

MONDAY  
16 FEB

mdoutreach@cair.com

2026  
MARYLAND MUSLIM LOBBY DAY  
LEGISLATIVE  
PACKET

SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT  
BIT.LY/LOOKUP-REPS  
TO LOOKUP YOUR LEGISLATORS!

HOUSE OF DELEGATES | ANNAPOLIS, MD



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## PROGRAM AGENDA

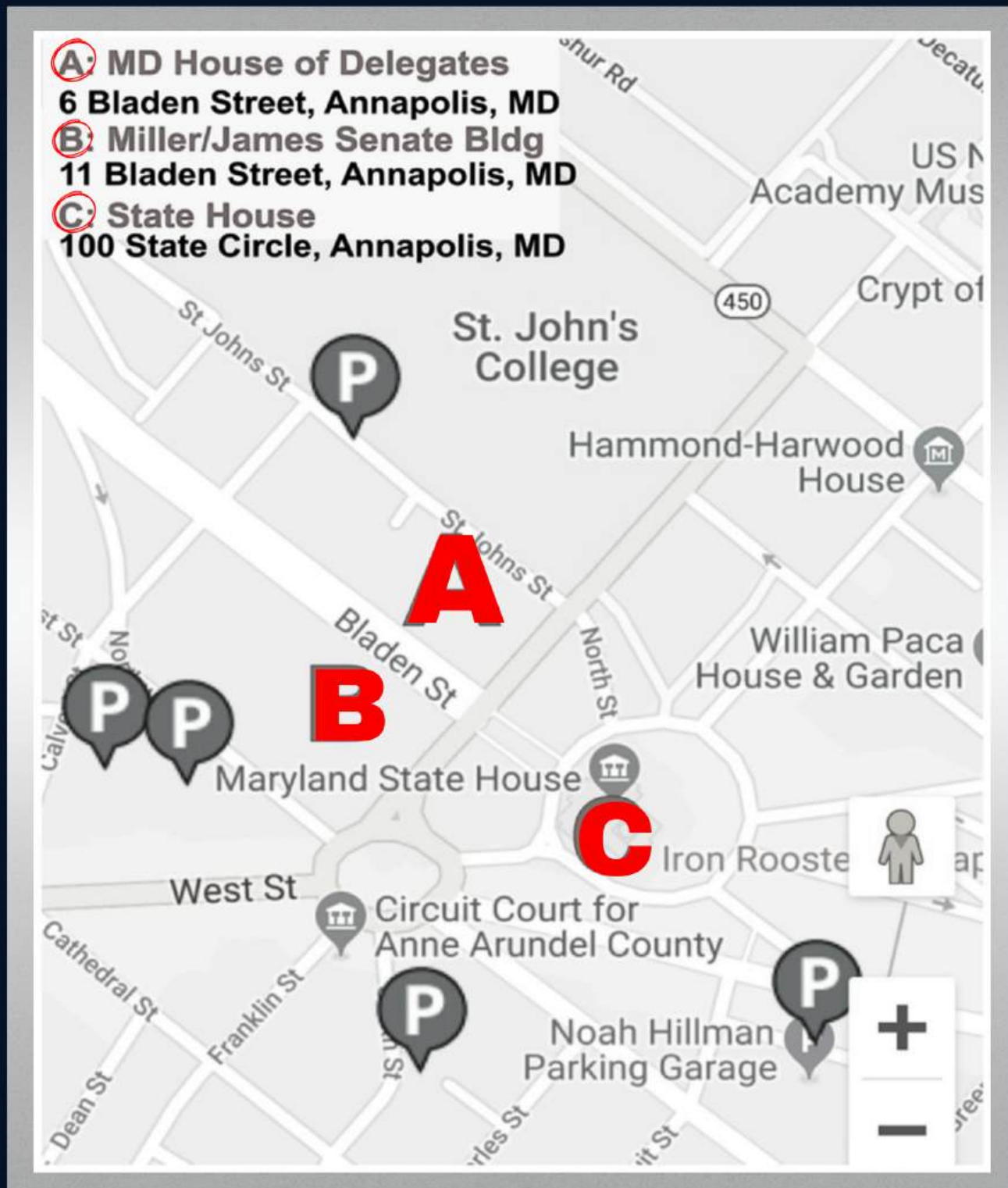
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- 5:30 PM** Registration (*House of Delegates 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*)
- 6:00 PM** Legislative Meetings & Drop-By's
- 7:00 PM** Return to Registration (*Special Announcement*)
- 7:30 PM** Group Photo (*House of Delegates 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*)
- 7:45 PM** Prayer Break (*House of Delegates 4<sup>th</sup> Floor*)
- 7:50 PM** (*Optional*) Depart to State House (*Speaker Recognition: Maryland Legislative Muslim Caucus, House Gallery 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*)
- 9:00 PM** Conclusion

\* Refreshments are available in the Prince George's County Conference Room.

