



MARYLAND COALITION OF FAMILIES

OUTCOMES ON STATUS OF 2026 WATCH LIST LEGISLATION

The Maryland Coalition of Families followed the progress of several bills during the 2026 Maryland General Assembly. We took a position on some bills and submitted testimony, often with direct input from the families we support across Maryland. Below is the final status of each of these bills as the Maryland General Assembly comes to an end. Though the outcome for some bills we were watching isn't what we hoped for, the advocacy doesn't end because the session is over. MCF will continue to advocate for policies that make sense for Maryland families!

LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

SENATE BILL 263 – EDUCATION - DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS - ADVANCE ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

SPONSOR: Senator [Benjamin Brooks](#), District 10

STATUS: This bill passed and will be sent to the Governor.

THIS BILL WILL:

- Require each school system to create a remote registration process for children of active service members moving to Maryland that would allow families to enroll before they arrive in the state
- Require families to be able to share IEP or 504 Plan information during remote enrollment
- Ensure a smooth transition of critical services and support when the child begins school

SENATE BILL 809/HOUSE BILL 1280 – SUPPORTING OUR CAREGIVER INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM - FEASIBILITY STUDY

SPONSOR: Senator [Nancy King](#) and Delegate [Greg Wims](#), District 39

STATUS: The bill passed and will be sent to the Governor.

THIS BILL WILL:

- Require the Office of the Maryland Comptroller and the Department of Human Services to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a "Supporting Our Caregiver Infrastructure Program"
- Evaluate whether Maryland can establish and operate a program providing universal monthly payments to caregivers for each qualifying dependent they care for.
- Submit a report before July 1, 2027, of their findings.

SENATE BILL 402 – RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE PROGRAMS - EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND TRAINING OF CHILD AND YOUTH CARE PRACTITIONERS

SPONSOR: Senator [Benjamin Brooks](#), District 10

STATUS: This bill passed and will be sent to the Governor.

THIS BILL WILL:

- Require residential programs to provide educational support to children in their care, including:
 - Regular study time



- Help with homework, projects, and test prep
- Encouragement to join extracurricular activities
- Support for goals in IEPs or 504 Plans
- Computer and internet access for students taking college classes while in high school
- Require staff training on child development, special needs, learning differences, and suicide prevention

HOUSE BILL 1434 – MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - CAREGIVER RESOURCE WEBPAGE - ESTABLISHMENT

SPONSOR: Delegate [Aletheia McCaskill](#), District 44B

STATUS: This bill passed and will be sent to the Governor.

WHAT THIS BILL WAS INTENDED TO DO

- Requires the Maryland Department of Health to develop and maintain a caregiver resource webpage with information and resources to support caregivers.
- The webpage would include information about caring for children with disabilities and special health care needs, adults with disabilities, chronic illness, or behavioral health needs, and older adults including those with dementia or cognitive impairment.
- Additionally, it would have to include information on health, wellness, and respite resources, financial assistance, training and support to caregivers, and safety planning.

LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PASS

SENATE BILL 79/HOUSE BILL 163 – COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION - STUDENT TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY - REQUIREMENTS

SPONSOR: Senator [Joann Benson](#), District 24, and Delegate [Chao Wu](#), District 9A

STATUS: This bill did not make it out of the committee for a vote by the full House. The cross-filed Senate bill met the same fate. This is the second time this bill has been introduced in the House and failed.

WHAT THIS BILL WAS INTENDED TO DO

- Require each county board of education to develop policies regarding the use of personal electronic devices, including cellphones, tablets, laptops, smartwatches, and smart glasses
- Prohibit use of these devices during the school day for elementary and middle school students and limit the use of electronic devices during the school day for high school students
- Protect the use of electronic devices by students with IEPs and 504s that expressly identify a need for them

HOUSE BILL 530 – TASK FORCE ON PROACTIVE REVIEW OF AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS ON SPECIAL EDUCATION BUSES

SPONSOR: Delegate [Chao Wu](#), District 9A

STATUS: This bill did not make it out of the committee for a vote by the full House.

