Maryland General Assembly (MGA). The House Speaker, Senate President, and Legislative Services produced, in an amazing five days, a Congressional map that largely applied the Maryland Constitution's requirements that align more closely with the League's position, especially improving on compactness. One exception was carving out the north side of Baltimore City, but the plaintiffs agreed to accept the new map and not appeal to the Court of Appeals. ***Maryland no longer has one of the worst gerrymandered Congressional districts in the country, a win for everybody.***

Legislative Maps – Petitions filed in the Maryland Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals decided to accept the Legislative maps as passed by the MGA. However, at the very end of the Court's Report, the judge comments on the possible unconstitutionality of the single versus multiple district approach for House Delegates and suggests that the Attorney General look into this matter of "voting equality" before 2030. The Governor's commission, despite being ordered to try to make single districts, still had multiple districts; the LWVMD's position is that a mixture of both is best.

A Proposed Ten-Year Plan for Redistricting Reform

The LWVMD's Redistricting Committee's focus now moves to planning for the next redistricting cycle. The committee plans to present a proposed Ten Year Plan to the June 4 LWVMD Council. The key facets are:

1. Redistricting Positions (including single v. multiple districts)
2. Education
3. Advocacy
4. Partners
5. Communication

The Redistricting Committee is still going strong and needs you! If you'd like to help gather information about these areas, contact Beth Hufnagel at bhufnagel@lwvmd.org.



Beth Hufnagel, Redistricting Committee Chair

Committees

Over 30 grateful voters rallied at the [Montgomery County Board of Elections](#) on a beautiful Tuesday morning in April as part of a nationwide Thank Election Heroes Day of Action, organized by the [Voter Empowerment Collaborative](#) and other organizations.

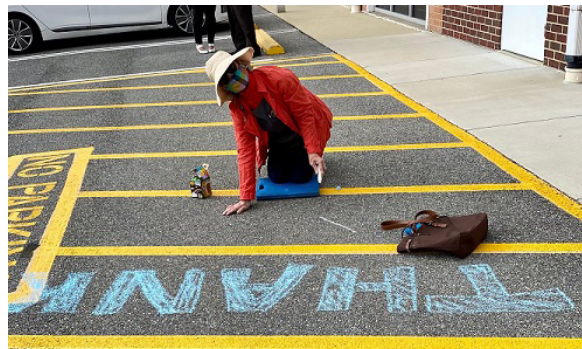
The election workers received flowers, treats, and a giant Thank You Card as tokens of appreciation for how hard they work to make our elections secure, efficient, and fair. Among the attendees were members of the [LWV Montgomery County](#), For the People, Maryland, and [Common Cause Maryland](#).

Speakers at the event were Vicky Strella, Co-President of the LWV Montgomery County; Tina Coplan from For the People, Maryland; Florence Fultz from the [Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring](#); Elbridge James, former Board Chair of [Progressive Maryland](#) and an Election Judge; and Nancy Soreng, President of the [LWVMD](#).

In addition to thanking election workers, the speakers encouraged people who care about elections to sign up to work as elections judges. Election judges receive training, a stipend, and the satisfaction of doing something good for democracy. More information on how to serve as an election judge or observer on election days can be found at the [Maryland State Board of Elections](#).

**League
Members
and Other
Voting
Rights
Advocates
Honor
Election
Heroes**

Nancy Soreng, LWVMD President



Committees

That's a Wrap on the 2022 Legislative Session

The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) has completed one of its most important, strenuous, and rewarding legislative sessions in Annapolis. The League was honored to have more volunteers than we've had in recent years, and because of that record we were able to track, testify, and lift up more testimony than ever before. On the next few pages are just a few of the bills that LWVMD tracked and supported or opposed. While this list isn't all encompassing, it does represent some of the most important bills, and those we are most proud of, that LWVMD worked on.

