

## **MARYLAND BOARD OF NURSING 2026 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**

During the 2026 Maryland General Assembly session, legislators considered more than 2,600 bills and resolutions. The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) reviewed and prioritized bills each week, focusing on legislation that impacted the Board's mission, operations, licensees, or certificate holders. Below is a snapshot of passed bills that have the most impact.

For a list of the status of all bills, visit the Maryland General Assembly Website:  
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite>.

### **ENACTED BILLS**

**House Bill (HB) 1420 ([Chapter 370](#))/ Senate Bill (SB) 0806 ([Chapter 371](#)) - Health Occupations - Criminal History Records Checks, effective date June 1, 2026** The bill establishes and standardizes language requiring criminal history records checks (CHRCs) for individuals regulated by certain health occupations boards. An applicant must apply to the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository (CJIS-CR) in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) by submitting (1) a complete set of legible fingerprints in a format approved by the Director of CJIS-CR and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); (2) the fee for Maryland criminal history records; and (3) the mandatory FBI fee for a national CHRC. CJIS-CR must forward an individual's record to the individual and the respective board. Information obtained through a CHRC is confidential, may not be re-disseminated, and may only be used for licensing. The subject of a CHRC may contest its contents. If criminal history record information is reported to CJIS-CR after the date of the initial CHRC, CJIS-CR must provide revised information to the board and the individual. The bill also makes conforming changes.

**House Bill (HB) 0442 ([Chapter 33](#)) / Senate Bill (SB) 0293 ([Chapter 32](#)) - Health Occupations - Professional Liability Insurance Coverage - Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, Nurse Midwives, and Licensed Certified Midwives - Disclosure (Nyeli Rose Lewis Act of 2026), effective date October 01, 2026** This bill requires each nursing home, assisted living program, nurse midwife, and licensed certified midwife to provide notification if professional liability insurance coverage is not maintained or such coverage has lapsed or not been renewed. Each nursing home, assisted living program, nurse midwife, and licensed certified midwife that does not maintain professional liability insurance coverage must post such information in a conspicuous location, as specified.

**House Bill (HB) 0640 ([Chapter 171](#)) - Public Health - Mandated Reports, Boards, and Commissions - Revisions, effective date July 1, 2026** This departmental bill (1) alters the composition of specified boards, commission, and committees; (2) repeals specified boards and councils; (3) repeals specified reporting requirements by affected bodies; (4) consolidates reporting requirements by specified entities; and (5) make stylistic changes.

**House Bill (HB) 0771 ([Chapter 205](#)) - Health Occupations - Human Trafficking Awareness Training, effective date June 1, 2026** This bill requires each health occupations board to (1) allow an applicant for license or certification renewal to receive continuing education credits for completing an approved human trafficking awareness training program and (2) conduct outreach to make individuals regulated by the board aware of human trafficking awareness training options, including by providing information in general board communications and on the board's website. By July 1, 2026, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in collaboration and consultation with required stakeholders, must approve the required training program. By January 1, 2027, each health occupations board must adopt regulations necessary to carry out the bill.

**House Bill (HB) 1118 ([Chapter 637](#)) / Senate Bill (SB) 0891 ([Chapter 636](#)) - Health, Health Insurance, and Health Occupations - Perinatal Behavioral Health Conditions, effective dates October 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027** This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in consultation with specified entities, to develop a "perinatal mental health condition" screening program and mandates health insurance coverage for such screenings. The bill alters existing requirements on MDH to identify written information about perinatal mood and anxiety disorders and requires certain health care providers and hospitals to provide such information to patients. MDH must identify and develop training programs that improve early identification of perinatal mental health conditions. Certain applicants for renewal of a health occupations license or certificate must complete continuing education credit hours through such programs. The bill also requires a carrier to provide a member with a certain standing referral. The bill's insurance provisions take effect January 1, 2027, and apply to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or after that date.

