LeadingAge Maryland

2025 Maryland General Assembly
Session Summary

Budget

- HB 350/SB 319 - Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2026).

  No Medicaid reimbursement rate increase.

- HB 352/SB 321 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2025.

  Tax on information technology and system software or application software publishing services. The General Assembly imposed a tax on certain IT services. Earlier this Session, a broad based services tax was proposed in SB 1045/HB 1554. That bill would have imposed a new 2.5% sales tax on various business to business transactions. Included were items such as accounting/billing services; various data and technology services; photography/printing services; lobbying, public relations and marketing services, etc. This proposal went through several iterations before the final product was incorporated in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act – a 3% tax on information technology services in North American Industry Classification System codes Sector 518, 519, and 5415, and system software or application software publishing described in NAICS Sector 5132 . The tax is anticipated to raise over $400 million in the first year.

- Income tax adjustments. The General Assembly made several changes to the personal income tax structure. They created two new brackets; 6.25 % for single filers $500,000-$1 million and joint filers $600,000-$1.2 million and; 6.5% for single families over $1 million and joint filers over %1.2 million. They also phased out the ability of higher earners to take itemized deductions and imposed a 2% tax surcharge on capital gains for filers with income in excess of $350,000.

Aging Services

- House Bill 36/Senate Bill 212, Department of Aging – Aging Services – Program Repeal and Consolidation

  House Bill 36 seeks to streamline and modernize senior services in by repealing and consolidating existing programs. The bill eliminates the requirement for the Secretary of Aging to develop specific congregate housing and assisted living programs and dissolves the Interagency Committee on Aging Services. In its place, the Maryland Department of Aging will assume responsibility for coordinating and supervising a comprehensive access system that provides single points of entry for seniors to connect with needed services.

  The legislation mandates the Department to create and manage a coordinated system of care for frail or health-impaired seniors who are at risk of institutionalization. This system will include integrated screening and evaluations, the development of individualized care plans, and access to both in-home and community-based services. Additionally, the Department is required to collaborate with key stakeholders, including area agencies on aging, to plan the transition and co-design a new, consolidated program. Importantly, individuals currently enrolled in Senior Care, the Senior Assisted Living Subsidy, and Congregate Housing Services Programs will receive person-centered assessments to support a smooth and individualized transition.

- House Bill 158/Senate Bill 223, Department of Aging - Senior Call-Check and Social Connections Program

  House Bill 158 updates and expands Maryland's Senior Call-Check Service by renaming it the Senior Call-Check and Social Connections Program and broadening its purpose. The enhanced program is designed to promote wellness and reduce social isolation among older adults through regular, direct communication from the Department of Aging or its designees. It aims to foster purposeful social engagement, especially for those most at risk of isolation.

  Eligible participants include Maryland residents aged 60 and older who may benefit from additional social contact and wellness checks. The program offers various communication options, such as phone calls, text messages, video chats, and in-person visits, depending on individual needs and preferences. Additionally, the Department of Aging is tasked with integrating the program with the Telecommunications Access of Maryland initiative to raise awareness about accessible communication tools.

- House Bill 1004/Senate Bill 748 Public Health - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias - Information on Prevalence and Treatment

This bill expands the information that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in partnership with specified entities, must incorporate into relevant public health outreach programs to include information (1) for health care providers on treatments approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, including relevant information on treatment use and outcomes and (2) to increase public understanding and awareness of early treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and FDA-approved treatments and relevant information on treatment use and outcomes. MDH, in collaboration with the State-designated health information exchange (HIE), must establish and maintain a publicly accessible website that includes specified information regarding Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in a downloadable format, which must be updated annually to include any newly available data.

Health Facilities Related Bills

- House Bill 49, Environment - Building Energy Performance Standards – Alterations

  House Bill 49 amends Maryland's building energy performance standards by allowing exemptions and providing flexible compliance options. It excludes certain buildings from energy use intensity (EUI) targets if they contain permanent sensitive compartmented information facilities operated by designated government agencies or contractors.

  The bill also exempts energy use and greenhouse gas emissions related to steam production for sterilization and emergency backup power in health care facilities, laboratories, assisted living and nursing homes, military buildings, and life sciences facilities.

  For buildings that do not meet EUI targets, the bill establishes alternative compliance pathways, including the option to pay fees. It imposes a $100 annual reporting fee per covered building, adjusted for inflation, to cover administrative costs.

  Waivers from alternative compliance fees may be granted when reduction measures are impracticable or economically infeasible. The Department must also offer training for energy auditors and maintain a public list of those who complete it.

