

# A LETTER FROM SENATOR AUGUSTINE



Dear Neighbors,

The 447th Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly (MGA) officially concluded on April 7, marking the end of one of the most consequential 90-day periods in a generation. We entered the 2025 Session with 2 overarching tasks: (1) tackling a multi-billion-dollar budget deficit amidst federal chaos; and (2) advancing policy to reduce Marylanders' energy bills in the short-, medium-, and long-term.



I am pleased to report that the Maryland Senate met the moment. At a time of economic uncertainty, federal dysfunction, and rising energy costs, we chose to lead—with clarity, compassion, and a commitment to protecting the future of every Maryland family.

Accomplishing those objectives while passing legislation to improve the lives of all our State's residents required honest and difficult conversations about our fiscal responsibilities and enduring priorities. From the moment we gathered in Annapolis on January 8, our work focused on adapting to new realities while maintaining the stability Maryland individuals, families, and small businesses rely on.

In the wake of the transition to a new presidential Administration in January, the MGA faced seismic shifts in policy coming from Washington, culminating in a nearly \$350 million reduction in expected personal, corporate, and sales tax revenues over a two year period due entirely to federal chaos and job losses. In addition, the State learned of up to \$418 million in federal funds being withheld to our public schools, \$305 million of which school systems had already spent, in addition to \$330 million in transportation funding summarily pulled back despite grant agreements.

These drastic and unprecedented actions spurred the MGA to redouble our commitments to core Maryland values including reinforcing Marylanders' constitutional protections, safeguarding access to health care, enhancing protections for Maryland's immigrant communities, defending reproductive freedom, and accelerating the State's transition to cleaner, cheaper energy. When federal support wavered, we provided clarity and a vision for the future.

Throughout it all, we remained focused on delivering results for the people of Maryland. Now, with the 2025 Session behind us, I look forward to continuing the work in Maryland's 47th Legislative District until the MGA reconvenes next.

**Below is an overview of key measures and legislative priorities the MGA addressed during the 2025 Legislative Session.**

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malcolm Augustine".

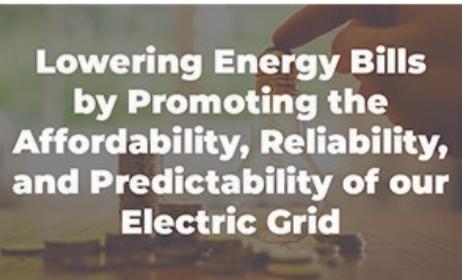
# TOP 12 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## OF THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



