



SYNOPSIS

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions
2007 Maryland General Assembly Session

February 2, 2007
Schedule 18

PLEASE NOTE: February 2 – Bill introduction deadline
All bills should be given to the Secretary of the Senate's office by 5:00 P.M. on Monday, February 5.
As required by Senate Rule 32(b), bills introduced after this date will be referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILLS INTRODUCED February 2, 2007

SB 372 **Senator Stoltzfus**

SOMERSET COUNTY – SALE OF PROPERTY TO CITY OF CRISFIELD

Authorizing the County Commissioners of Somerset County to sell specified property to the City of Crisfield under terms the County Commissioners consider appropriate; and exempting the sale of specified property from specified general requirements for the sale of surplus property.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

Art. 25, § 11A(d) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Department of Legislative Services

90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Baltimore Area: 410-946-5400 — Washington Area: 301-970-5400

Other Maryland Areas: 1-800-492-7122 — Maryland Relay Service: 1-800-735-2258

SB 373 **Senators Stoltzfus and Colburn****CREATION OF A STATE DEBT – WICOMICO COUNTY – SALISBURY ZOO ANIMAL HEALTH FACILITY**

Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$500,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of the Salisbury Zoo Commission, Inc. for the construction and capital equipping of an animal health facility; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; establishing a deadline for the encumbrance or expenditure of the loan proceeds; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2007

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 374 **Senator Stoltzfus****WORCESTER COUNTY – SHERIFF’S OFFICE – PERSONNEL POLICIES**

Establishing a minimum annual salary of \$85,000 for the Sheriff of Worcester County; authorizing the Sheriff to appoint specified employees; requiring the County Commissioners of Worcester County to pay specified expenses of the Sheriff’s Office; providing that the chief deputy sheriff serves at the pleasure of the Sheriff; requiring that a specified person who serves as chief deputy sheriff revert to a specified status on removal; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

CJ, § 2-309(y) - repealed and added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 375 **Senator Stoltzfus****CREATION OF A STATE DEBT – ATLANTIC GENERAL HOSPITAL**

Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$700,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of Atlantic General Hospital Corporation for the planning, design, renovation, expansion, repair, construction, and capital equipping of an existing building to provide primary care and diabetes, outpatient pulmonary, and child sexual assault services; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2007

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 376 Senator Klausmeier

BALTIMORE COUNTY – ELECTION LAW – ASSISTANT CHIEF ELECTION JUDGE

Creating the position of assistant chief election judge in Baltimore County; specifying the amount of the compensation for assistant chief election judges; altering the compensation for chief election judges and other election judges in Baltimore County; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007

EL, §§ 10-203 and 10-205(b)(3) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB 377 Cecil County Senators

CECIL COUNTY – BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Altering the appointment of the members of the Board of Parks and Recreation for Cecil County.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

PLL of Cecil County, Art. 8, § 57-2 A. - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB 378 Senator Dyson, et al

STATE BOARD OF NURSING – ADVANCED NURSE PRACTITIONERS – MEMBERSHIP AND QUALIFICATIONS

Requiring that the State Board of Nursing consist of one member certified in an advanced practice nursing specialty; requiring the Governor to appoint members certified in an advanced practice nursing specialty from a list of nominees submitted by specified organizations; requiring that the number of names submitted on a nomination list be 5 times the number of vacancies; requiring that specified Board members meet specified educational and professional requirements; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

HO, § 8-202 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB 379 **Senator Dyson, et al**

ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS – DREDGING FOR OYSTERS AND CLAMS – PROHIBITION

Prohibiting the use of dredging to catch or attempt to catch oysters and clams in the Atlantic Coastal Bays area; prohibiting the use of a hydraulic clam dredge, power dredge, or other mechanical means of clamming and oystering in the Atlantic Coastal Bays.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

NR, §§ 4-215(h), 4-1012(a), 4-1037, 4-1038, and 4-1039 - amended and §§ 4-1002 and 4-1021.1 - added

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB 380 **Senator DeGrange, et al**

PROCUREMENT – DISABLED VETERAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION

Establishing a specified participation goal for certified disabled veteran business enterprises for procurement contracts; requiring an awarding unit to consider specified efforts by and award specified contracts to bidders or offerors that meet or make a good-faith effort to meet specified participation goals; requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Governor's Office of Business Advocacy and Small Business Assistance to jointly adopt specified regulations; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

SF, §§ 14-601 through 14-607 - added and § 16-203(a) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB 381 **Senator DeGrange, et al**

MILITARY SERVICE CREDIT – ELIGIBILITY

Repealing limitations and exceptions for members and former members of the State Retirement and Pension System receiving credit for military service credit.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007

SP, § 38-104 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 382 **Senator Raskin, et al****CIVIL LIABILITY – AMBER ALERT DISSEMINATION – IMMUNITY FOR MEDIA**

Exempting broadcasters and their agents, who voluntarily and without compensation, broadcast or disseminate an AMBER alert after receiving an AMBER alert notification from a law enforcement agency from civil liability for an act or omission that forms part of the broadcast under specified circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

CJ, § 5-427 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 383 **Senator Haines****MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION – DRIVER’S LICENSE PROVISIONS – SAFE DRIVING CREDIT SYSTEM**

Requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to maintain a safe driving credit system for all licensees; requiring the Administration to award a safe driving credit, up to a specified limit, to licensees who meet specified safe driving standards; requiring the Administration to apply safe driving credits in a specified manner to offset specified points assessed against a licensee; and providing for the invalidation of a safe driving credit under specified circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

TR, § 16-402.2 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 384 **Senator Frosh****GENERAL ASSEMBLY – LEGISLATIVE INQUIRIES AND EXAMINATIONS**

Clarifying that the Legislative Policy Committee may delegate its authority to issue subpoenas and administer oaths to any committee created by the Legislative Policy Committee; providing specified venue and procedures for legislative committees that have the power to issue subpoenas whenever those committees seek to take legal action to obtain compliance with a subpoena; providing for procedures and venue with respect to the filing of a petition for an order directing compliance with a subpoena or compelling testimony; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

SG, §§ 2-407, 2-408, 2-507, 2-807, 2-1104, 2-1602, and 2-1609(c) - amended and § 2-1802 - added

Assigned to: Senate Rules

SB 385 **Senator Frosh**

POWERS OF ATTORNEY – STANDING TO SEEK JUDICIAL RELIEF

Authorizing specified persons to petition a court to construe a power of attorney or review the agent's conduct and grant appropriate relief; requiring the court to dismiss a petition on motion of the principal, unless the court finds that the principal lacks capacity to revoke the agent's authority or the power of attorney; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

ET, § 13-604 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 386 **Senator Gladden, et al**

VOTER'S RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

Requiring the State Board of Elections to include specified standards in guidelines for the administration of provisional ballot voting by local boards of elections; altering the circumstances under which an individual may be offered the opportunity to cast a provisional ballot; requiring specified election officials to provide specified written information to an individual who casts a provisional ballot; requiring the State Board to ensure that the program of instruction for election judges incorporates information, as specified; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

EL, Various Sections - amended and § 13-401.1 - added

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB 387 **Senator Gladden**

CREATION OF A STATE DEBT – BALTIMORE CITY – GIRL SCOUT URBAN PROGRAM AND TRAINING CENTER

Authorizing the creation of a State Debt in the amount of \$400,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, Inc. for the acquisition of building space to expand the Girl Scout Urban Program and Training Facility; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; establishing a deadline for the encumbrance or expenditure of the loan proceeds; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2007

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 388 **Senator Stone****BALTIMORE COUNTY – TODD’S INHERITANCE LOAN OF 2000**

Extending the deadline by which the County Council and County Executive of Baltimore County must present evidence to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be provided; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2007

Chapter 409 of the Acts of 2000, § 1(5) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 389 **Senator Stone****CIVIL ACTIONS – LIABILITY OF INSURER – FAILURE TO ACT IN GOOD FAITH**

Authorizing an insured, in a civil action between an insured and an insurer to determine coverage or payment, to recover expenses and litigation costs including reasonable attorney’s fees, interest computed at a specified rate and from a specified date, and actual compensatory damages, if the court finds that the insurer failed to act in good faith; providing for the application and construction of the Act; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

CJ, § 3-1701 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 390 **Senator Currie, et al****PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY – SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS**

