

Senator Elfreth 2022 Legislation

SB 7 - Invasive and Native Plants - Classification, Listing, Use, and Sales and Use Tax - Status: Moving!

Recognizing the ecological threat invasive plant species pose, SB7 requires a necessary update to Maryland's list of invasive plants, requires a public listing of native species, and prioritizes the use of native plants in public projects.

SB 14 - Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment

Provides support to communities, municipalities, and HOAs in realizing environmental and sustainability projects through the University of Maryland's nationally recognized Sustainable Maryland Program.

SB 29 - Family Law - Emancipation of a Minor and Authorization to Marry - Status: Moving!

This critical legislation raises the age of marriage from 15 to 17 and provides strong protections for 17-year olds wishing to marry. Every public policy indicator - from educational outcomes, instances of domestic violence, and divorce rates - suggest that minors should not enter the government contract of marriage. This is the 7th year the bill has been introduced and I'm confident we can get it passed.

SB 109 - Vehicle Excise Tax - Exemption - Active Duty Military - Status: Moving!

Eliminates the excise tax on vehicles for those stationed in Maryland in active duty and those returning to Maryland after service to our nation.

SB 264 - Community Solar Systems - Exemption from Energy and Property Taxes

Incentivizes community solar projects that benefit Marylanders who could use help with their energy bills. SB264 has the double benefit of helping Maryland achieve our 50% renewable energy goals and providing a reduction in energy bills for low- and moderate-income families.

SB 273 - Environment - PFAS Chemicals: Prohibitions & Requirements (George "Walter" Taylor Act) - Status: Moving!

Protects Marylanders from toxic PFA chemicals by: prohibiting the use of fire fighting foam laced with PFAS; banning the use of food packaging that contains PFAS; and, prohibiting the sale of carpets that contain PFAs. This bill builds on successfully passed legislation and seeks to make Maryland a leader in addressing these harmful "forever chemicals."

SB 310 - Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Business Account - Local State of Emergency

The impacts of Hurricane Ida and record-setting flooding events make it clear that Marylanders can not wait on government bureaucracy for critical support to rebuild and recover. SB310 will allow recovery grants, under locally-declared states of emergency, to be quickly deployed to impacted businesses & nonprofits.

SB 316 - Sales and Use Tax - Diapers - Exemption

Diapers are essential in keeping children across Maryland clean, dry, and healthy. Yet, especially with recent inflation and fluctuations in our economy, too many Marylanders struggle to afford clean diapers for their children. SB316 will exempt the Sales and Use Tax for diapers and thus help ensure more Maryland families are able to purchase these essential products.

SB 354 - Bay Restoration Fund - Reporting and Privately Owned Wastewater Facilities

SB354 clarifies that the Bay Restoration Fund, funded by Marylanders, should be used for projects that benefit the public and achieve cost-effective pollution reductions.

SB 410 - Teachers' Retirement and Pension Systems - Reemployment - Status: Moving!

SB410 removes a barrier to help retired educators get back into the classroom - keeping experienced educators teaching and addressing the worst staffing shortages.

SB 348 - Conservation Finance Act - Status: Moving!

Meeting our Chesapeake Bay restoration goals will require an all-hands-on-deck approach. SB348 leverages the power of the private sector community to improve water quality, advance environmental justice and public health, expand initiatives around forest and agricultural soil carbon sequestration, and reward projects that deliver co-benefits like local jobs, flood risk reduction, and climate resilience.

SB 408 - Income Tax Credit - Parent of a Stillborn Child - Status: Moving!

Hundreds of Maryland families each year face the tragedy of stillbirth – yet they don't qualify for Family and Medical Leave and face other financial obstacles such as funeral costs and therapy. SB408 will create a tax credit to support our families that face a stillbirth to provide support for them through this tragedy.

SB 411 - Maryland 529 Program - Board Authority and State Contribution - Alterations - Status: Moving!

Addresses a significant loophole in Maryland's 529 Save4College plan to combat significant waste & abuse.

SB 501 - Maryland Higher Education Commission - Procedures - Alterations

Maryland's current timeline of notifying students of financial aid grants is incongruous with college decision dates. SB501 will give students more time to make informed choices about their higher education.

SB 539 - Anne Arundel County - Special Taxing Districts - Exemptions - Status: Moving!

Codifies Anne Arundel County's current practice of granting exemptions for those that live in special taxing districts, most notably disabled veterans and surviving spouses.

SB 540 - Higher Education - Transfer Platform - Established (Transfer With Success Act 2.0)

SB540 will provide critical funding to the State's ARTSYS system to support the transfer of students from Maryland's community colleges to Maryland's four-year institutions. Integrating 35 colleges and universities.

SB 541 - Great Maryland Outdoors Act - Status: Moving!

Maryland's State Parks are critically important to our public health, environment, and economy. SB541 provides once-in-a-generation funding and accountability to our parks to address overcrowding, reverse underfunding, increase accessibility for more Marylanders, tackle a deep backlog of critical repairs, increase water access, prepare our parks for a changing climate, and more.

SB 566 - State Retirement and Pension System – Investment Climate Risk: Fiduciary Duties

The threat of climate change poses a significant risk to Maryland's economy and quality of life. SB566 establishes procedures for the Maryland State Retirement & Pensions System Board to regularly evaluate this risk to the investment portfolio and establishes that climate risk should be considered as part of the System's fiduciary responsibility.

SB 567 - Property Tax - Agricultural Use Assessment - Improvements

SB567 clarifies the tax status of Maryland's qualifying breweries and wineries. This tax relief will help to support and expand these burgeoning agricultural small businesses.

**SB 709 - Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Alternative Therapies Fund - Establishment
(David Perez Military Heroes Act (End 22 a Day))**

Despite serving our nation, too few veterans have access to meaningful therapeutic treatments for PTSD. SB709 creates a first-in-the-nation fund to provide critical alternative therapies for veterans surviving with PTSD free of charge.

SB 740 - Public Health – Parkinson's Disease Registry – Established

SB740 establishes a statewide Parkinson's Disease registry that will feed population data from patients living with the disease up to the CDC's national research database. This will ultimately allow for researchers across the country to have the best possible chance to use this data and prevalence patterns towards finding a cure for this progressive, chronic disease.

**SB 791 - Natural Resources - Land Conservation - Establishment of Goals & Programs
(Maryland the Beautiful Act)**

Preserving Maryland's lands for future generations is critically important for our environment and way of life. SB791 sets a goal of preserving 30 percent of Maryland lands by 2030 and 40 percent of lands by 2040 and provides for key programs to achieve these goals.

SB 830 - Natural Resources - Oysters - Spat, Shell, and Substrate

SB830 will increase spat production and shell recycling of Maryland's keystone species: the Eastern oyster. The bill also includes funding for a critically important Bay bottom survey, not conducted since the 1970s, collaborative research program on substrate, and economic incentives for shucking houses.

SB 921 - Food Supplement Benefits - Students - Eligibility (SNAP for Students)

Permanently extends a critical emergency program to provide SNAP benefits to food insecure students at Maryland's colleges and universities.

SB 961 - Public Projects - Global Warming Potential of Materials (Buy Clean Maryland Act)

SB961 requires state agencies to consider greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts generated in the manufacturing of the materials they purchase and preferentially award procurement contracts to encourage production processes that yield lower embodied carbon and other emissions.