**Passing a Balanced Budget that Maintains Core Commitments to Marylanders**

HB 350, 351, and 352



**Lowering Energy Bills by Promoting the Affordability, Reliability, and Predictability of our Electric Grid**

SB 909, 931, and 937



**Strengthening Apprenticeships and Skills Training**

SB 431



**Developing World-Class Public Schools for All Maryland Children**

HB 504



**Fighting Back Against Federal Government Chaos and Overreach**

SB 608, HB 1222, and 1424



**Reducing Crime and Maintaining Safe Neighborhoods**

SB 11 and 590



**Preserving High-Quality Health Care our Residents Rely On**

SB 5, 357, 374, and 684



**Expanding Access to Affordable Abortion Care**

SB 848



**Supporting Maryland's Seniors and Nursing Home Residents**

SB 223 and 376



**Protecting the Chesapeake Bay and our State's Natural Resources**

SB 149, 901, and HB 506



**Creating an Equitable Justice System Focused on Rehabilitation**

SB 181, 432, and HB853



**Demanding the Highest Ethical Standards from Elected Officials**

HB 932

# A BALANCED BUDGET THAT MAINTAINS CORE COMMITMENTS TO MARYLANDERS

## MARYLAND'S FY26 BUDGET AS PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



**\$15.6B for Medicaid  
to Cover 1.5M  
Marylanders**



**\$849.7M for Public  
School Construction  
and Renovation**



**\$594.4M in New  
Funding for Pre-K to  
12 Public Schools –  
Representing a 7.3%  
Increase from FY25**



**\$500M in New  
Revenues to Support  
the State's  
Transportation and  
Infrastructure Needs**



**\$398.8M for  
Affordable Housing  
and Community  
Development**



**\$340.8M for Local  
Capital Projects and  
Anchor Institutions**



**\$181.5M Restored in  
FY25 and FY26 for  
Community Services  
for Those with  
Developmental  
Disabilities**



**\$139M Invested in  
Growing the  
Private-Sector  
Economy**



**\$121.8M in Police  
Aid for Local Law  
Enforcement**



**\$100M for Climate  
Pollution Reduction  
Efforts at the State  
and Local Levels**



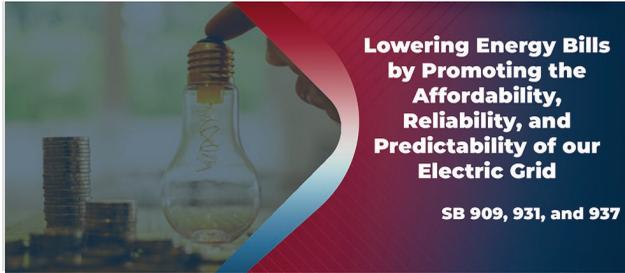
**\$60M in Victim  
Services Funding**



**\$2.4B in Cash  
Reserves to Protect  
Against Continued  
Federal Uncertainty**

# 2025

# LEGISLATIVE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



**SB937** provides a \$200 million refund (averaging \$80 per customer) to residential electric customers in two installments, expedites new and cleaner in-state generation to decrease our reliance on power from surrounding states, creates cost containment mechanisms around utility companies', removes waste incineration from Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard subsidy program, and ensures large load customers like data centers pay their fair share. **SB931** makes it easier to build renewable energy projects like solar and battery storage and allows local governments to participate in community solar programs. **SB909** creates a

new office to streamline energy forecasting and reduce dependence on external grid operators, ensuring Maryland's energy grid is more resilient and reliable.

**SB749** requires the Maryland Dept of Health to expedite license approval for fired federal health care workers who have been licensed in other states. Through **HB1424**, we created a financial assistance program for laid-off federal workers outside of the normal unemployment insurance system and created an expedited process for hiring those workers into State government roles. We also took steps in **HB1222** to protect our immigrant communities from lawless and warrantless actions by preventing immigration enforcement in sensitive locations like schools, hospitals, and religious institutions, in addition to making it easier for immigrants who are victims of crime and aiding police investigations from facing deportation with **SB608 (Sponsored by Senator Augustine)**.



**HB504** builds on the Blueprint for Maryland's Future by giving local school systems increased flexibility around some State funding, extending career counseling services, creating a school leadership training program for administrators, building pathways for more school professionals to enter the teaching profession, and strengthening the community school model. Moreover, through **SB68**, we required the State Department of Education to create a restorative practices plan, ensuring all schools are adequately supporting childrens' socioemotional well-being. Finally, we took steps to strengthen the **Truancy Reduction Pilot Program (HB1442)** as we seek to address chronic absenteeism following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conflicts of interest undermine our democracy. When our elected officials put their personal interests first, they send a message that their constituents' needs are less of a priority. We passed **HB932** this year to ensure future Governors avoid conflicts at all costs by restricting their ability to participate in any matter that may come before a State agency that involves their business interests.





Maryland's seniors and nursing home residents are some of the most vulnerable in our society, and we have a heightened duty to meet their needs. We passed **SB223** to expand the Senior Call-Check Service and Notification Program as the Social Connections Program. This initiative provides older adults at risk of isolation with regular check-ins through phone calls, text messages, video chats, and in-person visits. Beyond wellness checks, the program fosters purposeful social engagement by connecting seniors with local volunteer networks, community events, and peer support groups. Further, we recognized the

Dept of Health lacks sufficient capacity to conduct inspections and complaint investigations of nursing homes throughout the State. To compensate for this staffing shortage, we authorized local jurisdictions to take on this responsibility upon a county's request through **SB376**.