This year, LWVMD created and implemented a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Advocacy Team. Following the DEI policy that was enacted at Convention in June 2021, LWVMD's Action Team formed the DEI Team to focus and advocate on bills that would push the League's DEI mission forward for all Marylanders. Below, some of the bills that the DEI Team paid particular attention to are marked with DEI impact statements. People cannot feel like they have equal rights in our democracy if they do not have equal representation under the law. In fighting for these bills, it is our hope that LWVMD can do its part in addressing such issues as racial and gender inequity.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SB 775/HB 208 Payment of Jury Duty -- This bill allows Maryland to fall in line with the many other states in the country by upping our jury payment from \$15 a day to \$30 a day. *Passed in both chambers, heading to the Governor.*

DEI Impact: Maryland will join the many other states in upping its daily stipend of jury payment. Many people, especially today, cannot afford to miss a day's pay. While \$30 does not cover this cost, it does bring it more in line with the growing standard.



HB 459 Juvenile Justice Reform -- This widens the scope that juvenile courts have over children who come before the sitting judges, especially those children under the age of 13. It also widens the control that juvenile courts have over those children who commit capital crimes and are under the age of 10. *Passed in both chambers, enacted by the Governor.*

DEI Impact: Many minority children are still unfairly sent to adult courts for crimes that their white peers are judged for in juvenile courts. This bill will bring a standard that judges will be able to follow when dealing with certain cases with the hope that racial inequity can be addressed.



SB 31 Inspection of Records from Body-Worn Digital Recording Devices -- Would have ensured that the custodian keeps the recordings within the public record. *Passed out of the Senate, failed to move out of the House committee.*



SB 53/HB 269 Child Interrogation Protection Act -- Mandates that police officers have minors consult a lawyer before they are questioned and make all efforts to contact their parents. *Passed in both chambers, vetoed by the Governor, overridden by the Legislature, enacted into law without the Governor's signature.*

DEI Impact: Children are 90% more likely to waive their Miranda rights than adults without knowing the consequences. We know that 36% of exonerated teenagers were coerced into false confessions and 35% into giving false statements. This bill will ensure that children are afforded the same protections by training law enforcement officials to provide a lawyer for children they wish to question.



Continued on next page

Committees

That's a Wrap, Cont.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, Cont.

SB 956 Threats to Public Officials -- Alters the definitions of Public Official and prohibitions of making or sending threats against said officials. *Passed out of the Senate, did not move in the House.*



HB 559/SB 265 Probation Before Deportation -- Allows the courts greater latitude when dealing with guilty defendants and proceedings in order to use probation as a last resort. *Passed out of the House, made it to third reader in the Senate, and was special ordered to next session.*

DEI Impact: Deportation to a dangerous country should be a last option, and with this bill Judges would have been given latitude to work with those who pled guilty to crimes in order to ensure that deportation was a last resort.

SB 151/HB 645 False Statement to Law Enforcement -- Clarifies that knowingly making false statements to law enforcement because of someone's race, color, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin is a hate crime. *Passed in both chambers, enacted by the Governor.*

DEI Impact: In recent years, the public has seen more videos of BIPOC people having law enforcement called on them for simply existing in the world. This bill would ensure that if credible evidence was found to exist, those who filed false statements with law enforcement could be charged with hate crimes if the statements were based on the above criteria.



HB 454/SB 776 Prevention of Forced Infant Separation Act -- Requires that pregnant women and those who have recently given birth be moved to a pre-release unit for women for some time to establish a bond between mother and child. Allows for liberal visitation between mother and child. *Did not get voted out of committee in either chamber.*

DEI Impact: Part of a healthy start to life is ensuring a strong bond between mother and baby. Vulnerable communities, such as those who reside within correctional facilities and the children they bear, are most impacted by separation. This bill would have given both an opportunity to bond and maintain a relationship through incarceration.



ELECTIONS

SB 73 Special Election to Fill a Vacancy in Office -- Requires that a special election be held to fill an empty seat for State Delegate or Senator with some provisions. *Passed the Senate, did not move out of committee in the House.*



SB 163 Ballots Processing and Reporting Procedures -- Alters the canvassing and curing of mail-in ballots, and requires the reporting of precinct-level vote results for candidates and questions. *Passed in both chambers, on the Governor's desk.*





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Committees


ELECTIONS, Cont.


That's a Wrap, Cont.