**House Bill (HB) 1120 ([Chapter 492](#)) / Senate Bill (SB) 0418 ([Chapter 493](#)) - Health Occupations - Professional Licensing Portability - Members of the Foreign Service and Spouses, effective date October 1, 2026** This bill explicitly authorizes a Foreign Service member or a Foreign Service member's spouse who relocates to the State due to an assignment or detail to the State and holds a license issued by another

jurisdiction to practice under that license for the duration of the assignment or detail within Maryland if the individual provides specified documentation and satisfies other criteria. If a Foreign Service member or spouse is authorized to practice under the bill's provisions, the individual may practice only in the discipline and scope of practice allowed by the license in the other jurisdiction, and the licensing authority in the State may not require another license unless the individual seeks to practice outside of the authorized discipline or scope of practice. The bill also makes conforming changes.

**House Bill (HB) 1284 ([Chapter 217](#)) - Health Occupations - Residential Service Agencies - Private Duty Nursing - On-Site Nurse Training Programs, effective date October 1, 2026** This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to adopt regulations that authorize a residential service agency (RSA) to provide training to a specified licensed nurse after hire. An RSA that provides private duty nursing (PDN) services may employ a licensed nurse who does not meet clinical experience requirements if the RSA provides specified training and a competency evaluation. A training program and competency evaluation are subject to approval by MDH. The bill may not be construed to affect requirements relating to occupational licensure, scope of practice, or standards of care.

**House Bill (HB) 1365 ([Chapter 606](#)) - Health Occupations, Public Health, and Insurance - Menopause - Provider Training Coverage Requirements, Policy Initiatives, and Access to Care, effective dates October 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027** This bill requires certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations (collectively carriers) to provide coverage for the evaluation and management of menopause and menopause-associated symptoms as determined by the treating health care provider. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) must identify at least one training program on the evaluation and management of menopause and menopause-associated symptoms. Certain health occupations boards must grant at least two continuing education credits for every one hour of such training. The bill also alters the membership of the State Advisory Council on Health and Wellness. Uncodified language adds reporting requirements for mDH and the Maryland Commission for Women. Insurance provisions take effect January 1, 2027, and apply to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or after that date.

**House Bill (HB) 1372 ([Chapter 369](#)) - Public Health, Health Occupations - Office of Health Care Quality Information and Maryland Health Centralization Commission, effective upon enactment** This emergency bill establishes the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Centralization Commission to provide ongoing advice and recommendations to the General Assembly on how best to improve the relationship

between MDH and the health occupations boards to achieve great efficiency, transparency, and accountability. The Secretary of Information Technology must ensure that minimum cybersecurity requirements are met by all health occupations boards. By October 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the commission must report its findings and recommendations, including any draft legislation, to the Senate Finance Committee, the House Health Committee, and the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee. The bill also requires the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), in collaboration with the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ), to develop a process to receive specified inspection and quality metrics information and publish it on the Maryland Quality Reporting Website for each applicable health care facility.

**Senate Bill (SB) 0083 ([Chapter 335](#)) - Health Occupations - Grounds for Discipline - Federal and Court Actions, effective date October 1, 2026** This bill makes consistent the grounds for discipline by specified health occupations boards such that a board may deny licensure to an applicant or discipline a licensee if the applicant or licensee is disciplined by (1) a court or disciplinary authority of any other state or country; (2) any branch of the uniformed services; or (3) the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for an act that would be grounds for discipline under the board's disciplinary statutes.

**Senate Bill (SB) 0150 ([Chapter 491](#)) - Health Occupations - Notation of Veteran Status - Public Profiles, effective date October 1, 2026** This bill generally expands existing authority related to the indication of veteran status on licenses, certificates, or registrations under the purview of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the Department of General Services (DGS), and each unit in the Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor) by authorizing these entities to also include a notation indicating veteran status on a person's public profile. The bill also makes a technical correction in statutory provisions that similarly authorize health occupations boards to include veteran status on a public profile.