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Enhancing public safety so individuals and families feel safe in their communities remains of paramount importance. The MGA took steps to reinforce our justice system by cracking down on reckless and aggressive driving through the **Sergeant Patrick Kepp Act (SB590)**, as well as enabling prosecutors to aggregate multiple theft offenses by the same individual in multiple counties through the **Organized Retail Theft Act of 2025 (SB11)**. With **SB360**, we created avenues for individuals who are victims of revenge porn generated by artificial intelligence to seek justice as we navigate this new technology and its consequences. And we passed the **Rape Kit Testing Tracking Program and Grant Fund (SB669)**, which supports investigations into older, untested sexual assault kits and extends the submission deadline for evidence to address critical backlogs in rape kit testing.



We passed the **Expungement Reform Act of 2025 (SB432)** to expand the number of misdemeanor offenses eligible for expungement, reduce expungement waiting periods, and prohibit certain minor charges from appearing on the Maryland Judiciary Case Search. Further, we advanced the **Second Look Act (HB853)**, which recognizes that individuals who commit crime early in life have the capacity to change and allows those individuals to seek a hearing for a reduced sentence after serving at least 20

full years of their sentence. Additionally, we modified parole considerations for individuals 65 and older and streamlined the medical parole process through **SB181**.

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To build on the constitutional amendment incorporated last November, the MGA passed **SB848** to establish a first-of-its-kind public health abortion grant program to increase access and finance the support network of abortion funds and providers in Maryland. This program utilizes existing and unspent insurance premiums for abortion coverage already set aside and required to be collected by the Affordable Care Act, totaling an estimated \$25 million in surplus funds with an additional \$3 million accruing each year.



We passed the **Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for All Marylanders Now Act (SB357)** to empower the Prescription Drug Affordability Board to set price limits on vital medications, offering relief to families struggling with high costs. We also know that telehealth remains a critical tool in the toolbox for Marylanders seeking care, which is why we passed the **Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025 (SB372)** to ensure its availability in the future. By advancing **SB5**, the General Assembly made permanent the State-Based Young Adult Subsidies Pilot Program, ensuring young people continue to have the ability to purchase affordable health insurance through the Maryland Health Benefits Exchange. We know that health outcomes are too often determined by race, class, and other societal factors, so we mandated the Maryland Department of Health to create a health equity dashboard to better track these disparities so that we can hold health professionals more accountable to outcomes through **SB684 (Sponsored by Senator Augustine)**. Building a healthier Maryland saves lives. No one should have to choose between access to affordable care and putting food on the table.



**Registered Apprenticeship Investments for a Stronger Economy (RAISE) Act (SB431)** modernizes the State's apprenticeship system. The law will expand the definition of a qualifying apprenticeship, ensuring more Marylanders can access career training programs that align with industry needs. Marylanders need more than a job after school—they need accessible and sustainable careers.

We passed the **SB149** to confront Maryland's largest polluters by studying their emissions and assessing the long-term environmental costs they've created. This lays the groundwork for holding them accountable and shaping future environmental policy. We also advanced the **HB506** to fund regenerative agriculture, oyster aquaculture, and water quality improvements—proven strategies to restore the Bay's health and resilience. And through **SB901 (Sponsored by Senator Augustine)**, we expanded Maryland's framework for producer responsibility, making corporations—not taxpayers—responsible for recycling the packaging waste they create. Once fully implemented, this policy will reduce litter, improve recycling outcomes, and relieve local governments from an unfair financial burden. These steps aren't just about conservation—they're about protecting Maryland's future.



#### **FACING OUR HISTORY HEAD ON:**

Black Marylanders have long been essential to our State's growth, from building the infrastructure of Baltimore and Annapolis to powering agriculture, industry, and innovation in Maryland for centuries. Yet, the legacy of slavery, redlining, and economic exclusion still shapes disparities today. That's why we created the **Maryland Reparations Commission (SB587)** to study these injustices and recommend meaningful policy solutions. Closing these economic and systemic gaps isn't exclusively about justice—it's about advancing meaningful economic policy that benefits all of us. Research shows that eliminating racial income and wealth disparities could add over \$50 billion to Maryland's economy. We must confront the lasting impacts of policies that hamper our potential for growth in the future, and this Commission will provide a vehicle for this important work.