Authorizing Prince George’s County to use specified special taxing district and tax increment financing authority to provide financing, refinancing, or reimbursement for the costs of renovation, rehabilitation, and repair of existing buildings, building systems, and components for existing residential condominiums designated as workforce housing; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

Art. 24, § 9-1301(a) and (c)(5) and PLL of Prince George’s County, § 10-269(a)(3) and (b) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 391 Senator Muse**CREATION OF A STATE DEBT – PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY – NATIONAL PHILIPPINE CULTURAL CENTER**

Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$250,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of the National Philippine Cultural Center, Inc. for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, and capital equipping of the National Philippine Cultural Center; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2007

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 392 Senator Kasemeyer, et al**ELECTION LAW – VOTING SYSTEMS – VOTER–VERIFIED RECORDS**

Requiring that specified voting systems produce a paper record of a voter’s ballot choices and provide the voter with an opportunity to inspect the paper record before casting a final vote; requiring that the paper records be preserved at the polling place in a specified manner and for specified purposes; requiring that specified voting systems be accessible to specified individuals with disabilities; requiring specified comparisons and audits of specified ballots following an election; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EMERGENCY BILL

EL, § 1-101(xx) - amended and §§ 9-101 and 9-107 through 9-112 - added

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB 393 Senator Pinsky**CORPORATE INCOME TAX REFORM – COMBINED REPORTING**

Requiring specified corporations to compute Maryland taxable income using a specified method; providing that, subject to regulations of the Comptroller, specified groups of corporations shall file a combined income tax return reflecting the aggregate income tax liability of all of the members of the group; requiring the Comptroller to adopt regulations; applying the Act to tax years after December 31, 2007; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007

TG, § 10-402.1 - added and § 10-811 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 394 **Senator Pinsky****CREATION OF A STATE DEBT – PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY – HISTORIC GREENBELT THEATER**

Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$500,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Mayor and City Council of the City of Greenbelt for the construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the Historic Greenbelt Theater; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; requiring the grantee to grant and convey a specified easement to the Maryland Historical Trust; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2007

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 395 **Senators Pinsky and Madaleno****INCOME TAX – CORPORATIONS – DENIAL OF DEDUCTION FOR EXCESSIVE COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

Providing an addition modification under the Maryland corporate income tax for the amount of salary, wages, or other compensation for personal services paid or incurred by a corporation to an officer or director of the corporation in excess of 30 times the annual salary, wages, or other compensation for personal services of the lowest paid full-time employee; and applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007

TG, § 10-305(e) - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 396 **Senator Gladden, et al****GROUND RENTS – REMEDY FOR NONPAYMENT OF GROUND RENT**

Repealing provisions of law authorizing a landlord under a ground lease to bring an action for ejectment for nonpayment of ground rent; repealing provisions of law entitling the holder of a ground rent to reimbursement for expenses incurred in collecting past due ground rent and filing an action for ejectment; providing that the establishment of a lien is the sole remedy for nonpayment of a ground rent; establishing procedures for imposing and releasing a lien; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007

RP, §§ 8-111.1 and 14-108.1 - amended, §§ 8-402.2 and 8-402.3 - repealed, and § 8-402.2 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 397 **Senator Gladden, et al****GROUND RENTS – CONVERSION OF IRREDEEMABLE GROUND RENTS**

Providing for the conversion of an irredeemable ground rent to a redeemable ground rent unless a notice of intention to preserve irredeemability is recorded in the land records on or before December 31, 2010; providing for the filing of renewal notices and the extension of the period of effectiveness of a filed notice; establishing the sum for which a converted ground rent may be redeemed; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

RP, § 8-110.1 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 398 **Senator Gladden, et al****GROUND RENTS – NOTICES REGARDING GROUND LEASES**

Requiring a tenant under a ground lease to notify the landlord of any change of address of the tenant; requiring a landlord under a ground lease to mail to the tenant a bill for the payment of ground rent due no later than 60 days before the payment is due; requiring the bill sent by the landlord to include a specified notice regarding the ground lease; altering the notice requirements contained in a contract for the sale of real property that is subject to a ground rent to include a specified notice regarding the ground lease; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