# VISITING ANNAPOLIS

## PARKING INFORMATION:



**Parking/Free Parking After 6 p.m.:** State Garage (Calvert Street Garage) after 6pm Monday through Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday. The entrance is located at 19 St. John's Street. You can also park at Gotts Court Garage located at 25 Calvert Street.

**Reserve Garage Parking Online:** Visitors to Annapolis can reserve garage parking online in Noah Hillman Garage, Knighton Garage, or Gotts Court Garage. Visit [www.AnnapolisParking.com](http://www.AnnapolisParking.com), navigate to the garage of your choice, and select "Buy Daily Parking."

**Ride the Free Circulator:** Visitors can ride the Circulator for free from city garages to points of interest downtown. Track the Circulator's location in real-time by downloading the "RLS Shuttle" app and clicking "Annapolis."

**Avoid the Crowds:** Visitors who wish to avoid the city's busiest parking locations could consider the Park Place Garage located at One Park Place on West Street or the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium lot. Park Place is serviced daily by the free Circulator and the stadium lot includes an Express shuttle service during the legislative session from 6:30am to 8pm & 3:30pm-5:15pm Monday-Friday. Stadium shuttle fare is \$2.

## FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS IN ANNAPOLIS



- 1) **Scan** the QR Code
- 2) **Enter** your address and zipcode under "Lookup" and **select** "Find"
- 3) **Scroll down** to find your "Maryland Legislative District"
- 4) **Select** the names of your State Senator and State Delegates to find their building and office numbers.
- 5) **Find** the building on the map in this legislative packet.

## MEETING TIPS

### Do's

- Be prepared and know the issues.
- Be clear and concise, and focus on key points.
- Know your audience.
- Have a specific ask. (e.g. "Support Bill XYZ")
- Build and establish rapport with the lawmaker and their staff. Follow up after meetings to stay connected.
- Personal stories can be powerful.
- Be courteous and professional even if you disagree with the lawmaker.
- Follow up and send a thank-you email summarizing key points and reiterating your ask.
- Familiarize yourself with the legislative process, which Committee the bills are assigned to, and key deadlines.

### Don'ts

- Don't overwhelm, stick to essential points and avoid unnecessary details.
- Don't assume the lawmaker or staff knows the issue.
- Don't be confrontational. Even if the lawmaker or staff member disagree, stay calm and respectful.
- Don't lie or exaggerate. Providing false or misleading information damages credibility.
- Don't expect immediate results.
- Policy change takes time. Be patient and persistent.
- Don't forget to listen. Hear out the lawmaker's concerns and respond thoughtfully. It's a two-way conversation.
- Don't Ignore Staffers. They play a crucial role in shaping policy decisions and should be treated as key contacts.

# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AT A GLANCE

<b>HJ 9</b>	<b>Condemning Violence, Violations of Law - Joint Resolution on Gaza, Sudan, Congo Genocide</b> <i>Del. Gabriel Acevero</i> <b>Support</b>	<b>HB 1202</b>	<b>Public Schools - Standards, Curriculum, &amp; Bullying Policies - Culture and History of Palestine</b> <i>Del. Gabriel Acevero, et al</i> <b>Support</b>
<b>SB 107 HB 566</b>	<b>Distribution of Students' Personal Information - Prohibition</b> <i>Sen. Shaneka Henson</i> <i>Del. Ashanti Martinez</i> <b>Support</b>	<b>HB 1382</b>	<b>Boycotts of Foreign Countries</b> <i>Del. Caylin Young</i> <b>Support</b>
<b>SB 323 HB 409</b>	<b>Youth Charging Reform Act</b> <i>Sen. William Smith, et al</i> <i>Del. Sandy Bartlett, et al</i> <b>Support</b>	<b>SB 296 HB 389</b>	<b>Limitations on Juvenile Contact With Incarcerated Adults</b> <i>Sen. Sara Love, et al</i> <i>Del. Sandy Bartlett</i> <b>Support</b>
<b>HB 219</b>	<b>Voting Rights Act 2026 Voter Intimidation &amp; Suppression</b> <i>Del. Stephanie Smith</i> <b>Support</b>	<b>HB 1184</b>	<b>Unauthorized Support Israeli Settlement Activity (Not On Our Dime Act)</b> <i>Del. Gabriel Acevero</i> <b>Support</b>
<b>SB 245 HB 444</b>	<b>Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition</b> <i>Sen. William Smith, Jr., et al</i> <i>Del. Nicole Williams, et al</i> <b>Support</b>	<b>HB 1455</b>	<b>State Retirement &amp; Pension System - Divestment From Israel (Break the Bonds Act)</b> <i>Del. Caylin Young, et al</i> <b>Support</b>



## HJ 9 Condemning Violence and Violations of Law - Joint Resolution on Gaza, Sudan, Congo Genocide

Sponsor: Delegate Gabriel Acevero, et al  
Hearing Date: TBD  
Position: Support  
House Committee: Rules & Executive Nominations

### Overview

This House Joint Resolution condemns violence against civilians, and violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in Gaza, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Sudan, and expresses grave concern over credible reports of war crimes and genocide.

Similar to past resolutions, it reaffirms Maryland's commitment to human dignity and the equal value of all human life, and calls for civilian protection, unhindered humanitarian access, accountability for violations of international law, and U.S. diplomatic action to help prevent further atrocities and pursue just and lasting peace.

### Facts & Historical Context

#### Gaza

- Numerous international and Israeli human rights organizations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and B'Tselem have concluded Israel's relentless campaign of mass killing, displacement and destruction in Gaza as genocide.
- Many studies place the actual death toll at over hundreds of thousands of Palestinians killed.
- Israeli aggression has led to record levels of violence against medical and humanitarian workers. In 2024, a UN database reported 383 aid workers killed globally, with nearly half in Gaza.
- UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Palestine and Israel confirmed Israel has committed genocide in the Gaza Strip.

### Take Action

1) Sign and share this Action Alert urging the House Rules Committee to vote favorably on HJ9

 [bit.ly/pass-hj9](https://bit.ly/pass-hj9)

2) Sign up to testify at the bill hearing.

 [mdoutreach@cair.com](mailto:mdoutreach@cair.com)



### Democratic Republic of Congo

- Decades of violence in Congo have resulted in approximately 6 million deaths since the mid-1990s, mostly civilians killed directly or indirectly by hunger and disease.
- Conflict has caused a massive humanitarian crisis, with millions displaced and facing acute food insecurity.
- Fighting involving government forces and numerous armed groups has repeatedly led to indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas, extrajudicial killings, and widespread sexual violence.

### Sudan

- The violence in Sudan that began in April 2023 has led to hundreds of thousands of deaths and one of the world's largest current displacement crises, with many millions internally displaced or seeking refuge abroad.
- International observers have documented horrific massacres, ethnic targeting, and attacks on displacement camps, including reported killings of over 1,500 civilians in a single camp assault.

### Why This Resolution Matters

- **It affirms that civilian life is not conditional.**
- **It strengthens democratic values at home.** Condemning mass violence abroad reinforces the moral foundation of democratic institutions. Upholding human dignity internationally signals that the values of justice, equality, and accountability do not stop at national borders.
- **It rejects silence in the face of mass atrocities.**
- **It reinforces international humanitarian law and accountability.**
- **It reflects the voices and lived realities of Marylanders.** Maryland is home to communities with deep personal, familial, and cultural ties to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gaza, and Sudan. For many residents, these crises are not abstract foreign events but deeply personal human emergencies.

# SB 107/HB 566 Distribution of Students' Personal Information – Prohibition

Sponsor: Senator Shaneka Henson, Delegate Ashanti Martinez et al  
Hearing Date: Senate: Jan. 27/House: Feb. 19  
Position: Support  
Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings/House Judiciary

## Overview

Doxxing is when someone publicly shares your private information – like your home address, phone number, school details, or photos – without your consent, in order to intimidate, harass or harm. It can lead to:

- threats to personal safety
- fear of attending class or campus events
- academic disruption
- mental health trauma
- damage to future jobs or education

Existing anti-bullying laws in Maryland don't go far enough to protect students and address this issue.