WHAT THIS BILL WAS INTENDED TO DO

- Establish a task force to:



- study the use of artificial intelligence tools to review audio and video recordings from special education buses to ensure the safety and security of each passenger
- review programs in other cities or states to see how they have enacted similar tools
- evaluate costs associated with these programs
- Require the task force to submit a report to the Maryland General Assembly by December 2026 regarding its findings and make recommendations

HOUSE BILL 740 – PUBLIC SCHOOLS - SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - FULL-TIME THERAPIST

SPONSOR: Delegate [Sean Stinnett](#), District 41

STATUS: This bill did not make it out of the committee for a vote by the full House.

WHAT THIS BILL WAS INTENDED TO DO

- Require every public school to employ a licensed mental health counselor to provide school-based mental health services to students during the school day

HOUSE BILL 655 – EDUCATION - STUDENT BEHAVIOR - PARENT AND GUARDIAN NOTICE AND REQUIRED COUNSELING (PARENT AND GUARDIAN ACCOUNTABILITY ACT)

SPONSOR: Delegate [Robert Long](#), District 6

STATUS: This bill did not make it out of the committee for a vote by the full House. This is the second time this bill has failed at the committee level.

WHAT THIS BILL WAS INTENDED TO DO

- Require parents and caregivers of students who engage in two or more incidents of violent and disruptive behavior in school to participate in counseling with the student
- Any parent or caregiver who fails to engage in counseling will be required to perform community service.

HOUSE BILL 901– EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS - RECOGNITION OF EXTERNAL DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM

SPONSOR: Delegate [Denise Roberts](#), District 25

STATUS: This bill did not make it out of the committee for a vote by the full House.

WHAT THIS BILL WAS INTENDED TO DO

- Require schools to recognize a student's diagnosis of autism from licensed professionals until the school completes its own initial evaluation
- Require schools to complete their initial evaluation within 30 days
- While the school is completing their initial evaluation, they must provide the student with the supports recommended by the extern licensed professional who made the diagnosis

SENATE BILL 51 – SELF-CONTAINED SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASSROOMS – USE OF VIDEO RECORDING DEVICES

SPONSOR: Senator [William Folden](#), District 4



STATUS: At the hearing held on 2/4/26, the sponsor announced that he was amending the bill to be a Frederick County bill rather than a statewide bill. Even with this change, this bill did not make it out of the committee in the Senate. A similar bill failed in 2021.

WHAT THIS BILL WAS INTENDED TO DO

- Require cameras in self-contained special education classrooms across Maryland
- Require written notice to parents that cameras are in use and block cameras in bathrooms and changing areas
- Limit who can view recordings and how long they can be kept
- Prevent recordings from being used to evaluate teachers' performance
- Set up procedures for using recordings to investigate complaints

HOUSE BILL 468 – HEALTH AND TAXATION - DIGITAL SOCIAL MEDIA SERVICES AND THE MENTAL HEALTH CARE FUND FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

SPONSOR: Delegate [Ashanti Martinez](#), District 22

STATUS: This bill did not make it out of the committee for a vote by the full House. A similar bill failed in the 2025 Session.

WHAT THIS BILL WAS INTENDED TO DO

- Impose a tax on annual revenues earned by social media platforms
- Fund a Mental Health Care Fund for Children and Youth with the tax

HOUSE BILL 1060 – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS - PETITIONS FOR EMERGENCY EVALUATION - REQUIREMENT FOR TRACKING AND REPORTING AND STUDY

SPONSOR: Delegate [Stephanie Smith](#), District 45

STATUS: This bill did not make it out of the committee for a vote by the full House.

WHAT THIS BILL WAS INTENDED TO DO

- Require school systems to develop and implement a system for tracking school personnel's the use of petitions for emergency evaluations for students.
- Convene a workgroup to study the use of these petitions in school settings.