**Senate Bill (SB) 0294 ([Chapter 542](#)) - Criminal Law - Procedure - Protection of Identity of Victim of Sexual Assault or Stalking, effective date October 1, 2026** This bill prohibits, on notice that a case filing or record includes identifying information about a victim of sexual assault or stalking, the court or a party in a criminal or juvenile delinquency case from disclosing or allowing the inspection of electronic or paper filings or records to anyone other than the victim/victim's representative unless all identifying information is redacted. The bill also includes a limited exception based on a court's finding of good cause by clear and convincing evidence. Further, on written request of a victim of sexual assault or stalking, the court must redact identifying information relating to the victim from an existing file or record. "Victim of sexual assault" means an alleged

victim of sexually assaultive behavior as defined by § 10-923 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article or a crime as specified by Title 3, Subtitle 11 (Human and Marriage Trafficking) of the Criminal Law Article. “Victim of stalking” means an alleged victim of stalking as defined by § 3-802 of the Criminal Law Article.

**Senate Bill (SB) 0707 ([Chapter 177](#)) - Public Health - Mental Health Law - Danger to the Life or Safety of the Individual or of Others - Definition (Right to Treatment), effective date October 1, 2026** This bill defines “danger to the life or safety of the individual or of others” for provisions of law regarding the emergency evaluation of an individual with a mental disorder and the involuntary admission of an individual with a mental disorder to a facility or Veterans’ Administration Hospital.

**Senate Bill (SB) 0892 ([Chapter 605](#)) - Health Occupations, Public Health, and Insurance - Menopause - Provider Training Coverage Requirements, Policy Initiatives, and Access to Care, effective dates July 1, 2026 and October 1, 2026** This bill requires certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations (collectively carriers) to provide coverage for the evaluation and management of menopause and menopause-associated symptoms as determined by the treating health care provider. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) must identify at least one training program on the evaluation and management of menopause and menopause-associated symptoms. Certain health occupations boards must grant at least two continuing education credits for every one hour of such training. The bill also alters the membership of the State Advisory Council on Health and Wellness. Uncodified language adds reporting requirements for MDH and the Maryland Commission for Women. Insurance provisions take effect January 1, 2027, and apply to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or after that date.

**House Bill (HB) 0557 ([Chapter 302](#)) - Business Occupations and Professions - Occupational Licensing and Certification - Criminal History - Predetermination Review Process, effective date July 1, 2026** This bill amends 1-209 of the Criminal Procedure Article to establish a predetermination review process under which an individual can request specified departments of State government to review the individual’s criminal history to determine whether that criminal history would disqualify the individual from obtaining the occupational license or certificate being sought. The bill requires a department to use existing resources to conduct a criminal history review but also authorizes a department to charge a fee of up to \$100 per criminal history review; the fee must be waived if the individual’s income is at or below 300% of the federal poverty level, as determined by the District Court. The bill imposes a reporting requirement on affected agencies.

**Senate Bill (SB) 0242 ([Chapter 694](#)) - Health Occupations - Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act, effective date October 1, 2026** This bill explicitly authorizes an active service member or an active service member's spouse who relocates to the State due to orders for service and holds a license issued by another state to practice under that license within Maryland if the individual submits an application including specified documentation and satisfies other criteria. If an active service member or spouse is authorized to practice under the bill's provisions, the individual may practice only in the discipline and scope of practice allowed by the license in the other state, and the licensing authority in the State may not require another license unless the individual seeks to practice outside of the authorized discipline or scope of practice. An active service member or spouse authorized to practice under the bill (1) may practice to the same extent and capacity as an individual licensed in the State, including supervision of a licensed individual required to practice under supervision, and (2) is subject to the same disciplinary authority as an individual licensed in the State. Each licensing authority may adopt regulations to carry out the bill. The bill also makes conforming changes and modifies the eligibility requirements for certain expedited licensing procedures.