## Facts: Doxxing Is a Real & Growing Problem

- Over 11 million Americans reported being victims of doxxing in 2025.
- According to Pew Research, nearly 50% of Americans report being harassed online, with about half citing politics as basis for targeting.
- According to the National Association of Attorney Generals, doxxing incidents are no longer isolated or fringe acts. They now represent a broader digital threat paradigm where harassment, misinformation, and real-world violence intersect.
- Majority of doxxing victims report serious mental health impacts such as anxiety, depression, or PTSD.

Sources: SafeHome.org, Pew Research Center, Education Week, Natl. Assn. of Attorney Generals

## Take Action

1) Sign & share these action alerts urging the Senate and House Committees to pass this bill:

 [bit.ly/end-doxxing](https://bit.ly/end-doxxing)  
[bit.ly/pass-hb566](https://bit.ly/pass-hb566)



2) Sign up to testify at the bill hearings.

3) Urge your legislators to support this bill.

 [mdoutreach@cair.com](mailto:mdoutreach@cair.com)



## Existing Laws

### Grace's Law (2013, updated in 2019)

- Criminalizes online harassment of minors and repeated malicious communication intended to harm.
- Does not extend to students in colleges and universities.

#### Gaps:

- Does not explicitly address the publication of private information (doxxing).
- Focuses on repeated actions but may not encompass one-time acts of doxxing that have severe impacts.

### Maryland Criminal Code: Harassment/Stalking

- Addresses stalking, harassment, and malicious intent but lacks specificity for cyberbullying or doxxing as distinct offenses.

#### Gaps:

- Fails to address digital contexts and the amplification of harm caused by online platforms.
- Penalties are not commensurate with the harm caused by doxxing.

## Why This Bill Matters

**Closing Legal Gaps:** Addresses doxxing specifically, providing clarity for law enforcement and courts in prosecuting offenders.

**Protecting Students:** Ensures that students, including in colleges and universities, have stronger protections against this harmful practice.

**Deterring Perpetrators:** Implements penalties sending a strong message about consequences for this behavior.

**Fostering Safe Learning Environments:** Protects students from disruptions caused by harassment, ensuring schools and campuses remain safe spaces for education and growth.

#### This bill:

- Targets malicious behavior, not free speech
- Protects students' safety, privacy, and well-being
- Includes clear First Amendment protections.

# SB 323/HB 409 Youth Charging Reform Act

Sponsor: Senator Will Smith et al, Delegate Sandy Bartlett et al  
Hearing Date: Senate: Feb. 4/House: Feb. 12  
Position: Support  
Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings/House Judiciary

## Overview

The Youth Charging Reform Act would change how Maryland decides whether children and youth accused of crimes are handled in the juvenile justice system or adult criminal court.

Instead of automatically charging many youth as adults based only on the type of offense, the bill would send most cases involving children to juvenile court, which focuses more on rehabilitation and individualized review. This issue disproportionately impacts Black and Brown communities. Maryland remains one of the few states that still relies heavily on automatic charging policies that remove judicial discretion at the earliest stage of a case.

## What This Bill Does

This bill reforms Maryland's youth charging structure by:

- Eliminating automatic adult charging for youth ages 14 and 15
- Reducing the number of offenses that automatically charge 16- and 17-year-olds as adults
- Returning approximately 75% of cases currently subject to automatic adult charging to juvenile court

In 2025, Maryland charged more than 1,000 youth as adults, most of whom were subject to automatic charging based solely on the arrest offense. In 55% of cases, those youth were later transferred to juvenile court after judicial review, underscoring how frequently automatic charging overrides individualized decision-making at the outset.

## Take Action

1) Sign & share this action alert urging the Senate and House Committees to pass this bill:

 [bit.ly/reform-youth-charging](https://bit.ly/reform-youth-charging)



2) Sign up to testify at the bill hearings:

 [mdoutreach@cair.com](mailto:mdoutreach@cair.com)

## Existing Laws

Under current Maryland law, some crimes require children as young as 14 to be charged in adult criminal court. This happens automatically, so judges cannot consider the child's age, maturity, or personal circumstances. Because of this, Maryland sends more young people to adult court than most other states.

