

Senator Bailey's Sponsored Legislation – 2024 Session

Public Safety

Senate Bill 7 – Public Safety - Law Enforcement Agencies - Positive Community Feedback would require police agencies to keep a record of positive feedback that the agencies receive about its officers and allow the release of that information under the Maryland Public Information Act. This would ensure that police departments and the public have access to the full picture of a law enforcement officer's record.

Senate Bill 26 – Criminal Law – Manslaughter by Vehicle or Vessel – Increased Penalties (Jamari's Law) would increase the existing maximum penalties for felony manslaughter by vehicle or vessel from 10 years to 20 years for a first offense, and from 15 years to 30 years for a subsequent offense. This bill is named "Jamari's Law" for Jamari Duckett, a Great Mills resident who tragically lost his life in an accident caused by a driver who was drunk and traveling at a high rate of speed.

Senate Bill 130 – Criminal Law – Indecent Exposure Within the Presence of a Minor would strengthen penalties for indecent exposure within the presence of a minor in Maryland. The current penalty for all instances of indecent exposure is a maximum of 3 years in prison and a fine of up to \$1,000. This legislation would change those maximum penalties to a maximum of 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000 in cases involving indecent exposure with prurient intent when a person knows or should know a minor is present.

Senate Bill 166 – Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup would study the feasibility of establishing a Waterway Incident Notification System to notify members of the public, including recreational boaters and commercial watermen, of active waterway emergencies involving a person at risk of death or serious bodily harm, emergency marine events, or marine hazards.

Supporting Our Local Small Businesses

Senate Bill 32 – Economic Development – Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation – Loans ensures that Maryland watermen who hold commercial licenses from the Potomac River Fisheries Commission are eligible for the Maryland Watermen's Microloan Program in the same manner as a resident who holds a commercial license from the State.

Senate Bill 183 – State Procurement – Prompt Payment of Suppliers was introduced following Senator Bailey's discussions with owners of local businesses who currently work on State projects. While there is an existing law requiring prompt payment of State subcontractors, this does not apply to businesses deemed by the State to be suppliers. This has led to several of our local small businesses not being paid for their work or materials in a timely manner as they deserve. This legislation expands the prompt payment statute to ensure that these suppliers are compensated appropriately and quickly.

Senate Bill 589 - Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission – Funding would increase annual State funding for the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission from \$900,000 to \$1,000,000. This legislation would also repeal a sunset on the provisions of law requiring SMADC to be funded in the budget each year, guaranteeing future State support for this important resource for Southern Maryland farmers.

Natural Resources

Senate Bill 152 – Fishing Licenses and Stamps – Exemptions – Residents Eligible for Assistance Programs is an initiative of the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus to exempt Marylanders who receive support certain government programs such as TANF, SNAP, and WIC from recreational fishing license fees. This is based on similar programs in place in other states, such as North Carolina and Florida.

Senate Bill 207 – Natural Resources – Northern Snakehead – Common Name would rename the snakehead as the “Chesapeake Channa,” with the intention of making it easier to market to consumers. This would increase demand and lead to a greater economic incentive for Marylanders to remove this invasive species from our waterways.

Senate Bill 317 – Oysters, Striped Bass, and Crabs - Commercial Authorizations - Suspensions and Revocations would protect the due process rights of commercial watermen by ensuring that the Department of Natural Resources may not revoke their license to catch oyster, striped bass, or crabs unless the license holder has been convicted of violating the State’s natural resources law.

Senate Bill 507 - Special Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License - Nonresidents - License Fee would create a separate Special Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License for applicants who are not residents of Maryland. The fee for this license would be \$100. This license is currently one of the few hunting and fishing licenses in Maryland for which the Department of Natural Resources charges the same fee to residents and nonresidents. This legislation resolves this inconsistency, while leaving the existing license fee unchanged for Maryland residents.

Senate Bill 508 - Hunting - Nonresident Sika Deer Stamp - Fee Alteration would set the fee for a nonresident Sika deer stamp at \$200. This legislation would also have no impact on Maryland hunters, as the cost for a resident Sika deer stamp would remain unchanged.

Senate Bill 711 – Fisheries – Striped Bass or Rockfish – Juvenile Survey would expand the scope of the annual young-of-the-year juvenile survey of rockfish by requiring this survey to be conducted in the central region of the Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay in addition to sampling sites in the northern and southern regions of the Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

Senate Joint Resolution 3 - Commercial Fishery Disaster Declaration Due to Invasive Species would support the Governor's request for a federal commercial fishery disaster declaration due to invasive species of fish, particularly the blue catfish. This resolution would also encourage further efforts to obtain federal assistance to protect and rehabilitate the State's commercial fisheries as a result of an abundance of invasive species.

Honoring our Hometown Heroes

Senate Bill 108 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Police Auxiliary and Reserve Volunteers would combine the current subtraction modification for volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services members and police auxiliaries and reserve volunteers so that the amounts of these deductions would become and remain equal. The current deduction for volunteer fire, rescue, and EMS members is \$7,000, while the deduction for police auxiliaries and reserve volunteers is \$5,000 – this bill would give all public safety volunteers a \$7,000 deduction.

Senate Bill 588 - Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Public Safety Employee Retirement Income would increase the tax deduction for retirement income attributable to an individual's employment as a public safety

employee from \$15,000 to \$20,000. This bill is intended to match the increase to the tax deduction for military retirement income that passed the General Assembly and became law last year.

Supporting Our Communities

Senate Bill 158 – Cannabis Licensing – Zoning Requirements – Alteration would alter provisions of law enacted by last year’s cannabis legalization bill that exempted certain cannabis facilities from needing to be approved by a county or municipal zoning board. Senator Bailey has introduced this legislation in response to the concerns of the residents of the 7th District regarding the cannabis facility being built in the Critical Area in Abell.

Senate Bill 316 – Motor Vehicle Registration - Exceptions for Golf Carts – Authorization would allow counties and municipalities to designate roadways under their jurisdiction on which an individual may operate a golf cart. Senator Bailey has submitted an amendment to this bill to ensure that the Commissioners’ existing authority to permit golf cart use in Golden Beach is unchanged.

Education

Senate Bill 63 – Motor Vehicles - School Vehicle Drivers - Medical Examinations changes the current State requirement for school bus drivers to pass medical examinations from annually to up to every two years, with individual school systems retaining the ability to require these examinations more frequently. This will make Maryland’s requirements consistent with current federal requirements, as well as those in neighboring states, including Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia. This increased flexibility will give local school systems a larger pool of prospective bus drivers to choose from to alleviate current driver shortages without sacrificing student safety.

Protecting Consumers

Senate Bill 172 – Private Passenger Motor Vehicle Insurance – Premium Increases – Collisions With Wild Animals would prohibit insurance companies from increasing auto insurance premiums as a result of a driver’s collision with free-roaming wild animals for which the insured was not at fault for the loss.

Public Health

Senate Bill 117 – Health – Newborn Screening Program – Krabbe Leukodystrophy would add Infantile Krabbe Disease to the list of potential disorders that are required to be included as part of the State’s Newborn Screening Program.

Senate Bill 712 – State-Owned Nursing Homes – Deficiencies, Citations, and Fines – Reporting Requirements would revise last year’s legislation imposing reporting requirements on State-owned nursing homes, including Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. This bill is based on the recommendations of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that these reporting mechanisms align with the Department’s procedures in responding to reports of mistreatment of residents.

Other Legislation

Senate Bill 429 - Corporations and Associations - Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Washington would codify provisions of State law governing the organization of their Diocese in Maryland at the request of the Diocese.