

ANTONIO HAYES
Legislative District 40
Baltimore City

Finance Committee

Chair

Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committees

Unemployment Insurance Oversight

Administrative, Executive, and
Legislative Review



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 223
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3656 · 301-858-3656
800-492-7122 Ext. 3656
Antonio.Hayes@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Dear Neighbor,

The Maryland General Assembly recently concluded our 446th Legislative Session and we made the most of our 90-days in Annapolis. At the heart of every decision we made was whether the policy we advanced would tangibly improve your, and all Marylanders' daily lives.

For the first time in a number of years, we began our Legislative Session with a sense of normalcy. Since the legislature gavelled in on January 10, our focus has been on responding thoughtfully to changing circumstances, new technologies, and based on implementation of landmark legislation passed in recent years.

It is unimaginable that those changing circumstances would include a major disaster such as a cargo ship struck the Francis Scott Key Bridge, leading to its collapse, the tragic death of six construction contractors, and the closure of the Port of Baltimore. With less than two weeks before adjourning Sine Die, the General Assembly quickly worked in coordination with Governor Moore's Administration, our federal and local partners, and small businesses and workers to pass legislation to support those impacted.

During this session, I had 18 bills pass the full senate and crossover to the House of Delegates. The bills dealt with subjects like property taxes, minority businesses, and the appraisal gap. I was successful and had 13 bills pass both chambers. I am disappointed in not getting my West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA) Legislation passed. The legislation would have aligned WNADA with other development authorities in the state. I look forward to garnering community support in the next legislative session. My successful bills and a synopsis of each is listed down below.

The governor introduced a \$400 million dollar package for the development of Pimlico racetrack for year round racing. I'm proud to say my colleagues and I were able to negotiate a voting member of the community on the board of the Maryland thoroughbred racing authority, \$5 Million dollars for infrastructure, \$10 million dollars for housing development, and 10 percent of the profits of all racing in the community outside of the track.

After a hard-fought 2024 Legislative Session, I look forward to serving Maryland's 40th District back home until the next Legislative Session kicks off in January of 2025.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes".

Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District - MD

2024 Legislative Accomplishments

SB22 Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Board of License Commissioners

This bill requires the Governor, instead of the Mayor of Baltimore City and/or the President of the Baltimore City Council to appoint, fill a vacancy, and remove members of the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners, as specified. The bill also clarifies that members of the board are subject to State ethics laws and specifies that the executive secretary and deputy executive secretary of the board may qualify for these positions if they have served in Baltimore City government for a minimum of five years immediately preceding their appointment instead of the existing city residency requirement.

SB0090 (HB0534) Community Development Administration - Live Near Your School Program - Funding and Extension

This bill authorizes the Governor, for fiscal 2026 through 2030, to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$200,000 for the Live Near Your School program (LNYS). The bill also extends the termination date of Chapter 247 of 2021, which established LNYS and a related home buyer assistance program, from September 30, 2024, to September 30, 2030.

SB194 State Procurement - Preferred Provider Requirements - Waiver

This bill authorizes the Pricing and Selection Committee for Preferred Providers to grant a waiver, under specified conditions, to a State or State-aided or -controlled entity from the statutory requirement to purchase supplies or services first from Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE). It also requires MCE to report annually on the length of time between each order and delivery of supplies and services. The Department of General Services (DGS) must adopt regulations to implement the bill.

SB0205 University System of Maryland - Board of Regents - Membership

This bill requires the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House to ensure that one member of the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland (USM) is a graduate of a historically Black college or university (HBCU) in USM (i.e., Bowie State University, Coppin State University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore).

SB 417 Election Administration - State Administrator, Local Boards, and Election Directors

This bill requires the State Board of Elections (SBE) to, at least annually, evaluate the performance of the State Administrator of Elections. The bill requires the State Administrator to, at least annually, provide a performance evaluation of the election director of each local board of elections to the local board, including any recommended disciplinary actions for failure to comply with State laws, regulations, and policies. The bill also makes changes to State election law relating to the statutory powers and responsibilities of the local boards of elections and the local election directors.