Maryland is one of the strictest states when it comes to automatically charging young people as adults.

Compared to most other states, Maryland sends more youth to adult court based on the type of crime, ranking second only to Alabama. Maryland also ranks fourth in the country for the number of people convicted as adults for crimes they committed as children. These policies do not match modern research about how teenagers develop, nor widely accepted international human rights standards.

## Why This Bill Matters

Youth placed in adult facilities face severe risks. Studies show that approximately 80% of youth charged as adults experience solitary confinement at some point during incarceration. Over 80% report abuse by staff or other incarcerated individuals, yet fewer than one-third receive trauma-informed treatment. These conditions undermine rehabilitation and increase the likelihood of reoffending.

Research consistently shows that youth processed in adult criminal systems have higher recidivism rates than those handled through juvenile courts. By ensuring youth cases begin in the youth justice system, this legislation promotes accountability while increasing access to education, treatment, and rehabilitation services. These supports reduce reoffending and improve long-term public safety outcomes.

# HB 219 Voting Rights Act of 2026 - Voter Intimidation & Suppression

Sponsor: Delegate Stephanie Smith  
Hearing Date: Feb. 11  
Position: Support  
House Committee: Govt. Labor & Elections

## Overview

This bill strengthens voting rights in Maryland by increasing transparency around election changes, banning voter intimidation and suppression, and giving people legal tools to challenge policies that unfairly limit access to voting.

## What This Bill Does

### 1. Requires More Public Notice Before Voting Changes

The bill makes election officials give more advance warning when they want to change rules that affect voting, such as polling place locations, mail-in or provisional voting rules, and language or disability assistance for voters.

### 2. Bans Voter Intimidation, Deception, and Obstruction

The bill makes it illegal for anyone to interfere with someone's right to vote, including threatening or harassing voters, spreading false information meant to discourage voting, blocking access to polling places, ballot drop boxes, or election offices, or causing delays or disruptions that make voting harder

### 3. Prohibits Voting Policies That Discriminate Against Protected Groups

Local governments cannot create or enforce election policies that unfairly reduce voting access for protected groups, such as racial or language minority communities.

Courts can find a violation if policies:

- Make it harder for certain groups to vote, OR
- Reduce their participation in elections

## Take Action

- 1) Contact the House Government, Labor and Elections Committee and urge members to vote this bill out of committee.
- 2) Contact your legislators and urge them to support this bill.

### 4. Allows People and Organizations to Sue Over Voting Barriers

The bill allows individual voters, community or civil rights groups, and the Maryland Attorney General to file lawsuits if voting rights are violated.

Courts can order remedies such as:

- More polling locations or voting hours
- Expanding mail-in voting
- Additional voter education
- Special elections
- Restoring voter registrations

### 5. Requires Local Governments to Give Notice Before Major Election Changes

Local governments must give advance public notice before:

- Changing election methods
- Redrawing voting districts
- Changing local government structures affecting elections

Communities must also receive notice in accessible formats and multiple languages if needed.

## Why This Bill Matters

This bill protects people's ability to vote by enhancing rules that prevent intimidation, misinformation, or physical interference that could stop someone from voting. This helps ensure elections are safe and fair.

It helps prevent discrimination by preventing local governments from creating election policies that unfairly make it harder for racial or language minority groups to vote. This is meant to promote equal access to elections.

It increases transparency in election changes, gives voters time to understand and prepare for changes in voting rules or polling places

This bill would also require courts to handle voting rights cases faster, which can help address issues before an election happens instead of after.

## SB 245/HB 444 Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition

Sponsor: Senator Will Smith et al/Delegate Nicole Williams et al  
Hearing Date: House: Jan. 22/Senate: Jan. 27  
Position: Support  
Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings/House Judiciary

### Overview

This legislation would prohibit Maryland state and local government agencies, including county sheriffs and law enforcement personnel, from entering into or participating in immigration enforcement agreements with federal authorities. The bill also requires any existing agreements to be terminated by July 1, 2026.