HB 291/SB 101 Contested Elections -- Requires a campaign to form a campaign finance entity to pay for recounts and to report the contributions in the same manner as campaign contributions are allowed. It also allows publicly funded candidates to use their public funds to pay for recounts. Furthermore, it changes the threshold for when a campaign pays for a recount and when it is paid for by the Board of Elections. *Passed in both chambers, on the Governor's desk.* 


HB 745 Postelection Tabulation Audits Risk Limiting Audits -- Requires the State Board of Elections, with the local boards, to conduct a risk-limited audit after each statewide election. Also puts in place a pilot program after the 2022 election. *Passed the House, died in Senate committee.* 


SB 738 Secure Elections Act of 2022 -- Requiring the State Board of Elections, with the local boards of elections, to conduct an audit of absentee ballots cast in each statewide election; requiring and verifying the voter's signature; adopting regulations that include the method for verifying voter signatures; and a deadline for submission of a new signature. *Did not make it out of House committee.* 


HB 306 Circuit Court Judges -- Nonpartisan General Elections -- Circuit Court judges would be elected on a nonpartisan basis during general elections; prevents the candidate from appearing during the primary elections or being nominated by a party. *Did not make it out of committee.* 

HB 113 In-Person Voting Proof of Identity -- Requires individuals voting in person show proof of identity by providing documents to an election judge. LWVMD OPPOSED. *Did not get voted out of committee.* 

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

HB 17 Recurring Donation and Contributions -- Compels campaigns to inform donors when their contributions will become monthly contributions. *Passed in both chambers, enacted by the Governor.* 

SB 15 Election Law - Enforcement -- Changes the prosecution statute of limitations from 3 to 4 years and imposes different penalties and amount of penalties. *Passed in both chambers, on the Governor's desk.* 

SB 239 Protection of Contributor -- Prohibiting a contributor's information from being used by anyone for commercial solicitation or publishing such information. *Passed in both chambers, on the Governor's desk.* 

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Committees

FIREARMS

That's a Wrap, Cont.

SB 338/HB 871 Handgun Permit - Preliminary Approval -- Authorizing a person to apply for a preliminary approval to conceal and carry, wear, and transport a gun without completing a firearms training course for the first 120 days. LWVMD OPPOSED. *Passed the Senate, did not make it out of House committee.*



SB 387/HB 425 Untraceable Firearms "Ghost Guns" -- Alters the definition of "gun" to include the unfinished frame and receivers. Prohibits such dealings in these frames and receivers. Prohibits a person from owning, unless permitted, these "ghost guns" after March 2023. *Passed in both chambers, enacted by the Governor.*



HB 659/SB 676 Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention -- Altering provisions on firearms and ammunition stored where youth can access; creating a suicide prevention program. *Did not get voted out of committee.*



ENVIRONMENT

SB 541/HB 727 Great Outdoors Act -- Addressing the infrastructure, accessibility, and capacity needs of state parks. Creating more ranger positions and long term strategic plans. *Passed in both chambers, enacted by the Governor.*



SB 528 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 -- Requiring the State to reduce greenhouse gases and alter the goals to create a net-zero plan. Creating a plan for companies to reduce greenhouse gasses, statewide net-zero car fleet, and school bus pilot program. *Passed in both chambers, enacted into law without the Governor's signature.*



HB 275/SB 273 PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions and Requirements -- Prohibiting manufacturers from making and/or selling products such as rugs, firefighting foams, and good packaging that contain PFAS starting in 2024. *Passed in both chambers, on the Governor's desk.*



HB 700 Products and Packaging - Labeling, Marketing, and Advertising for Recycling -- Altering certain resin labeling on recycled materials to make clear if material can be recycled; prohibiting manufacturers from making recycling claims. *Did not make it out of committee.*



HOUSING

SB 6/ HB 86 Tenant Protections Act of 2022 -- Requiring that landlords disclose utility bill systems, making certain provisions if not disclosed, and providing rights to the tenants. *Passed in both chambers, enacted by the Governor.*



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Committees

That's a Wrap, Cont.

HOUSING, Cont.