SB0485 (HB0571) Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications

This bill modifies the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Program by altering key administrative deadlines, definitions, and components of the program's administration, and authorizing the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to adopt regulations that establish fees for private employer plans. The start dates are delayed by nine months to July 1, 2025, for required contributions and six months to July 1, 2026, for benefit payments.

SB0703 (HB0877) Board of Public Works - Transparency Dashboard

This bill requires the Office of the Comptroller to develop and maintain on the Board of Public Works' (BPW) website a procurement transparency dashboard that must (1) be public, interactive, and searchable and (2) include specified information related to State procurement – such as BPW meeting announcements, agendas, and related materials, including contract spending amounts, and State procurement preference programs, as specified. Beginning in fiscal 2025, the Governor must include an appropriation in the annual budget bill for (1) at least one full-time position in the Comptroller's Office to develop and maintain the dashboard and (2) software necessary to develop and maintain the dashboard.

SB0704 (HB0873) Appraisal Gap From Historic Redlining Financial Assistance Program

This bill expands the purpose of the Appraisal Gap from Historic Redlining Financial Assistance Program in the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to include helping close appraisal gaps that occur in historically redlined neighborhoods by making financial assistance available to individuals who purchase a qualified property (1) after a qualified project is completed; (2) at an affordable sales price as determined by regulations adopted by DHCD; and (3) as an owner-occupant.

SB0705 (HB0728) Health Insurance - Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act)

This bill requires the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE), in consultation with the Insurance Commissioner and as approved by the MHBE Board, to submit a federal State Innovation Waiver application by July 1, 2025. The waiver application must seek to establish a Qualified Resident Enrollment Program and, if available, seek federal pass-through funding resulting from the implementation of the program. If the waiver is approved, MHBE, in consultation with the Insurance Commissioner and as approved by the MHBE Board, must establish and implement the program.

SB0764 Arts Incubator Workgroup - Established In the House - First Reading Appropriations

This bill establishes the Arts Incubator Workgroup to study how arts and cultural institutions can support local artists. The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) must provide staff for the workgroup. Workgroup members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses. The workgroup must submit a preliminary report on its findings, as specified, and a final report on its recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1, 2025, and October 1, 2025, respectively. The recommendations in the final report must include any necessary budget, facilities, or in-kind services that are needed or could be used to support local artists.

SB904 Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - Class B Beer, Wine, and Liquor Licenses

This bill authorizes the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license for use by a restaurant in ward 4, precincts 1 and 2 of Baltimore City. The licensee may not sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption, except under a refillable container permit for draft beer, as specified. The license may not be transferred from the location of its first issuance; and if the license is renewed, the bill specifies renewal application requirements.

SB 1007 State Government - Executive Appointments

This emergency bill establishes that the Governor, with respect to appointments that require Senate confirmation, must submit a nomination to the Senate to fill the office within 40 days from the start of the regular session of the General Assembly if the term of the office will end during the next upcoming Senate recess. The bill also establishes conditions for the Governor to submit nominations when the Governor becomes aware that a term of an office will end during the next upcoming Senate recess. An officer may not

continue to serve more than four years after the officer's term expires. However, the bill allows the Governor, subject to specified provisions of the Election Law and Education Articles, to appoint members of the State Board of Elections (SBE) and the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) during the recess of the Senate regardless of whether the term of office of a member will end during the next upcoming recess.

SB 1008 Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages - 40th Alcoholic Beverages District - Revisions

This bill establishes a Class M-F (Municipal Family Fun Center) alcoholic beverages license in the 40th alcoholic beverages district in Baltimore City and authorizes the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners to issue a license for use at a municipal bowling alley and skating rink located on the odd side of the 1600 block of Pennsylvania Avenue. The annual license fee is \$500. The bill also authorizes the board to issue a Class B beer, wine, and liquor (BWL) license for a restaurant on the even side of the 400 block of West 29th Street in the 40th alcoholic beverages district if (1) the applicant executes a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Greater Remington Improvement Association and (2) the board waives a minimum seating requirement, as specified. The bill specifies a Class A license issued for a premises on the odd side of the unit block of West Biddle Street must be considered unexpired until July 1, 2025, for the purpose of being renewed.