Immigration enforcement agreements typically allow local law enforcement agencies to collaborate with federal immigration authorities, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), to assist with enforcing

federal civil immigration law. These partnerships often include programs such as the federal "287(g)" program, which authorizes designated local officials to perform certain immigration enforcement functions within local jails or detention facilities.

This legislation seeks to establish a uniform statewide policy limiting local participation in federal immigration enforcement activities. Reducing local involvement in federal immigration enforcement strengthens community trust in law enforcement, encourages residents to report crimes, and ensures that state and local resources remain focused on public safety priorities.

### Key Provisions

This legislation establishes clear statewide standards governing the relationship between Maryland law enforcement agencies and federal immigration enforcement authorities. The bill:

- Prohibits state and local government agencies, including law enforcement offices and detention facilities, from entering into new immigration enforcement agreements with federal agencies such as ICE.
- Requires termination of any existing immigration enforcement agreements by July 1, 2026.
- Applies broadly to public safety agencies, detention facilities, and other governmental entities that may otherwise participate in immigration enforcement activities.
- Reinforces that enforcement of federal civil immigration law remains a federal responsibility rather than a state or local function.

These provisions aim to create consistency across Maryland jurisdictions and prevent individual counties or agencies from independently establishing immigration enforcement partnerships.

### Why This Bill Matters

These Senate/House cross-filed bills are intended to address the relationship between immigrant communities and local law enforcement agencies by clarifying agency roles and responsibilities.

Research and policy analyses show that when local police are perceived as immigration enforcement agents, immigrant residents may be less likely to report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, or seek help during emergencies.

Limiting local involvement in federal immigration enforcement may help strengthen community trust and improve public safety outcomes by encouraging cooperation between residents and law enforcement.

This legislation allows local law enforcement agencies to focus resources on state and local public safety priorities, rather than federal civil immigration enforcement duties.

### Take Action

1) Both the House and Senate bills have been voted out of committee. Call and email your legislators and urge them to vote in favor of this legislation on the House and Senate floors.

2) Join an Interfaith Rally for Immigrants at Lawyers Mall in Annapolis on March 12 at 12 Noon.

## HB 1202 Public Schools – Standards, Curriculum, & Bullying Policies – Culture and History of Palestine

Sponsor: Delegate Gabriel Acevero, et al  
Hearing Date: TBD  
Position: Support  
House Committee: Ways & Means

### Overview

This bill requires Maryland public schools to incorporate age-appropriate, fact-based Palestine cultural literacy into existing social studies, world history, civics, or multicultural education curricula beginning in the 2027-2028 school year.

The legislation defines Palestine cultural literacy to include instruction on Palestinian history, culture, identity, and the civilian impact of displacement and conflict, while emphasizing critical thinking, media literacy, and clear distinctions between governments, political movements, and civilian populations. Instruction must be non-partisan, historically grounded, and integrated into existing instructional time without endorsing political advocacy.

The bill also directs the Maryland State Department of Education to develop curriculum guidance, instructional resources, and optional professional development in consultation with educators, historians, and civil rights stakeholders.

In addition, it strengthens school climate protections by explicitly recognizing anti-Palestinian bias within existing anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies, ensuring incidents are addressed consistently with other forms of protected-class discrimination. A reporting requirement ensures legislative oversight while safeguarding student privacy, reinforcing the bill's focus on student safety, inclusion, and educational integrity.

### Take Action

1) Sign and share this action alert in support of this bill:

 [bit.ly/pass-hb1202](https://bit.ly/pass-hb1202)



2) Contact your legislators and urge them to support this bill.

### Why This Bill Matters

**Education plays a critical role in preventing hate, protecting student safety, and promoting mutual understanding in increasingly diverse classrooms.** When students lack basic cultural and historical literacy, misinformation and stereotypes can flourish - often leading to harassment, exclusion, and dehumanization of Palestinian students and others perceived to be associated with them. Culturally grounded, age-appropriate instruction is a proven tool for reducing bias and improving school climate without engaging in political advocacy.

**Incident at Walt Whitman High School:** On January 16, 2026, graphic, violent anti-Palestinian and Islamophobic graffiti was discovered on the wall of a MCPS school in one example of a serious incident in Maryland public schools targeting Muslim and Palestinian children.

The graffiti included the phrases "F\*\*\* Muslims" and "Nuke Palestine," along with a painted Star of David. Many Palestinians identify as Christians, and this hate and intolerance affects students across faiths and ethnicities.

