

# State Board Letter

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### LWVMD

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## LWVMD Calendar

- May**
  - 1-31 Asian Pacific Heritage Month
  - 1-31 Jewish American Heritage Month
  - 15 LWVMD Day on Capitol Hill  
virtual, 9:30am-4:30pm
  - 30 LWVMD DEI Book Club  
virtual, 4pm-5pm
- June**
  - 1-30 LGBTQ Pride Month
  - 2-4 LWVMD Convention  
Frederick, MD, 9:30am-12pm
  - 19 Juneteenth
  - 22-25 LWVUS Council  
Las Vegas



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

## President's Message

This is my last opportunity to share my thoughts through the President's Message. At the LWVMD Convention you will elect a new leadership team who will guide the League of Women Voters of Maryland as we work to empower voters and protect democracy in the coming years.

It has been an honor and pleasure to work with the current board, the local League presidents, and the hundreds of committed League members who do the work of informing voters, educating community members, advocating for good public policy, and so much more. I am grateful that through the League I have been able to meet a wide variety of people from around the state with amazing experiences, talents, and accomplishments.

I have always felt that the things we do and the results we achieve as League members are just part of the reward for being a member. The other reward - personal growth - has been, at least for me, as important as the outward accomplishments. Part of the growth has been learning new skills such as: using virtual platforms like Google Docs, Zoom, and NationBuilder; knowing the difference between a media advisory and a press release; creating a Doodle; navigating the General

Assembly website; and organizing a rally. Even more valuable, being part of this organization has taught me the importance of listening to and appreciating multiple points of view. It has opened my eyes to a myriad of good causes and the people who champion them - causes that I never contemplated nor considered. I have discovered that sometimes I learn more from the bad decisions that I have made than from the times I got it right. This is not an easy lesson, but an important one.

My hope for the future of the League is that we will continue to be a trusted source of information, a model of civility, and an organization that passionately advocates for social and economic justice. I hope that we can engage a wider variety of members and truly be an organization committed diversity, equity and inclusion. Even though I won't be the president or be on the state board, I look forward to continuing to support the League by volunteering, by contributing financially, and by embracing all of the opportunities for personal growth that the League offers. I hope you all will join me in this.



*LWVMD President Nancy Soreng*

### State Board Meeting Highlights

Members of Voter Services continue to register new citizens at the district court houses in Baltimore City and Greenbelt; we are still awaiting details on options for voter registration at USCIS in Halethorpe. Thanks to everyone who provides this service to new citizens, especially our voter service volunteer coordinators: Barbara Corbin (Montgomery County), who organizes Baltimore volunteers; and Lois Zuckerman (Montgomery County) and Barbara Taha (Prince George's County), who coordinate volunteers for Greenbelt.

The members of the Convention Planning Committee are still collecting items for the silent auction at Saturday evening's gala. If you have something you would like to donate, or if you know someone to contact about donations, please [email](#) that information to LWVMD Administrative Assistant Willow Goode.

*Stacey Morrison, SBL editor*

## Events

### DEI Book Club



For May, the diversity, equity, and inclusion book club will be reading Viet Thanh Nguyen's best-selling novel and recipient of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, *The Sympathizer*. Throughout the novel we will examine the two worlds between which the main character is caught and how those cultures clash with each other. As always, we hope to continue our understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion. This event is free and open to all. To join the conversation, register [here](#). If you have questions, email Executive Director Nikki Tyree at [stateoffice@lwvmd.org](mailto:stateoffice@lwvmd.org).

***The Sympathizer*, by Viet Thanh Nguyen**  
**Tuesday, May 30, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

***Nikki Tyree, Executive Director***

LWVMD's annual Day on Capitol Hill is fast approaching:

**Monday, May 15, 2023**  
**start time: 9:30 a.m.**

### LWVMD Day on Capitol Hill

This year's theme for the event is voting rights. All but one member of Maryland's delegation has confirmed their attendance at this members'-only event; Congressman Sarbanes and Senator Van Hollen were unable to attend on May 15 but have agreed to hold separate meetings with League members on Tuesday afternoon, May 16.

If you would like to join other Leaguers at this virtual event, please make sure you register [online](#) by the May 10 deadline. This event is an opportunity to discuss important issues with your representatives and how they can help support legislation that addresses those issues. Half hour time blocks have been allotted for each representative attending; if the representative is unable to attend, we will talk to their knowledgeable staffers assigned to the topic.



### ATTENDEES

- Senator Ben Cardin
- Senator Chris Hollen
- Representative Andrew P. Harris, 1st Congressional District
- Representative C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, 2nd Congressional District
- Representative John Sarbanes, 3rd Congressional District
- Representative Glenn F. Ivey, 4th Congressional District
- Representative Steny H. Hoyer, 5th Congressional District
- Representative David Trone, 6th Congressional District
- Representative Kweisi Mfume, 7th Congressional District
- Representative Jamin B. (Jamie) Ruskin, 8th Congressional District

## Events

The LWVMD 2023 Convention is almost here:

### LWVMD Convention Friday - Sunday, June 2 - 4, 2023

Join us as we plan the League's work for the next two years by electing new officers and directors, adopting a budget, and much more! This is an excellent opportunity to gather and connect with League members across the state!

We are so excited to be hosting this event in person in Frederick, MD, but members will also have the option to attend virtually! The in-person venue is the Hampton Hotel at 5311 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick, MD. Click [here](#) to book a room at the special rate of \$159 or \$169 per night (plus tax); hotel rates include a breakfast and all hotel amenities. If you are interested in room sharing for the conventions, please fill out this [form](#).

Tickets are available for purchase and cover:

**\$225 - In-person attendance Friday through Sunday**

*includes Saturday lunch, printed materials, gala ticket with drinks and meal*

**\$125 - Virtual Attendance**

**\$125 - Saturday night's gala**

Upon arrival on Friday, attendees can enjoy all that downtown Frederick has to offer, from great local restaurants to small artisan shops; the local Frederick county members will be our expert personal tour guides and come with their best recommendations. All guests will be provided transportation to downtown Frederick from the Convention hotel and back. This is a great opportunity to socialize with other convention participants before the start of official business Saturday.

Saturday we'll hear from our keynote speaker, discuss League business, approve a budget, vote in a new board, and plan the upcoming year's program. There will be a morning and afternoon workshop on topics such as:

- Why Don't we Teach Civics Anymore?
- The Intersection Between Healthcare and Democracy
- Firing Up the Youth Vote
- Invisible to Defeat

Saturday is also a chance to network and socialize. We all traveled across the state and now our time to chat, mingle, and get to know each other and how the League brings us together! Lunch will be provided to all those who attend Saturday business. In the evening, unwind from the full day of League business at the gala with a drink and meal while we raise money for future generations of the League. There will be a silent auction with items from across the state to bid on. In addition, we will be presenting our Annette and Malcolm Funn award to a person from each local League who has been an outstanding League member.

On Sunday, we conduct some final business, say goodbye to everyone, and kick off another great year of League work with new leaders! There will be one last morning workshop and a field trip planned by the Frederick county League. For more information, visit [www.lwvmd.org](http://www.lwvmd.org) or contact Nikki Tyree at [stateoffice@lwvmd.org](mailto:stateoffice@lwvmd.org).

### LWVMD Convention 2023



## Committees

LWVMD applied for and was approved to participate in the Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC) for 2023, which happens each fall. Our acceptance into this campaign means our League will be listed as a potential recipient for this workplace charitable giving program. The MCC gives the state's 6,400 employees and retirees the opportunity to donate to listed charities; in 2022, over \$2 million was contributed. This fall, LWVMD will now be one of the choices!

We are still waiting for instructions on how to prepare for the campaign, but in prior years many of the listed charities prepared short videos to describe their activities. If you are creative and skilled in creating videos, we would love your help in making one for LWVMD. Please contact Linda Kohn at [lkohn@lwvmd.org](mailto:lkohn@lwvmd.org) for more information.

**LWVMD  
Accepted Into  
the Maryland  
Charity  
Campaign 2023**



*Linda Kohn, Program VP*

## Local League Annual Meetings

Each spring, Leagues at all levels hold their year end annual meeting so members can reflect on what their League accomplished and to strategize on how to proceed for the upcoming year. Some of Maryland's local Leagues have already held their meetings, while others' are coming up soon. These meetings are a great way for members to stay connected to the activities of their city, county, or state League, and they are also an opportunity to learn how other Leagues approach advocacy and education. To see what's happening around Maryland, consider attending one of the following meetings.