Legislative Highlights

Supporting Those Impacted by the Francis Scott Key Bridge Collapse: Immediately after the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed and the impacts of the Port of Baltimore's closure became clear, the MGA began crafting legislation to ensure those economically impacted would be supported until the port reopens. The Protecting Opportunities and Regional Trade (PORT) Act (SB1188) was crafted to provide the Maryland Departments of Labor and Commerce with the funding, tools, and flexibility needed to respond to this crisis. Specifically, the PORT Act will:

- Ensure all workers currently out of a job and not fully made whole by unemployment insurance receive direct benefits;
- Provide resources to small businesses who want to retain their workforces but need assistance to do so; and
- Incentivize entities who use or rely on the port to do business to come back to the Port of Baltimore after it reopens.

Improving the Accountability, Rehabilitation, and Coordination (ARC) of our Juvenile Justice System: The simple truth is the juvenile justice system in Maryland is not working optimally to provide the best outcomes for children. Unfortunately, crimes committed by young people have become the largest part of the crime perception problem in Maryland. Through legislation, the State budget, and executive action, we are improving the ARC of the juvenile justice system (HB814). The reforms addressed include:

- Expanding the jurisdiction of the Department of Juvenile Services to include those under 13 for certain firearms-related offenses and third-degree sexual offenses;
- Requiring a child in need of supervision petition to be filed for a youth accused of committing car theft;

- Ensuring young offenders to participate in treatment by allowing a court to extend probation if, after a hearing, a court finds a youth has two or more excused absences at a treatment;
- Allocating \$43M for the creation of the Governor's Office of Children to ensure there is a single entity responsible for tracking youth across multiple agencies (SB360); and
- Increasing the transparency around young people involved in crimes involving a firearm (SB652).

Enhancing Public Safety in our Neighborhoods through Gun Safety: The most important role of government is strengthening community safety efforts so all residents are secure when going about their daily lives. Unfortunately, the gun violence epidemic is making those efforts more challenging as firearms fall into the hands of bad actors and the gun industry puts profits over public safety. The legislature passed the Gun Industry Accountability Act of 2024 (SB488/HB947) to require firearm industry members to implement reasonable controls so guns and ammunition don't get into the wrong hands, refrain from knowingly contributing to public harm, and providing the Office of the Attorney General and public with a civil legal remedy for violations. Moreover, we advanced legislation to establish the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention within the Maryland Department of Health (SB475/HB583) to reduce firearm violence, harm from firearm violence, and misuse of firearms in Maryland by partnering with federal, State, and local agencies and affected communities to implement a public health approach to violence reduction.

Strengthening Basic Consumer Protections in Pricing and Privacy: Recognizing the immense strain on working families, the MGA passed a package of bills aimed at protecting consumers from unscrupulous business practices threatening individuals' financial well-being and privacy. These basic protections will curtail growing and emerging concerns in a variety of ways. First, we put guardrails around the residential retail energy market as 370,000 Maryland families paid \$178M more than necessary on energy costs in 2022 alone (SB1). Second, we prohibited ticket resellers from reselling tickets with exorbitant fees or advertising speculative tickets prior to an official sale date (SB539). Finally, we banned online data tracking and content targeting to minors (SB571/HB603) and required big tech companies to allow Maryland residents to opt-out of invasive data collection practices (SB541/HB567).