HOUSE BILL 724 – EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION - CAREGIVER STATUS

SPONSOR: Delegate [Lesley Lopez](#), District 17

STATUS: This bill did not make it out of the committee for a vote by the full House

WHAT THIS BILL WAS INTENDED TO DO

- Provide protections against employment discrimination based on a caregiver's status.
- Add "caregiver status" to language that prohibits discrimination based on a person's race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military status, or disability
- Define caregiver as someone who provides direct and ongoing care for a minor child or someone who has a disability that requires the caregiver's support to meet the needs of daily life and living in the caregiver's home



HOUSE BILL 1368 – SPECIAL EDUCATION – INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM – NOTIFICATION OF MISSED SERVICES (SHIFRA’S ACT)

SPONSOR: Delegate [Samuel Rosenberg](#), District 41

STATUS: This bill did not make it out of the committee for a vote by the full House

WHAT THIS BILL WAS INTENDED TO DO

- Require schools to notify parents and caregivers of a child with a disability who has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) when services are missed, incomplete, or interrupted
- Provide parents and caregivers with an explanation for why the services for missed
- Provide parents and caregivers with the option to meet to discussed the missed services.

HOUSE BILL 1046 – SCHOOL AND SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES - REPORT OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT - PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

SPONSOR: Delegate [Michele Guyton](#), District 42B

STATUS: This bill did not make it out of the committee for a vote by the full House

WHAT THIS BILL WAS INTENDED TO DO

- Require schools to notify parents and caregivers if a mandated reporter reports suspected abuse or neglect to Child Protective Services that occurs at school or a school-sponsored event unless the parent or caregiver is the subject of the report.

HOUSE BILL 222 – OPIOID OVERDOSE-REVERSING MEDICATIONS - POLICY REQUIREMENTS (NALOXONE ACCESS ACT)

SPONSOR: Delegate [Joe Vogel](#), District 17

Status: This bill did not make it out of the original committee for a vote by the full House. Similar bill failed in 2025 Session (HB852).

WHAT THIS BILL WAS INTENDED TO DO

- Update drug prevention education (grades 3–12) to include information about naloxone (Narcan) and how it reverses opioid overdoses
- Allow students and school staff to carry naloxone at school and school events
- Protect people who give naloxone during an overdose from legal liability

HOUSE BILL 195 – STATE LOTTERY AND GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION - AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT STUDIES ON THE USE OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGY – COLLABORATION

SPONSOR: Delegate [Pam Queen](#), District 14

STATUS: This bill did not make it out of the original committee for a vote by the full House.

WHAT THIS BILL WOULD DO

- Require the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to study new technology for gambling platforms



- Explore using artificial intelligence (AI) to watch for problem gambling behavior
- Test age verification using facial recognition and biometrics to keep minors from gambling and guard against security breaches
- Create pilot programs at Morgan State and Bowie State universities to block online gambling on campus
- Use "geofence" technology to prevent access to gambling apps while students are on campus
- Collect data and report results to the Governor and General Assembly

HOUSE BILL 518 – GAMING – PROBLEM GAMBLING AND COLLEGE ATHLETE PROTECTIONS

SPONSOR: Delegate [Julie Palakovich Carr](#), District 17

STATUS: This bill did not make it out of the original committee for a vote by the full House. Similar bill failed in 2025 Session (HB465).

WHAT THIS BILL WOULD DO

- Establish voluntary exclusion lists so people can control whether they can bet
- Provide the contact information to the Center for Excellence on Problem Gambling for people on the voluntary exclusion list
- Prohibits anyone under the age of 21 from engaging in fantasy competitions
- Requires language at strategic points on sports wagering apps that point users to resources to seek help for problem gambling
- Bans player-specific "proposition" bets for collegiate sports or athletic events

HOUSE BILL 883 – CONSUMER PROTECTION - ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROHIBITIONS

SPONSOR: Delegate [Lily Qi](#), District 15

STATUS: This bill did not make it out of the original committee for a vote by the full House.

WHAT THIS BILL WOULD DO

- Prohibit AI developers from building AI platforms or services that represent themselves as behavioral health providers.
- Require AI platforms to implement reasonable measures to detect and address suicidal statements or expressions of self-harm by people using the platform and provide a referral for those people to get help