League	Date and Time	Location
Queen Anne's	Tuesday, May 16 5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Prospect Bay Country Club
Montgomery	Saturday, May 20 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	United Universalist Congregation of Rockville
St Mary's	Saturday, May 20 12 p.m.	Pax River Ale House 46590 Corporate Drive, Lexington Park, MD
Calvert	Wednesday, May 24 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Zoom
Carroll	Tuesday, June 6 6:30 p.m.	Finksburg Public Library
Washington	Thursday, June 8 6:00 p.m.	Bistro Eleven 13208 Fountainhead Plaza, Hagerstown, MD
Baltimore County	Saturday, June 10 12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Charlestown Retirement Community
Prince George's	Saturday, June 10 10:00 a.m.	
Baltimore City	Wednesday, June 14 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Delta Hotels Baltimore North

*Richard Willson, Secretary*

## Committees

### 2023 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

Just like that, the 2023 Legislative Session is over.

The League of Women Voters Maryland has completed a complex and nerve-wracking legislative session in Annapolis. In 2022 LWVMD couldn't believe how many volunteers signed up to join our teams and tackle this important work, yet, there were even more League volunteers this year.

LWVMD celebrates the record number of volunteers who have attended legislative training, team meetings, one-on-one calls, and workshops. Because of that record, the League could track, testify, and lift up more testimony than ever before.

Below is a highlight of the bills that LWVMD followed, 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.

While this session did not see all the bills the League wanted or thought were necessary for Maryland make it to the finish line, there were outstanding bills that did get passed which will impact and improve life for many Marylanders. LWVMD hopes it reminds you why you do this work.

*\*Please keep in mind that many of these bills are crossfiled. In the interest of brevity, what follows is a brief overview of what happened in one committee. We encourage all readers to explore the history of any bill they are interested in further. If you want to learn why the League supported or opposed the bill, please visit our testimony page [here](#).*

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

**SB15 – Juvenile Law – Child in Need of Supervision – Mandatory Petition (NyKayla Strawder Memorial Act)** -- Requires an intake officer file a petition alleging that a child under the age of 13 is either delinquent or a child in need of supervision if the child committed an act that resulted in the death of a victim. *This bill was heard in Judicial Proceedings and passed the Senate. It was assigned to the House Judiciary committee but did not get voted out.*



**SB33/HB47 Correctional Services - Medical Parole - Life Imprisonment** -- Repeals the gubernatorial approval in decision making for the Maryland Parole Commission to grant parole to an inmate serving life imprisonment. *This bill was heard in Judicial Proceedings and was passed by the Senate. It was referred to the House Judiciary committee but did not get voted out.*



**SB93/HB96 Juvenile Court - Jurisdiction (Youth Equity & Safety Act)** -- Alters the jurisdiction of the juvenile court by repealing provisions specifying that the juvenile court does not have jurisdiction over a child alleged to have committed a crime. *This bill was heard in Judicial Proceedings but did not make it out of committee.*



**SB132 - State's Attorney, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Register of Wills, Sheriff, and Judge of the Orphan's Court - Nonpartisan Elections** -- Requires the listed offices be elected on a nonpartisan basis, and establishes procedures for the nomination and election. *This bill was heard in Education, Energy, and the Environment but did not make it out of committee.*



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## Committees

### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, Cont.

### Wrap Up, Cont.

**SB195/HB1282 Orphan's Court Judges - Election** -- Requires the candidate for judge of the Orphan's Court appear on the ballot without party designation. *This bill was heard in Judicial Proceedings and passed the Senate. It was assigned to the House Judiciary committee but did not get voted out.*



**SB540/HB772 Human Relations - Civil Rights Enforcement - Powers of the Attorney General** -- Authorizes the Attorney General to investigate, prosecute, and remediate civil rights violations; empowers the Attorney General to intervene and obtain relief in civil actions. *This bill passed both chambers and has been sent to the Governor.*



**SB658/HB771 Human Relations - Patterns and Practices of Civil Rights Violations - Remedies** -- Allows the Attorney General to investigate and initiate a civil action to remedy unlawful patterns or practices committed by government officials. Also provides subpoena power in investigations. *This bill was heard in Judicial Proceedings but did not make it out of committees.*