This Session, I introduced 22 bills as primary Sponsor, 12 of those were sent to and approved by the Governor. Here are some of the key pieces of legislation that I was able to get passed that were not previously mentioned:



**SB43 - Maryland Department of Health - Forensic Review Board – Established: Ensuring Oversight and Support in Forensic Mental Health:**

Maryland is strengthening its approach to overseeing individuals found not criminally responsible due to mental illness. This legislation establishes Forensic Review Boards at state psychiatric facilities and sets clear standards for how they operate, including annual reviews, notice and documentation procedures, and the ability of individuals to submit statements or appoint a non-legal advocate. The Boards ensure that people are not kept in custody longer than clinically necessary and provide courts with formal, reasoned recommendations based on treatment progress. By helping to identify who truly needs inpatient care, the law frees up scarce psychiatric beds for those in immediate crisis, keeping people who need mental health care off the streets, out of emergency rooms, and away from unnecessary incarceration. These reforms promote fairer outcomes, reduce bottlenecks in the behavioral health system, and support long-term recovery and safety for individuals and communities.



**SB60 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Required Coverage for Calcium Score Testing: Providing Coverage for our Most Vulnerable Populations to Prevent Heart Disease and Death:**

With thousands of Marylanders dying each year of heart disease, this bill was a first step towards strengthening the state's commitment to a heart healthy Maryland. This bill is crucial as many do not know that they are at risk for heart disease or heart attacks until it is too late. Now, through this bill, we will ensure that all Marylanders will be covered by their insurance if their doctors deem it necessary to receive Coronary Artery Calcium Scoring testing, a simple non-invasive scan that detects plaque buildup in the heart. By passing this bill, we are leaving important healthcare choices in the hands of those receiving care and their trusted providers. This is particularly important for Black Marylanders and why this bill was a priority of the Black Caucus.



**SB296 - Public Information Act – Public Access Ombudsman – Delegation of Powers:**

This bill authorizes the Public Access Ombudsman to delegate to a staff member of the Office of the Public Access Ombudsman any of the powers and duties granted to the ombudsman that are appropriate to the staff member's training and expertise. Maryland's Public Information Act (PIA) establishes that all persons are entitled to have access to information about the affairs of government and the official acts of public officials and employees. The Ombudsman has not been able to keep up with the volume of requests. This legislation provides the flexibility the office needs to meet timely the demand for requests.



**SB589 - Opioid Restitution Fund - Interactive Dashboard: Promoting Accountability in Opioid Settlement Spending:**

With billions of dollars from opioid settlements flowing into states, Maryland is taking steps to ensure transparency and public oversight in how those funds are used. SB589 requires the Maryland Office of Overdose Response, in collaboration with the Department of Health, to develop a publicly accessible dashboard that tracks the receipt and expenditure of opioid restitution funds at the state, county, and municipal levels. The dashboard will include links to local government websites where additional information is available, and it will display payment schedules, past and planned spending, and funded initiatives. Local governments that already meet certain settlement reporting obligations and share their data with the state will not be required to submit duplicate information. By making this information easily available to the public, Maryland is building trust and ensuring that opioid settlement dollars go toward programs that make a meaningful difference in our communities.



**SB685 - Election Law - Local Boards of Elections - Language Assistance Program:** While other states make voting harder, Maryland strengthened access to the ballot. SB685 guarantees multi-lingual support at polling places for those who need it.



**SB0790 - Behavioral Health Advisory Council and the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access - Plan to Implement Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Requirements:** Adding a Workgroup on Kids Without a Formal Behavioral Diagnosis so That Maryland May Monitor and Provide Recommendations to Improve Future Health Outcomes Too often, children slip through the cracks of a system designed to protect them. To ensure that all Maryland children receive the behavioral health care they are entitled to, SB790 directs the Behavioral Health Advisory Council and the Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access to develop a comprehensive implementation plan for federal Best Practices for Adhering to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Requirements for children. These provisions guarantee necessary behavioral health services for individuals under 21, yet many eligible youths still face delays or gaps in care. This bill mandates an actionable road map for identifying gaps in service, improving agency coordination, and enhancing data collection and reporting for the good of all Marylanders. By prioritizing accountability and systemic collaboration, this legislation aims to be a stepping stone in the path to close critical disparities in youth behavioral health, with the goal of ensuring timely, preventative, and responsive care for Maryland's youngest residents.



