



Legislative Wrap Up 2026 Session



APRIL 16, 2026

End of Session Fun Facts



- ❑ Sine Die April 13th - The 448th Legislative Session Concluded
- ❑ Bills introduced in the Senate - 1406
- ❑ Bills introduced in the House - 2067
- ❑ Bills Passed – 884



MHCC - End of Session Fun Facts



- ❑ Bills Reviewed - 252
- ❑ Fiscal Notes Completed - 32
- ❑ Bills Positions Taken – 28



End of Session Fun Facts, *cont.*



- ❑ Prehistoric Shark Megalodon named state shark



- ❑ Natural History Society the official state natural history museum

- ❑ January 13th American Korean Day



2026 Legislative Highlights



SB 282 – Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2027) – (Enacted)

Passed a \$70.8 billion budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2027

- Meets Spending Affordability Goals;
- Preserves Reserves to Protect Against Impact of Federal Actions;
- The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future formulas are fully funded.
- Continues to Provide Vital Health Care Services (through Medicaid); and
- Adds Funds to Preserve Services for the Developmentally Disabled.

\$2.2 billion in the Rainy-Day Fund (Revenue Stabilization Account); and

Projected \$250 million in the state’s general fund (surplus).

2026 Legislative Highlights



MHCC 2027 Budget Appropriation

- ❑ \$99.5 (Special Fund Appropriation)
- ❑ Includes \$32.3 million for the Trauma Fund
- ❑ Includes \$44.2 million for Shock Trauma
- ❑ *\$ 1.0 million General Funds for the Patient Safety Center

Budget Actions:

- ❑ Requires MHCC in consultation with MIEMSS and the HSCRC to submit a report on the trauma specialty referral centers by June 2027.

2026 Legislative Highlights



MHCC Legislative Priorities:

- ❑ HB 498/SB 444 - Certificate of Need - Intermediate Health Care Facilities
(Support) (Passed)
- ❑ SB494/HB 944 – Maryland Health Care Commission - Certificates of Need and Material Change Transactions *(Support) (Held)*
(Interim Workgroup)

2026 Legislative Highlights



MHCC Interest:

- ❑ HB 322/SB260 - Maryland Health Care Commission – Membership
(No Position) (Passed) (adds Hospital Administrator)
- ❑ HB 632 - Certificate of Need - Psychiatric Health Care Facilities and Psychiatric and Mental Health Services – Exemption *(Oppose) (Failed)*

2026 Legislative Highlights



Primary Care

- ❑ HB 494 - Health Insurance - Primary Care Investment Targets - Reimbursement and Reporting (Support) *(Passed House, Passed Senate Finance, didn't make it to Senate Floor)*
- ❑ SB 428 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Collaborative Care Model - Cost Sharing Prohibition (Support) *(Passed)*

Public Health

- ❑ SB 385/HB 637 - Public Health - Recommendations for Immunizations, Screenings, and Preventive Services - Pharmacist Administration and Required Health Insurance Coverage (The Vax Act) *(Support)* *(Passed)*
 - *MHCC to conduct mandated studies on proposed recommendations*

2026 Legislative Highlights



Quality

- ❑ SB 587 - Maryland Patient Safety Center Fund – Funding (*Letter of Information*) (*Passed*)

- ❑ SB 411/HB 624 - Hospitals - Clinical Staffing Committees and Plans - Establishment (Safe Staffing Act of 2026) (*No Position*) (*Passed*)

- ❑ HB 1372 - Public Health - Office of Health Care Quality Information and Maryland Department of Health Centralization Commission (*No Position*) (*Passed*)
 - *MHCC in collaboration with OHCQ to develop a process to receive and publish inspection information on the Commission's Maryland Quality Reporting website*

Behavioral Health

- ❑ HB 772 /SB 39 - Workgroup on Behavioral Health Rate Methodology Modernization – Establishment (*Letter of Information*) (*Passed*)
 - *MHCC to facilitate Behavioral Health Rate Methodology Modernization Workgroup*
 - *Assist MDH with rate methodology study*

2026 Legislative Highlights



Rate Reimbursement

- ❑ HB 1151 - Maryland Department of Health - Study on Maryland Medical Assistance Program Reimbursement of Hospice Room and Board Services (No Position) (Passed)
 - *MHCC and the Maryland Medical Assistance Program jointly to study the impact of requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide reimbursement for room and board services provided by a hospice house*
 - *Report due September 30, 2026*

Pediatric Overstays and Unlicensed Settings

- ❑ HB 1559 - Children in Unlicensed Settings and Pediatric Hospital Overstay Patients – Placement (No Position) (Passed)
 - *MHCC member of Advisory Council on Maryland’s System of Care for Children, Youth and Families*

Emergency Room Services and Post-Acute Care

- ❑ HB 1563 - Emergency Room Services and Post-Acute Care - Coverage and Facility Studies (Support) (Passed)
 - *MHCC in consultation with HSCRC to conduct study to quantify bed capacity in hospitals and post-acute care facilities*
 - *MHCC in consultation with HSCRC to study options to facilitate transitions to post-acute care settings*

2026 Legislative Highlights



Health Occupations

- ❑ HB 377/SB 326 - Physician Assistants and Midwives - Parity With Other Health Care Practitioners (*No Position*) (*Passed*)
 - *MHCC to conduct study on to review data and submit a report on the average length of stay in emergency departments (EDs) for individuals subject to an application for involuntary admission*

Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities

- ❑ HB 945 - Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities - Notification of Investigations and Establishment of the Health Care Quality Improvement Initiative
(*No Position*) (*Passed*)
 - *MHCC member of Task Force on Health Care Quality Improvement Initiative*

Consumer Health Information

- ❑ HB 882 - Consumer Health Information - Termination Date and Mandatory Funding for the State's Consumer Health Information Hub – Repeal (*Support*) (*Passed*)

2026 Legislative Highlights



Health Care System

- ❑ HB 1367 - Commission on Re-Imagining Health Care in Maryland (*No Position*) (*Passed*)
 - *MHCC member of Commission and provide staffing to Commission*
 - *MHCC to determine funding levels*

Trauma Fund

- ❑ HB 197/SB 118 - Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act (*Support*) (*Failed*)

Women's Health

- ❑ SB 19/HB 1106 - Maryland Commission on Women's Health Advancement - Establishment (*Letter of Concern*) (*Failed*)

2026 Legislative Highlights con't.



Health Insurance Mandates

- ❑ HB1365 - Health Occupations and Insurance - Menopause - Provider Training and Coverage Requirements (*Letter of Information*) (*Passed*)

- ❑ HB 363/SB 272 - Health Insurance - Scalp Cooling Systems - Required Coverage (*Letter of Information*) (*Passed*)

- ❑ HB 445/SB 276 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage for Orthoses and Prostheses (So Every Body Can Move Act) (*Letter of Information*) (*Passed*)

- ❑ HB1107 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Required Coverage for Aesthetic Services and Restorative Care for Victims of Domestic Violence (Healing Our Scars Act) (*Letter of Information*) (*Failed*)

The Beginning