School officials and elected leaders rightfully condemned the incident, but communities require action beyond condemnations. This bill addresses the underlying issues that fuel these hatred and bigotry against Palestinian American children in our school systems.

**Addressing Erasure & Intolerance:** The bill strengthens Maryland's commitment to equal dignity and educational equity by ensuring anti-Palestinian bias is addressed consistently with other forms of discrimination already recognized in schools.

By providing clear guidance, safeguards for academic freedom, and non-partisan standards, the legislation supports educators, protects safety and dignity, and reinforces the principle that no student should feel unsafe or erased because of their identity.

# HB 1382 Boycotts of Foreign Countries

Sponsor: Delegate Caylin Young, et al  
Hearing Date: TBD  
Position: Support  
House Committee: Government, Labor & Elections

## Overview

In 2017, Maryland issued a controversial executive order barring state agencies from contracting with companies that engage in boycotts, divestments, or sanctions (BDS) of Israel. The executive order requires contractors to certify they are not participating in such activity.

It raised significant concerns about free speech, civil rights, and economic freedom. This bill prohibits the State of Maryland from requiring companies that bid for state contracts to certify that they are not boycotting a foreign country.

## Key Issues with the Anti-BDS Exec. Order

### Violation of First Amendment Rights:

- The Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the right to boycott as a form of political expression protected under the First Amendment (e.g., NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co., 1982).
- The executive order's requirements force individuals and businesses to give up their constitutional rights to engage in political expression to secure state contracts.

### Chilling Effect on Political Advocacy:

- The order discourages businesses and individuals from engaging in advocacy efforts out of fear of losing state contracts, undermining the democratic principle of open debate.

## Take Action

- 1) Contact your legislators and urge them to support this bill.
- 2) Contact the Committee and urge them to bring this bill forward for a vote and pass it out of committee.
- 3) Sign up to testify at the bill hearing:

 [mdoutreach@cair.com](mailto:mdoutreach@cair.com)

## Discrimination Against Marginalized Communities:

- The order exclusively impacts Palestinian rights advocates, as well as others who speak out against Israeli policies.
- The executive order's framework sets a dangerous precedent for restricting advocacy on other human rights issues.

## Economic and Administrative Burdens:

- Maryland's economy thrives on the participation of diverse businesses, many of which are small and minority-owned.
- The certification process places administrative burdens on businesses and state agencies, complicating procurement processes.

## What this Bill Does

This bill

- seeks to prohibit the State of Maryland from requiring companies that bid for state contracts to certify that they are not boycotting a foreign country.
- removes restrictions that might penalize businesses for participating in boycotts of foreign countries.
- reaffirms Maryland's commitment to upholding constitutional freedoms for all residents and businesses.
- upholds First Amendment rights and basic constitutional protections.
- prioritizes Marylanders' interests above those of a foreign government under investigation by the International Court of Justice for charges of genocide.

## Why This Bill Matters

**Protecting Civil Liberties:** This bill ensures that Maryland residents and businesses are not forced to choose between economic opportunities and their constitutional rights.

**Promoting Justice and Equality:** Repealing the order demonstrates Maryland's commitment to free speech, human rights, and non-discrimination.

**Strengthening Democracy:** Robust debate and advocacy are cornerstones of a healthy democracy. Ensuring the right to boycott helps protect these values.

## SB 296/HB 389 Limitations on Juvenile Contact With Incarcerated Adults

Sponsor: Senator Sara Love et al,  
Delegate Sandy Bartlett  
Hearing Date: Senate: Feb. 4/House: Feb. 5  
Position: Support  
Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings/House  
Judiciary

### Overview

- This legislation strengthens protections for children by generally prohibiting them from being detained or confined in facilities where they may have contact with incarcerated adults, even if they are charged or prosecuted in adult court.
- It bars holding children in adult correctional facilities, allowing only a limited exception for temporary processing of up to six hours if the child is fully separated from adult inmates.
- It prohibits transporting children together with adults charged with or convicted of crimes.
- It requires courts to hold children in secure juvenile facilities while jurisdictional decisions are pending, unless the child is released under pretrial conditions.
- It removes certain existing exceptions that allowed detention outside juvenile facilities due to capacity or safety concerns.
- It addresses detention and safety conditions, not punishment or sentencing rules.
- This legislation does NOT prevent youth from being charged with serious crimes or prosecuted in adult court. It focuses only on where and how they are detained, not whether they can face adult charges.
- It does NOT eliminate accountability or criminal penalties for youth.
- It does NOT automatically release children from custody. Courts can still detain youth when appropriate; the bill only requires they be held in juvenile facilities instead of adult jails.