SB 279/HB 571 Access to Council in Eviction Special Fund -- Altering the funds to include a broader category of where the money comes from and how it can be distributed. *Passed in both chambers, enacted into law without the Governor's signature.*



SB 875/ HB 928 Discrimination in Housing Citizenship, Immigration Status, and National Origin -- Creating a fair housing policy that prohibits landlords from discriminating against rentals or sales based the above. *Passed out of the Senate, did not move out of the House committee.*

DEI Impact: This would allow Marylanders to apply for housing without fear of being questioned of resident status or immigration status. As these can be major barriers for housing, eliminating the ability to ask for this paperwork would have allowed for vulnerable populations to find housing.



SB 744/HB 927 Affordable Housing - Excess Real Property -- Requiring the Planning Department to turn in a list of excess property so the Department of Housing can determine if it can be used for affordable housing; establishes a rental housing fund. *Passed in both chambers, on the Governor's desk.*



SB 384/HB Stay of Eviction Proceeding for Rental Assistance Determination -- Provides for safety of evictions proceedings when a tenant is waiting for a good faith application for rental assistance. *Passed in both chambers, on the Governor's desk.*



CANNABIS

HB 1 Constitutional Amendment Cannabis Adult Use and Possession -- On or after July 1, 2023, an adult over the age of 21 may use and possess cannabis. *Passed in both chambers, will be put on the ballot for a vote during the next general election.*

HB 837 Cannabis Reform -- Forms a commission to study the use of cannabis in the state, altering penalties and sentencing, and legalizing quantity for those over 21. *Passed in both chambers, enacted into law without the Governor's signature.*



SB 692 Cannabis Legalization and Reparations for the War on Drugs Act -- Legalizing the use and possession of cannabis for adults over the age of 21; clearing of records for those who have been charged with possessing and usage; establishing a system for sale and taxation of cannabis. *Did not make it out of committee in the Senate.*

DEI Impact: This bill would have made an attempt to eradicate the harsh statistic that BIPOC people are 8 times more likely to be arrested and serve time in prison for cannabis related offenses.



Committees

TRANSPORTATION

That's a Wrap, Cont.

SB 514/HB778 Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act -- Establishing certain investment programs for enhancing rail lines and service lines, the advancement of rail services in 2023, and conducting a MARC Implementation study. *Passed in both chambers, vetoed by the Governor, overridden by the legislature and enacted into law without the Governor's signature.*



HB 141/SB 23 Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analysis -- Requiring that equity be a factor when plans, reports, and goals are developed for transportation. To conduct transit equity studies and consult with communities of interest before certain projects are announced or canceled. *Passed in both chambers, on the Governor's desk.*

DEI Impact: Too often public transportation runs through communities of color but is not accessible to those communities. This bill will ensure that before new projects are undertaken, equity studies are done and how these projects will affect those communities.



HB 656/SB 880 Safe Roads Act of 2022 -- Recommending and implementing certain designs that create safer pedestrian and bicycle pathways. Requires that the Governor authorizes state and federal funds to implement. *Passed the House, did not make it out of the Senate committee.*



EDUCATION

HB 84/SB 119 Crimes on School Grounds -- Students cannot be charged with criminal penalties when committing disruptive behavior. *Bills passed in their respective chambers, did not make it out of committee in the opposite chamber.*



HB 23 School Discipline Data Collection -- Makes data more consistently reported and accessible on the Department of Education's website, including data from high suspending schools, and lowers the risk ratio currently used to identify a school as high suspending. *Passed the House, did not leave the Senate committee.*



HB 146 Reportable Offenses, Student Discipline, and School Disruptions Presence of an Attorney and Reporting -- Alters the definition of reportable offenses to only those committed off school property; Department of Education must give reports about offenses; county boards must provide the state board with school disruptions data. *Passed in both chambers, on the Governor's desk.*



HB 850/SB 666 Schools, Pre-K Programs, and School Boards Discrimination -- Prohibiting the above from taking discriminatory actions based on the persons race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. *Passed in both chambers, on the Governor's desk.*



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Committees

EDUCATION, Cont.

That's a Wrap, Cont.

