

Public Safety

Senate Bill 57 (2023) – Sexual Offenses – Crime of Violence and Lifetime Supervision strengthened Maryland’s laws protecting minors against sexual abuse and will protect our most vulnerable citizens from felony sexual assaults. Senator Bailey is extremely proud that this important bill to address inconsistencies with our laws regarding those who commit sexual abuse against children passed.

Senate Bill 130 (2024) – Criminal Law – Indecent Exposure Within the Presence of a Minor strengthened penalties for indecent exposure within the presence of a minor in Maryland. This legislation changes the 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 7 (2024) – Public Safety – Law Enforcement Agencies – Positive Community Feedback required 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 (MPIA). This ensures that police departments and the public would have access to the full picture of an officer’s record, not just alleged complaints which are public as a result of the police accountability legislation of 2021.

Senate Bill 74 (2023) – Grossly Negligent or Drunk or Drugged Operation of Vehicle or Vessel – Prior Convictions required a conviction for drunk or drugged driving be considered a prior conviction for the purposes of determining subsequent offender penalties for unlawfully operating or attempting to operate a vessel while under the influence or while impaired, and vice versa. This bill also establishes that a person convicted of drunk and drugged driving offenses is subject to increased subsequent offender penalties if the person has previously been convicted of manslaughter by vehicle or vessel in a grossly negligent manner.

Senate Bill 673 (2022) – Natural Resources Police Force – Employees – Authority of Secretary allowed the Natural Resources Police (NRP) force to be governed and managed similarly to how all other statewide police forces operate in Maryland.

Senate Bill 166 (2024) – Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) – Study required the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to study and create a plan to implement a Waterway Incident Notification System that would notify members of the public, including recreational boaters and commercial watermen, of waterway emergencies. This would be similar to an Amber, Silver, or Local Emergency Alert specifically to notify boaters on the waterways.

Senate Bill 17 (2021) – Criminal Law – Life-Threatening Injury Involving a Motor Vehicle or Vessel – Criminal Negligence (Wade’s Law) prohibited a person from causing a life-threatening injury to another as a result of the person’s driving, operating, or controlling a motor vehicle or vessel in a criminally negligent manner. A violation of this law is punishable by a year in prison, a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or both. Senator Bailey diligently worked to ensure that this important public safety legislation was prioritized by the Judicial Proceedings Committee and passed.