**HB133 Court Proceedings - Remote Public Access and Participation** -- Requires each court in the State to provide remote audio-visual public access to public court proceedings while authorizing presiding judges to determine to prohibit broadcasting for a specific case. *This bill was heard in Judiciary but did not make it out of committee.*



**HB358 Juvenile Felony Database** -- [LWVMD OPPOSED this bill](#). Develops, updates, maintains, and publishes online a searchable database of all offenses committed by juveniles that would be considered felonies if committed by adults. *This bill was heard in Judiciary but did not make it out of committee.*



**HB749/SB115 Juvenile Court - Concurrent Jurisdiction - Juvenile Offenses on Military Installations** -- Establishes that jurisdiction of the juvenile court is concurrent of a federal court sitting in the State over proceedings involving violations of federal laws on military installations if the federal court waves exclusive jurisdiction and the crime is also a crime under State law. *This bill passed both Chambers and has been sent to the Governor.*



### CAMPAIGN FINANCE

**SB111/HB411 Draft Committees and Exploratory Committees** -- Applies campaign finance requirements for a political committee to draft committees and exploratory committees. Establishes protocols on how draft and exploratory committees must report contributed funds and in kind donations, and how those funds are used after campaigns have concluded. *This bill was passed in the Senate. It was assigned to the House Ways and Means committee but did not make it out of committee.*




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# Committees


## CAMPAIGN FINANCE, Cont.

## Wrap Up, Cont.


**HB192/SB269 Cryptocurrency - Campaign Finance Prohibitions Disclosure by Financial Institutions** -- Prohibits any person who falls under campaign finance regulations from making or accepting monetary donations or contributions using any currency other than United States currency. Prohibits those acting on behalf of a campaign finance entity from making or accepting anything other US currency, and allowing the State Administrator of Elections to investigate potential violations. *This bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor.* 

**HB176 Local Public Campaign Financing - Expansion to Additional Offices** -- Allows a system of public campaign financing for the office of State's Attorney, Sheriff, Register of Wills, Judge, and Clerk of the Circuit Court, Judge of the Orphan's Court, or an elected member of the county board of education after the governing body of the county implemented a system of public campaign financing for elective offices in the executive or legislative branches. *This bill was heard in Ways and Means but did not make it out of committee.* 


## CIVICS

**SB271 Maryland Civic Engagement Program** -- Establishes the Maryland Civic Excellence Program to recognize students and public schools that promote the civic readiness and engagement of students in Maryland public schools. *This bill was heard in the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee and passed on the Senate Floor. It was referred to Ways and Means but did not receive a vote.* 

## EDUCATION

**SB324 Credit for Student Bus Transportation Expenses** -- **LWVMD OPPOSED this bill.** Establishes a task force to study nonpublic student bus transportation to collect information from each local board, and how they can reduce the use of passenger vehicles for the transportation of nonpublic school students. *This bill was heard and passed in Budget and Taxation. It passed over to Rules and Executive Nominations but did not make it out of committee.* 

**SB389 Dual Language Education - Teacher Certification** -- Requires regulations for certifications of and renewal of a certificate for dual language teachers in public schools by the School Board. *This bill was heard in Education, Energy, and the Environment but did not make it out of committee.* 

**SB522/HB740 Education - Accountability and Implementation Board - Membership** -- **LWVMD OPPOSED this bill.** Alters the membership and qualifications of members of the Accountability and Implementation Board. *This bill was heard in Education, Energy, and the Environment but did not make it out of committee.* 

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## Committees

### EDUCATION, Cont.

### Wrap Up, Cont.

**HB185 Corporal Punishment - Prohibit** -- Prohibits the State Board of Education from issuing a certificate of approval to non collegiate educational institutions that do not have a policy prohibiting the administration of corporal punishment. *This bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor.*



**HB359 Education - Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Sports - Designation Based on Sex** -- **LWVMD OPPOSED this bill.** Requires interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams school sports to be designated based on biological sex. *This bill was heard in Ways and Means but did not make it out of committee.*