HB 1258 Primary and Secondary Education Educational Options Established -- Provides students who are part of the free and reduced lunch program scholarships to attend nonpublic schools; allows parents/guardians a credit against state income tax for home instruction. LWVMD OPPOSED. *Did not move out of committee.*



HB 1450 Blueprint For Maryland's Future Implementation and Plans -- Expands the use of grants under the Concentration of Poverty Grant; Department of Education will collect certain data for a report due by Dec. 1 2022; county governments will allot funds to school operating budgets for fiscal year 2023; Accountability and Implementation Board will release funds to local school system for fiscal year 2023 if conditions are met. *Passed in both chambers, enacted into law without the Governor's signature.*



HEALTHCARE

HB 588 Provisions of Feminine Hygiene Products -- Requiring community action agencies and local health departments to provide products for any woman enrolled in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; requiring the Governor to set aside funds in the budget. *Passed in both chambers, on the Governor's desk.*



SB 150/HB 6 Dental Coverage for Adults -- Expands coverage for adults to provide some dental services if their income is at or below 133% of the federal poverty level. *Passed in both chambers, on the Governor's desk.*



SB 353/HB 1397 Insulin Cost Reduction Act -- Requires that a covered individual pay no more than \$30 for a 30-day supply of a covered insulin drug. *Passed in both chambers, on the Governor's desk.*



HB 533/SB 523 Licenses, Certificates, and Registration - Immigrants -- Prohibits a professional or licensing board from denying the above because of the immigration status of an individual if they meet the requirements. *Did not move out of committee.*



HB 1080/SB 778 Healthy Babies Equity Act -- Requires the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide medical care and other health services to non-citizen pregnant women who qualify for the program aside from their immigration status and their children until the age of 1. *House bill passed both Chambers, enacted into law without the Governor's signature.*

DEI Impact: All Marylanders deserve a standard of care while pregnant and after delivery. This bill would ensure that regardless of immigration status, mother and baby get the care they need.





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Committees


HEALTHCARE, Cont.

That's a Wrap, Cont.


HB 937/SB 890 Abortion Care Access -- Establishes the Abortion Care Clinical Training Program in the Maryland Department of Health; establishes certain requirements; establishes funds in the Governor's budget for the Program. *House Bill passed both chambers, vetoed by the Governor, overridden by the legislature, enacted into law without the Governor's signature.* 


SB 275/HB 8 Time To Care Act of 2022 -- Establishes a Family and Medical Insurance Program to provide benefits to individuals who take leave from employment; establishes the fund; contributions to the fund will begin Oct. 1, 2023 once administrative regulations are in place. *Passed in both chambers, vetoed by the Governor, overridden by the legislature, enacted into law without the Governor's signature.* 

SB 682/HB 746 Trans Health Equity Act of 2022 -- Requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to pay for gender-affirming treatment in a nondiscriminatory way. *Passed the Senate, did not make it out of the House committee.*

DEI Impact: Many times getting proper treatment, which can include surgery, can become a matter of life and death for those who are members of the Trans community. This bill could have saved many from the anguish of living with body dysmorphia and the mental health challenges that come along with that. 

DEI

SB 486 Places of Public Accommodations and Public Buildings Gender-Inclusive Signage -- Requires that single occupancy bathrooms be marked with gender inclusive language. *Did not get voted out of committee in the Senate.* 

HB 453/SB 550 Transgender Respect, Agency, and Dignity Act -- Prohibiting employees from discriminating against correctional facility residents based on their gender identity or transgender status. *Did not get voted out of committee in either chamber.* 

In addition to the League's great work at the state level, we would like to draw attention to the fantastic work of the local Leagues that have, among others, been engaged in monitoring the implementation of Police Accountability Boards in their communities. The LWV Baltimore County, led by Co-Presidents Ericka McDonald and Tana Hamilton, has also done amazing work in trying to get the Baltimore County Council to recognize another minority-majority election district, including joining a lawsuit against the County's effort to prevent such a district.

If you have questions about session, the bills on which the LWVMD worked on 2022, or would like to join the Advocates Team, please contact action@lwvmd.org.

submitted by members of the Action Teams