**SB900-Maryland Behavioral Health Crisis Response System - Integration of 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Network and Outcome Evaluations: A Stronger, More Connected Mental Health Crisis Response:** 9-8-8 is a vital lifeline; a simple, easy-to-remember alternative to 9-1-1 that connects people to trained crisis counselors instead of law enforcement. It offers a more appropriate, compassionate response to mental health emergencies and helps divert individuals from jails, hospitals, and emergency rooms. SB900 strengthens Maryland's behavioral health crisis system by requiring local crisis centers to integrate with the national 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, ensuring that Marylanders in crisis can access suicide prevention, counseling, and referral services quickly and consistently. The bill also improves accountability by requiring the state to track crisis outcomes, including response times, resolution types, and demographic data. This ensures that services are not only effective but also equitable and accessible across communities, which guides better, data-driven policy decisions.



**SB902-Health Insurance - Access to Nonparticipating Providers - Referrals, Additional Assistance, and Coverage: Making Mental Health Care Easier to Access When In-Network Options Fall Short:** Too often, Marylanders seeking mental health or substance use treatment face long wait times or are told no in-network providers are available. SB902 tackles this by requiring insurers to help members access out-of-network behavioral health providers when they cannot offer timely, in-network care that meets state standards for appointment availability and travel distance. If an insurer approves such a referral, the out-of-network provider must be treated as if they were in-network—meaning the insurer cannot apply more restrictive utilization review requirements than it would for an in-network provider. This ensures individuals aren't penalized for going out-of-network when no timely in-network options exist. This bill takes an important step toward addressing behavioral health provider shortages and ensuring timely access to appropriate, affordable care, especially when in-network systems fall short.

# FUNDING

FOR THE

# 47<sup>TH</sup>

# DISTRICT

This session, my colleagues and I worked hard to secure grant funds to invest in the 47th District.

We secured over  
**\$14 Million in State Funds.**



HAMLET WOODS

## STATE FUNDING FOR THE 47TH DISTRICT \$14M

- **\$3.5M - Hamlet Woods** for financing an affordable, 60% AMI, 59 unit family housing project in **Bladensburg**
- **\$2.5M - Urban Atlantic** for affordable Senior Housing at **New Carrollton Metro**
- **\$1.2M - MNCPPC** Publick Playhouse renovation
- **\$1.0M - Bladensburg** for a new Town Hall
- **\$1.0M - MNCPPC** Lane Manor Park new playground equipment in **Lewisdale**
- **\$927K - Defensores de la Cuenca** for planting 2,000 trees
- **\$850K - MNCPPC** Bladensburg Waterfront Park new playground equipment
- **\$500K - Prince George's Gateway Development Authority** for neighborhood revitalization projects
- **\$400K - Gateway CDC** for Stormwater mitigation for Joe's Movement Emporium in Mount Rainier
- **\$380K - Housing Initiative Partnership** to acquire and rehab vacant or distressed single-family houses
- **\$300K - Mount Rainier** for replacing impervious sidewalks and Commercial Facade Improvements
- **\$264K - North Brentwood** Senior Living Development & beautify/optimize a high profile, lowland green strip
- **\$250K - Prince George's Gateway Development Authority** to Develop a comprehensive revitalization strategy
- **\$217K - ECO City Farms** for Community Farm Engagement in **Bladensburg**
- **\$185K - World Arts Focus** for planting 525 trees
- **\$172K - UMBC** to develop a simplified approach of PCB loading estimation during stormflow in the Anacostia
- **\$158K - Colmar Manor** Post No. 131, The American Legion for a roof and HVAC equipment
- **\$113K - University Christian Church** for conservation landscaping in **Hyattsville**
- **\$100K - EcoLatinos** for constructing a bioretention system at St. Mary's Catholic Church in **Landover Hills**
- **\$70K - Cottage City** for maintaining vast tree Canopy and invasive training for the community.
- **\$30K - Bladensburg** for enhancing environmental sustainability and social equity
- **\$20K - Bradley Site Design** to develop a conceptual plan for Bartlett Park in **Brentwood**
- **\$18K - Colmar Manor** for a Native Pollinator Garden