- Senate Bill 376, Health Facilities - Delegation of Inspection Authority - Nursing Homes

  Senate Bill 376 is designed to enhance the oversight of nursing homes by allowing counties to play a more active role in inspections and complaint investigations. Under the bill, the Secretary of Health is required to delegate authority to counties—upon request—to conduct site visits, full surveys, and complaint investigations of nursing homes. Within 90 days of such a request, the Maryland Department of Health must execute a memorandum of understanding with the county, modeled on the agreement previously used with Montgomery County in 2019.

The bill also establishes a cost-sharing arrangement, requiring that the expenses of delegated survey activities be equally divided between the Department and the requesting county.

Housing Related Bills

- HB 585/SB 598 - Property Tax - Low-Income Housing Tax Credit - Valuation of Property

  This bill requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to notify the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) that a property has been awarded the federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) within 30 days of closing so that SDAT can proceed with valuation of the property in accordance with current law.

- House Bill 716, Housing and Community Development - Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program Eligibility – Alterations

  House Bill 716 proposes significant updates to Maryland's Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program to enhance its reach, efficiency, and support for vulnerable populations. One of the key changes includes expanding the definition of "public housing agency" to include the Department of Housing and Community Development, allowing it to directly participate in program administration. The bill also authorizes local public housing agencies to manage the program based on locally developed administrative plans.

  To increase housing accessibility, the bill permits the Department to project-base up to 100% of its authorized voucher units. It also requires equal prioritization of vouchers and housing assistance payments for families with children under 18, foster children, veterans, individuals experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, and elderly residents.

  Funding provisions in House Bill 716 direct the Governor to allocate $10 million annually to the program from fiscal years 2025 through 2027. From FY 2028 onward, the state must ensure sufficient funding to support at least the same number of vouchers as the previous year. The bill also requires a portion of these funds to be distributed to public housing agencies to offset staffing and administrative costs.

- House Bill 585/ Senate Bill 598, Property Tax - Low-Income Housing Tax Credit - Valuation of Property

  This legislation requires that within 30 days of closing and the execution and delivery of the regulatory agreement governing a low–income housing tax credit (LIHTC) for commercial real property developed under § 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) shall notify the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) that a property has been awarded the LIHTC.

Independent Living and CCRC Related Bills

- House Bill 938, Continuing Care Providers - Governing Bodies – Membership

  House Bill 938 requires the appointment of an alternate subscriber member to the provider's governing body. This alternate member is permitted to attend all meetings and may vote only if the regular subscriber member is unable to carry out their duties.

  Before either the subscriber or alternate officially joins the governing body, the provider must consult with the resident association at each facility. The bill also allows these members to report back to the resident association on non-confidential discussions, actions, and policies of the governing body. Additionally, providers are required to make available to subscribers either the non-confidential portions of meeting minutes or a summary within one month of their approval. The bill is set to take effect on January 1, 2026.

Medicaid Related Bills

- House Bill 933/Senate Bill 679, Nursing Homes - Cost Reports

  This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to review the cost reports and other data submitted by each nursing home that participates in Medicaid, including data related to revenue allocated to (1) contracted nursing care services and (2) salaries and wages of all direct care non-administrative staff, including certified nurse aides, directors of nurses, licensed practical nurses, noncertified or resident care aides, registered nurses, housekeepers, dietary workers, and in-house clerical staff who regularly interact with residents, Medicaid recipients, and caregivers. By October 1, 2025, and annually thereafter through 2029, MDH must report the findings resulting from this review to the Governor, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

Workforce Related Bills

- House Bill 19/Senate Bill 216, Health Occupations - Nursing - Loan Repayment, Education, and Sunset Extension (Building Opportunities for Nurses Act of 2025)

  House Bill 19 is a comprehensive effort to address Maryland's ongoing nursing shortage by expanding and strengthening the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Nurses and Nursing Support Staff. A key provision of the bill broadens eligibility to include nurses working for for-profit employers, provided they are located in areas experiencing a healthcare workforce shortage or a public health need. To ensure resources are directed where they are most needed, the Department of Health is required to prioritize funding for nurses and support staff practicing in high-need areas or specialties with identified shortages.

  The bill also updates several regulatory and incentive frameworks to support the nursing workforce. It modifies education requirements for registered nurse licensure and licensure by endorsement, and extends the authority of the Secretary of Health over the staffing and operations of the Board of Nursing. Additionally, HB 19 prolongs existing tax credits for nurse practitioners and licensed physicians who serve as preceptors, helping to sustain training pipelines. It repeals a time-based approval requirement for certain nursing assistant training programs and makes technical corrections to provisions governing certified nursing assistants. Specifically, the transition from GNA to CAN was delayed to ensure the curriculum complies with the federal requirements.

  Overall, HB 19 aims to expand incentives, streamline regulations, and target workforce support to address the state's critical nursing shortages—particularly in underserved areas—while supporting education and training programs essential to maintaining a robust healthcare workforce.