**HB495/SB350 - Early Childhood Development - Child Care Scholarship Program - Funding** -- Prohibits the State Department of Education from increasing the copayment levels, reducing the reimbursement rates, reducing the income eligibility requirements, or implementing an enrollment freeze. *This bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor.*



**HB649 Primary and Secondary Education - Education Savings Account Program - Established** -- **LWVMD OPPOSED this bill.** Establishes the Education Savings Account program administered by the State Department of Education to provide grants to the account of the parents of eligible students. *This bill was heard in Appropriations but did not make it out of committee.*



**HB737 Alternative Education Options - Right to Learn and Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today Programs** -- **LWVMD OPPOSED this bill.** Requires that based on star ratings schools that are failing notify parents and provide them with options. Establishes the Right to Learn Program and other programs. *This bill was heard in Ways and Means but did not make it out of committee.*



**HB1098 Education - English Learners and Dual Language Immersion Programs - Funding and Establishment** -- Provides additional monies for English learners and establishes the Dual Language Immersion Program. *This bill was heard in Appropriations but did not make it out of committee.*



**HB1164 Public Schools - Expanded American History - Development of Content Standards and Implementation** -- Requires the State Board of Education to develop content standards for expanded American history, and for local school systems to implement those standards. *This bill was heard in Ways and Means but did not make it out of committee.*



**HB1211 Education - Compensatory Education - Maryland Neighborhood Tier System Calculation** -- Alters and adds definitions related to the calculations of the compensatory education funding amount. This bill would require the State Department of Education to monitor actions of the county boards and establish the Maryland Neighborhood Tier System. *This bill was heard in Appropriations but did not make it out of committee.*




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## Committees

### EDUCATION, Cont.


### Wrap Up, Cont.


**HB1267/SB814 Promise Schools - Establishment -- LWVMD OPPOSED this bill.** Requires the State Department of Education to designate ten community schools that are identified as low-performing. *This bill was heard in Ways and Means but did not make it out of committee.* 


*The LWVMD Education Team was also able to sign-on to many letters of support and opposition. Many of these opportunities came through our work with our coalition partners at Coalition to Reform School Discipline (CRSD). Through our partnership with CRSD we were able to sign on to an additional fourteen bills. These included opposing such bills like reporting arrests of students, and expanding the Truancy Reduction Pilot Program. We also supported bills that would revise policies on bullying, harassment, and intimidation.*


### ELECTIONS

**SB39/HB114 Affiliating with a Party - Unaffiliated Voters --** Allows an individual to change their voter registration to affiliate with a political party by 5pm on the day before early voting begins. *This bill was heard in Education, Energy, and the Environment but did not make it out of committee.* 

**SB89/HB177 Publications of Proposed Laws --** State Board of Elections and local board of elections must post complete text of proposed language or enactments relating to ballot questions at least 65 days before the general election. *This bill was heard in Education, Energy, and the Environment but did not make it out of committee.* 

**SB329 Casting General Election Ballot in Multiple States -- LWVMD OPPOSED this bill.** Prohibits a person from willfully or knowingly casting a ballot in the general election in more than one state. *This bill was heard in Education, Energy, and the Environment but did not make it out of committee.* 

**SB379/HB535 Election Law - Ballot Issuance, Processing, and Reporting Procedures and 2024 Primary Date --** Mandates that local board of elections send, no later than 43 days before an election, a ballot to voters who have made a request and qualify; alters the procedure for canvassing and curing of errors on absentee and provisional ballots; prohibits the tabulation of absentee ballot vote totals before the polls open; and changes the Primary Election date to the second Tuesday in May. *This bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor.* 

**HB417 General Assembly - Special Election to Fill a Vacancy in Office --** Requires a special election to be held at the same time as state primary and general elections that are held in the second year of the term to fill a vacancy in the office of a Delegate or Senator if the vacancy occurs on or before the date that is 55 days before the deadline for filing certificates of candidacy. *This bill was heard in Ways and Means but did not make it out of committee.* 

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## Committees

### ELECTIONS, Cont.

### Wrap Up, Cont.

**HB642/SB339 Election Law - Recounts - Procedures** -- Requires the petitioner to select the method for recounting. Limits the recount methods that the State Administered must approve. *This bill was heard in Ways and Means but did not make it out of committee.*



**HB645/SB488 Election Law - Electronic Ballot Return System - Study and Request for Proposals** -- **LWVMD OPPOSED this bill.** It Requires the Department of Legislative Services to complete a study on creating an electronic ballot return system and then request proposals on those systems. *This bill was heard in Ways and Means but did not make it out of committee.*



**HB1092 Election Law - Early Voting - Number of Days** -- **LWVMD OPPOSED this bill.** Changes the number of early voting days from eight to four days before primary and general elections. *This bill was heard in Ways and Means but did not make it out of committee.*



**HB1112 Election Law - Registered Voter List and Petitions (Ballot Petition Modernization Act)** -- This bill would allow a person signing a petition to do so electronically and to use any mark associated with their signature. It would also allow signatures on petitions to be validated instead of automatically invalidated. *This bill was heard in Ways and Means but did not make it out of committee.*



**HB1200/SB925 Elections - Election Judges - Minimum Compensation** -- Establishes a minimum compensation of \$50 and daily pay of \$250 for early voting and election day. It will also mandate the State Board of Elections to reimburse local boards \$50 for returning judges. *This bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor.*



**HB1216/SB750 Election Law - Voting - Proof of Identity** -- **LWVMD OPPOSED this bill.** Allows an election judge to mandate a voter to vote provisionally if they can't provide ID, allowing election judge to mandate ID. *This bill was heard in Ways and Means but did not make it out of committee.*



### ENVIRONMENT

**SB224/HB230 Clean Trucks Act of 2023** -- Department of the Environment must adopt regulations before December 1, 2023, requiring the sale of new zero-emission medium-and heavy-duty vehicles. *This bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor.*



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## Committees

### ENVIRONMENT, Cont.

### Wrap Up, Cont.

**SB526/HB723 Natural Resources - Forest Preservation and Retention** -- Alters the definition of "qualified conservation" for purposes of provisions of law related to forest mitigation banks. Also changes the calculating methods of forest afforestation, reforestation, and preservation requirements. *This bill was passed by both chambers and was sent to the Governor.*



**SB689/HB904 Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions - Alterations and Requirements (Energy Savings Act)** -- Changes the goals and requirements of specific energy efficiency programs to include certain greenhouse gas emissions reductions from electric and gas companies. Also establishes a rebate program through the EmPOWER Maryland Program. *This bill was heard in Education, Energy, and the Environment but did not make it out of committee.*



### ETHICS

**SB35/HB58 Maryland State Agency Transparency Act 2023** -- Enhances the requirements under the Open Meetings Act for the State Ethics Commission and requires the Department of Information Technology to provide the technical staff, support, and equipment necessary to live stream meetings. *This bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor.*



### FIREARMS

**HB159 Warrantless Arrest - Straw Purchase Participant** -- Establishes the crime of knowingly being a participant in the straw purchase of a regulated firearm to the list of crimes subject to a warrantless arrest. *This bill was heard by the Judiciary Committee and passed by the House. It was sent to Judicial Proceedings in the Senate but did not make it out of committee.*



### HEALTHCARE

**SB187/HB454 Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants** -- Prohibits a health occupation board from requiring that an applicant provide proof that the applicant is lawfully present in the United States or has a Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. *This bill passed both Chambers and has been sent to the Governor.*



**SB202 Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Upper Payment Limits** -- Reestablishing the requirement that the Prescription Drug Affordability Board draft a plan to implement a process to set upper payment limits for prescription drug products. *This bill passed both Chambers and was signed by the Governor.*



## Committees

### HEALTHCARE

### Wrap Up, Cont.

**SB404/HB333 Financial Assistance - Medical Bill Reimbursement Process** -- Requires the reimbursement of out-of-pocket costs paid by patients eligible for free care. Also institutes a fee of \$50,000 per violation if a hospital refuses to provide that refund. *This bill passed both Chambers and has been sent to the Governor.*



**HB283/SB460 Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Gender-Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)** -- Requires the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide gender-affirming treatment in a nondiscriminatory manner, current with clinical standards, and allowing the health care provider to determine the appropriateness of care. *This bill passed both Chambers and has been sent to the Governor.*



**HB588/SB365 Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act)** -- Alters the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Fund to establish funding for establishing the Qualified Resident Enrollment Program and allow qualified residents to obtain coverage. This bill was heard in Health and Government Operations and passed by the House. *It was assigned to the Senate Finance Committee but did not make it out.*