CONSTITUENT

SERVICE

CONSTITUENT  
CONTACTS IN  
PARENTHESES

## Our office worked to support our constituents through:



**Constituent Wellness Checks** • Wellness checks to determine if there were needs with which we could assist. **(500)**



**Healthy Food** • In partnership with government entities, businesses, and faith groups particularly Shabach Ministries, provided healthy food to residents in need. **(1000)**



**Zoom Access** • Offered to all and provided Zoom to several civic associations so that the associations could continue contact with their neighbors. Either Senator Augustine or a team member hosted and participated in the meetings to hear concerns and share information. **(500)**



**Public Works Coordination** • Coordinated between constituents, community associations, and DPIE to remove trash. To then fine people for illegal dumping, and investigate who is dumping. Reported and followed up on overrun and abandoned property. Assisted constituents that had issues with storm drains (DPWT), and street lighting issues (Utilities), with follow-ups to ensure drains were cleared and lighting was replaced or repaired.

Reported signs down on parkways or areas that are serviced by the Maryland Department of Transportation, National Park Service, Park and Planning, and Prince George's County. Assisted community associations and constituents with parking permits through the Revenue Authority. Fielded WMATA complaints and concerns with property maintenance, service, and bus stops. Referred to and monitored WSSC water main breaks, and water pipe replacements, discussed water bills, set up appointments for inspections for meters along with having repair or replacements done. Wash Gas-Reported Gas Leaks. Our office meets quarterly with the State Highway Administration (Numbered Roads) to status ongoing issues that constituents report and work on solutions. Fielded and referred MVA questions about tags and license renewals. **(50)**



**Leaders Meetings** • Host a quarterly District 47 Leaders Meeting with Municipal and Civic Association and Non-Profit Leaders to better understand the wants and needs of District 47. In addition to sharing information, we have welcomed guest speakers including States Attorney Aisha Braveboy, Senator Angela Alsobrooks, and Congressman Glenn Ivey. **(250)**



**Unemployment Assistance** • Fielded inquiries and worked on cases with all but a small percentage now closed. **(10)**





**Federal Assistance** • Agency assistance provided military benefits, death certification, postal concerns, and tax questions among others. We coordinate with our Federal Officials offices to facilitate Naturalization and Citizenship case management and expediting. **(20)**



**Social Service Coordination** • Case-Managed SNAP, Medicaid, Medicare and community food bank resources for constituents in need. Provided information from the County about affordable Housing, and made calls to the County to get contact persons that the constituents could speak with. Provided information for shelters for homeless persons and coordinated with the shelters to secure living space Obtained information about affordable programs and funneled to senior homes and constituents. Also collaborated with the county’s legal department to assist with illegal evictions. **(40)**



**Utility Assistance** • PEPCO, Washington Gas, BGE, WSSC, Verizon, Comcast, and Salvation Army-Contacted utility companies on behalf of constituents or provided the constituents with contact information either by email or verbally. These constituents were given information or programs that would help them. **(10)**



**Senatorial Scholarships** • Awarded over **\$150K** in continuing post-secondary education scholarships to District 47 residents for College, Career Technical, and Graduate School. **(100)**

## SUBJECT MATTER INQUIRES BY THE NUMBERS (%)



# SENATOR AUGUSTINE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!



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**Keep up with our efforts for the 47th District!**



MalcolmLAugustine



Sen\_M\_Augustine



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**Please scan with your phone camera to sign up for our Newsletter!**

**THANK YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE TO REPRESENT YOU IN THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY. I LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT SESSION TO CONTINUE ADVOCATING FOR YOU!**

SENATOR AUGUSTINE  
WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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**Keep up with our efforts for the 47th District!**

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THANK YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE TO REPRESENT  
YOU IN THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT SESSION TO  
CONTINUE ADVOCATING FOR YOU!



LATEST INFORMATION  
FROM THE 2025  
LEGISLATIVE SESSION



2025

SENATOR MALCOLM AUGUSTINE  
DISTRICT 47  
END OF SESSION REPORT

Authority: Friends of Malcolm Augustine, Lauren Augustine, Treasurer