Expanding Access to Affordable Housing and Renter Protections: The availability and affordability of housing is critical to Marylanders enjoying an increased quality of life while reducing inflationary pressures. Fundamentally, for rental and housing prices to decrease, we need to reduce barriers to building housing across the State. In partnership with Governor Moore's Administration, the MGA passed legislation to establish a Maryland Community Investment Corporation to provide financial incentives to build housing in low-income communities (HB599), and remove zoning and density restrictions for transit-oriented developments assuming strict criteria are met (HB538). Additionally, we advanced the Renters' Rights and Stabilization Act of 2024 (HB693) to raise the filing fees for eviction proceedings to disincentivize frivolous cases and establish an Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs within the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, which will be tasked with developing a Tenants' Bill of Rights. The FY25 State budget also includes significant funding for affordable housing, including:

- \$138.5M for rental housing programs;

- \$50M for Project CORE to address vacant housing; and
- \$21M for homeownership incentive programs.

Expanding Access to Contraceptives at Community Colleges: As reproductive health is curtailed in states across the country, Maryland is continuing to lead on strengthening access to care and services. Last year, the MGA passed a set of policies to expand reproductive freedom in our State, including increasing the availability of reproductive care on college campuses. This year, we built on those efforts to ensure students and Maryland community colleges can easily find over the counter contraception options on-campus (SB527/HB367).

Addressing Program Duplication in Higher Education: In 2021, the State's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) won a \$577M settlement in a case that revealed the State provided predominantly white institutions more State resources and allowed duplicate degree programs that put our HBCUs at a competitive disadvantage. Following the work of the legislatively created Program Approval Process Workgroup last year, the MGA passed legislation to improve the approval process for new higher education programs by encouraging transparency, collaboration, and consistency among State institutions (HB1244). Under the legislation, institutions that oppose approval of an academic program must base their objection on specific key factors, and the Higher Education Commission is required to report annually any programs that it approved in the preceding school year over an objection by a HBCU.

Investing in Maryland Values through a Competitive and Balanced Budget for Fiscal Year 2025: The core role of the Maryland General Assembly in any legislative session is passing a balanced State budget for the next fiscal year. The operating budget that passed the legislature makes critical investments in education, transportation, and behavioral health without broad based tax increases to maintain our State's economic competitiveness. We ultimately enacted a \$63 billion budget (SB360 and SB362) that invests heavily in Maryland values, including:

- \$14.4B in Medicaid funding to provide healthcare coverage to 1.6 million residents;
- \$9.1B for Maryland public pre-k to 12 schools, an increase of \$457M (5.3%), to fully fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future;
- \$488M in new funding for the child care scholarship program to address previous shortfalls while fully funding the FY25 budget to support more than 31,300 children;
- \$257M in new revenue to address the State's transportation needs until the Maryland Commission on Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs can complete its work this year;
- Nearly \$105M of new revenue dedicated to emergency medical services beginning in FY25 including about \$46M to support the Emergency Medical Systems Operations Fund, \$41M for shock trauma, and \$18M to expand reimbursements to the Maryland Trauma Services Fund;
- \$121.4M for police aid, which is \$46M above the statutorily required amount, in addition to \$8M in new funding for violence intervention and prevention programming and \$10.3M for community-based services for juveniles and services to families residing in communities with high crime rates; and

- \$2.4B in cash reserves, including \$2.3B in the Rainy Day Fund and \$128M in the General Fund.

Funding Our Local Economies and Anchor Institutions: The MGA worked collaboratively to invest a historic amount of capital funds to stimulate our local economies and provide Marylanders with family-sustaining jobs (SB361). That funding provides vital support to our local institutions and invests State dollars in our community. Projects funded in Maryland's 40th Legislative District include:

- Baltimore Arts Realty Corporation (Smart Garments) \$175k
- Boys & Girls Club of Metropolitan Baltimore \$250k
- Druid Height CDC \$650k
- Generational Girls DMV \$250k
- Jubilee Baltimore \$150k
- Neighborhood Impact Investment Fund \$750k
- Noble Realty Advisors (Candy Factory) \$250k
- No Struggle No Success, Inc. \$275k
- Pathway Forward, Inc. \$350k
- The Harbor Bank of Maryland \$100k
- West North Avenue Development Authority \$16.4m