**HB596/SB511 Health and Human Services Transportation Improvement Act of 2023** -- Repealing the cap on grants for the Maryland Transit Administration under the Maryland Senior Rides Program and on the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program. *This bill passed both chambers and has been sent to the Governor.*



**HB705/SB798 Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom** -- A constitutional amendment that would codify the right of every person to have the right to reproductive freedom. *This bill passed both Chambers and has been sent to the Governor. If signed, it will appear on the next ballot.*



**HB808/SB859 Reproductive Health Protection Act** -- Prohibits a judge from requiring a person to give a statement, testify, or produce evidence for a case involving an alleged violation of a law in another state relating to health care in that State. *This bill passed both chambers and has been sent to the Governor.*



**HB812/SB786 Health - Reproductive Health Services - Protected Information and Insurance Requirements** -- Regulates the disclosure of information that is legally protected healthcare by those that keep records, health information, etc. *This bill passed both chambers and has been sent to the Governor.*



**HB933/SB845 End-of-Life Options Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act)** -- Authorizing an individual to request aid in dying. This bill would also include requirements in those requests, such as consultants with physicians, mental health assessments, etc. *This bill was heard in Health and Government Operations but did not make it out of committee.*



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## Committees

### HEALTHCARE, Cont.

### Wrap Up, Cont.

**HB970 Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Hospitals - Dental Services** -- requiring acute care hospitals participating in Maryland Medical Assistance to develop a plan to provide an operating room for dental services. *This bill was heard in Health and Government Operations but did not make it out of committee.*



### HOUSING

**HB150 Housing and Community Development - Adaptive Reuse** -- Allows existing buildings to be reused, retrofitted, and repurposed to develop new affordable multifamily housing in specific financial assistance programs. *This bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor.*



**HB151 Residential Leases - Notification of Rent Increases** -- Requires that landlords notify tenants, in writing, before increasing rent. *This bill passed both chambers and was signed into law by the Governor.*



**HB562 Human Services - Temporary Cash Assistance - Housing Allowance** -- Requires local social service departments to provide a housing allowance to those who are receiving temporary cash assistance or transitional support services and are not receiving housing subsidies. *This bill was heard in appropriations but did not make it out of committee.*



### POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

**SB285 County PAB - Investigation of Complaints of Police Misconduct** -- Authorizes local governing bodies of a county, including Baltimore City, to authorize police accountability boards to exercise investigatory and subpoena powers. Also allows PABs to investigate concurrently with law enforcement agencies. *This bill was heard in Judicial Proceedings but did not make it out of committee.*



**SB290/HB857 Office of Attorney General - Independent Investigations Division - Authority to Prosecute** -- Expands the authority of the Attorney General to not only investigate police-involved incidents resulting in serious bodily injury to an individual, but to also, when warranted, actually prosecute. *This bill passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor.*



**HB1071 Criminal Law and Procedure - Cannabis - Fine for Smoking in Public, Stops, and Searches** -- Prohibits law enforcement officers from stopping and/or searching a person or property based on the odor of cannabis. Alters the maximum fines for smoking cannabis in public. *This bill passed both chambers and was sent to the Governor.*



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## Committees

### TRANSPORTATION

### Wrap Up, Cont.

**SB16/HB70 SAFE Roads Act 2023** -- Department of Transportation would have to recommend and implement design elements for pedestrian and bicycle safety with any new or improvement project. It would also require the State Highway Administration to submit reports on pedestrian and bicycle safety data. *This bill was heard in Judicial Proceedings but did not make it out of committee.*



**SB412/HB74 Transportation - Maryland Rail Authority - Establishment (Maryland Rail Investment Act of 2023)** -- Establishes and gives power and duty to the Maryland Rail Authority. This authority would act on behalf of the Department of Transportation with respect to certain railroad facilities and projects. *This bill was heard in Finance but did not make it out of committee.*



**HB9/SB19 Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses** -- Requires that equity be considered when State transportation plans, reports, and any goals are developed. The Department of Transportation conducts transit equity analyses and consults with affected communities before announcing or proposing significant changes or plans. *This bill passed both chambers and was sent to the Governor.*



*submitted by members of the Action Teams*