RP, §§ 14-116 and 14-117(a) - amended and § 14-116.1 - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 399 **Senator Pipkin, et al****BUSINESS REGULATION – STATE AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD**

Requiring the composition of the State Amusement Ride Safety Advisory Board as to race and gender to reflect the composition of the population of the State; and prohibiting a Board member from serving more than two consecutive terms.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

BR, § 3-304 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 400 **Senator Pipkin, et al**ELECTRIC INDUSTRY RESTRUCTURING – PROCEEDINGS –
REVIEW AND EVALUATION

Requiring the Public Service Commission to initiate new proceedings to review and evaluate specified requirements under a specified Act beginning on a specified date; and making the Act an emergency measure.

EMERGENCY BILL

Chapter 5 of the Acts of the First Special Session of 2006, §§ 5 and 7 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 401 **Senator Brochin, et al**CREATION OF A STATE DEBT – BALTIMORE COUNTY – FORBUSH
SCHOOL

Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$500,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Trustees of Sheppard Pratt Health System, Inc. for the design of the Forbush School for autistic and emotionally disabled students, located in Towson; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2007

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 402 **Senator Hogan, et al**

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS – HOTEL RENTAL TAX

Authorizing a municipal corporation to impose a tax on charges paid to hotels in the municipal corporation for sleeping accommodations for a period not exceeding 4 consecutive months; authorizing a municipal corporation to set the tax rate, not to exceed 3%; authorizing a municipal corporation to provide for the administration and collection of the tax and to impose penalties for failure to collect, report, or pay the tax; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

Art. 24, § 9-608 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 403 **Senators Hogan and Forehand**

CREATION OF A STATE DEBT – ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE

Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$120,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of Adventist HealthCare, Inc. d/b/a Shady Grove Adventist Hospital for the planning, design, renovation, expansion, repair, construction, and capital equipping of a prenatal care center; providing for disbursement of the loan proceeds, subject to a requirement that the grantee provide and expend a matching fund; establishing a deadline for the encumbrance or expenditure of the loan proceeds; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2007

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 404 **Senator Hogan, et al**

TOBACCO TAX – MOIST SNUFF

Altering the tobacco tax rate applicable to moist snuff, from 15% of the wholesale price of the product to 39 cents per ounce of the product; requiring a tobacco tax return to state the net weight of moist snuff sold during the period covered by the return; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007

TG, § 12-101(b-1) - added and §§ 12-105(b) and 12-202 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 405 **Senator Garagiola, et al**

COMMERCIAL LAW – ABANDONED PROPERTY – MONEY ORDERS

Altering the time period after which there is a presumption that a money order is abandoned under specified circumstances.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

CL, § 17-301(a) - amended

Assigned to: Finance

SB 406 **Senator Harris**

MARYLAND FLAG DAY

Establishing Maryland Flag Day on March 9 of each year.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

SG, § 13-406 - added

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB 407 Senator McFadden (Baltimore City Administration)**BALTIMORE CITY – HOTEL ROOM TAX – CONVENTION CENTER PROMOTION**

Extending through the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, provisions requiring that 40% of the proceeds from a hotel room tax imposed by Baltimore City be appropriated specifically for Convention Center marketing and tourism promotion; requiring that the required appropriation be made to the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association; repealing obsolete language; etc.

Preliminary analysis: local government mandate

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2007

The Charter of Baltimore City, Art. II, § (40)(e) - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

SB 408 Anne Arundel County Senators**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY – CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITICAL AREA – VIOLATIONS OF LOCAL LAW**

Requiring that a prosecution for an offense that occurs in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and is a violation of a specified local law in Anne Arundel County that relates to environmental protection or natural resource conservation be instituted within 3 years after the commission of the offense.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007

CJ, § 5-106(bb) - added

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

SB 409 Senator Pinsky, et al**GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS – REDUCTIONS IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

Establishing limits on emissions of greenhouse gases; requiring the Department of the Environment to determine the statewide greenhouse gas emissions level from 1990 and establish a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit based on that level; requiring the Department to prepare a plan that identifies and recommends specified measures after consulting with other state agencies; establishing the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund; creating the Office of Climate Change within the Department and specifying its duties; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007

EN, §§ 2-1101 through 2-1113 - added

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs