



Legislative Overview 2026 Session

JANUARY 15, 2026

Legislative Session 2026



- ▶ Legislative Session began Wednesday January 14, 2026
- ▶ The Legislative Session lasts 90 days ending Monday April 13, 2026



Legislative Issues of Interest

- ▶ Budget – Challenges
- ▶ Legally Protected Healthcare Information
- ▶ Maternal Mortality
- ▶ Health Insurance (Coverage Expansions/Mandates/ Transparency)
- ▶ Assisted Living and Nursing Home (Oversight)
- ▶ Public Health (Vaccines)
- ▶ Protecting Medicaid
- ▶ Prior Authorization/Step Therapy



Committee Process This Session

House Of Delegates:

- ▶ House of Delegates building will be open to the public;
- ▶ All committee and subcommittee briefings and hearings will be in person with a virtual option;
- ▶ Livestreaming of committees and floor sessions; Gallery above Speaker will be open to the public;
- ▶ Bill hearings will begin with pre-filed bills; and
- ▶ Witness sign-up will be opened online through the Maryland General Assembly website 48 hours before the bill hearing beginning at 8 am until 6 pm



Committee Process This Session

Senate:

- ▶ Senate building will be open to the public
- ▶ All committee and subcommittee briefings and hearings will be in person and live streamed Maryland General Assembly (MGA) Website
- ▶ Witnesses encourage to testify in person; Witnesses testifying virtually limited to 14
- ▶ Livestreaming of floor sessions; Gallery in the Senate will be open to the public
- ▶ Witness sign-up will be opened online through the Maryland General Assembly website 48 hours before the bill hearing beginning at 8am until 6pm

Key Committees



Senate

- Finance (FIN) – Chair, Senator Pamela Beidle, Vice Chair, Antonio Hayes
- Budget and Taxation (B&T) - Chair, Senator Guy Guzzone, Vice Chair Jim Rosapepe

House of Delegates

- Health (*formerly Health and Government Operations (HGO)*) – Chair, Delegate Heather Bagnall, Vice Chair, Bonnie Cullison
- Appropriations (APP) – Chair, Delegate Ben Barnes, Vice Chair, Anne Kaiser

Dates of Interest



- ▶ **January 14 - General Assembly Convenes**
- ▶ **January 21 - Budget Introduced (Operating and Capital)**
- ▶ February 9 – Final Senate Bill introduction date of bills without Rules Committee Referral
13 - Final House Bill introduction date of bills without Rules Committee Referral
- ▶ March 9 - Final date for introduction of bills without suspension of Rules (55th day of session)
- ▶ **March 23 - Opposite Chamber Crossover Date**
- ▶ April 6 - Budget bill to be passed by both chambers (83rd day of session)
- ▶ **April 13 - Sine Die (Adjournment)**



MHCC – Budget Hearing Dates

March

- ▶ March 6th – Budget Hearing – Senate Budget and Taxation (Subcommittee Health and Human Services)
- ▶ March 9th - Budget Hearing – House Appropriations (Subcommittee Health and Social Services)



MHCC

2026 Legislative Priorities

- ▶ Intermediate Health Care Facilities - Certificate of Need
(Introduced last session as *HB1515 - Certificate of Need - Intermediate Health Care Facilities - Exemptions*)
- ▶ MHCC – Health Care Entities - Material Change Transactions

And it Begins ...