### Existing Laws

Separation of youth from adults is already partially required in Maryland under certain circumstances. Maryland law states that children generally may not be detained in adult correctional facilities except under specific statutory provisions.

This legislation strengthens and builds on existing protections.

### Why This Bill Matters

- Protects children from physical and psychological harm that can occur when they are exposed to adult inmates.
- Reduces the risk of abuse, violence, and intimidation that youth may face in adult detention settings.
- Supports safer and more age-appropriate detention environments designed for youth development and rehabilitation.
- Helps prevent long-term trauma that can increase the likelihood of future involvement in the justice system.
- Aligns Maryland practices more closely with national juvenile justice safety standards.
- Reinforces the idea that children have different developmental needs than adults.
- Encourages rehabilitation and intervention strategies that are proven to reduce reoffending among youth.
- Provides clearer rules for law enforcement and correctional staff when handling detained children.
- Helps protect counties and the state from legal liability related to unsafe detention conditions for minors.
- Strengthens public safety by focusing on treatment and rehabilitation rather than exposing youth to harmful adult correctional environments.

### Take Action

- 1) Contact the Senate and House Committees and urge them to vote this bill out of committee.
- 2) Contact your legislators and urge them to vote in favor of this measure.

Sponsor: Delegate Gabriel Acevero, et al  
Hearing Date: TBD  
Position: Support  
House Committee: Judiciary

## HB 1184 Unauthorized Support of Israeli Settlement Activity (Not On Our Dime Act)

### Overview

This proposed legislation aims to ensure that nonprofit organizations operating in Maryland do not use charitable funds or resources to support activities connected to Israeli settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Under the bill, Maryland-based nonprofit organizations would be prohibited from providing financial support, material assistance, or other forms of aid that directly or indirectly contribute to settlement-related activities. The legislation defines prohibited support to include actions such as facilitating the transfer of Israeli civilians into settlements, supporting acts of violence, contributing to the seizure of Palestinian land, assisting in the destruction of Palestinian property, or supporting efforts that restrict Palestinian access to land, water, or other essential resources.

The bill establishes enforcement mechanisms allowing individuals harmed by prohibited settlement-related activities to file civil lawsuits against nonprofits that violate the law. Courts could award damages, attorney's fees, and other legal remedies if violations are proven.

Additionally, if a nonprofit organization is found to have violated the law, the Maryland Secretary of State would be required to revoke the organization's registration as an approved charitable entity within the state. This could prevent the organization from soliciting charitable donations or operating as a registered nonprofit in Maryland.

### Take Action

- 1) Call and email the House Judiciary Committee and urge them to pass this bill out of committee.
- 2) Contact your state legislators and urge them to vote in favor of this bill.
- 3) Sign up to testify at the bill hearing.

 [mdoutreach@cair.com](mailto:mdoutreach@cair.com)

### Why This Bill Matters

**Accountability of Nonprofits** - Ensures that tax-exempt organizations do not fund or support activities that violate international law.

**Upholding Human Rights** - Prevents nonprofit organizations from financially aiding settlement activities that displace Palestinian communities and violate their rights.

**Legal Consequences** - Establishes penalties, including lawsuits and financial damages, for nonprofits found supporting Israeli settlement activity.

**Enforcement of International Law** - Aligns Maryland's policies with the Geneva Conventions, which prohibit forced displacement and settlement in occupied territories.

**Protection for Affected Communities** - Allows individuals harmed by illegal settlement activities to seek justice and compensation.

**State Action Against Unlawful Support** - Requires the Maryland Attorney General to take action against nonprofits that violate the law.

**Transparency in Charitable Donations** - Ensures that donations made to registered nonprofits are not used to fund activities contributing to human rights violations.

**Impact on U.S.-Israel Relations** - Reflects growing scrutiny of U.S. financial ties to Israeli settlement policies and could influence broader policy discussions.

## HB 1455 State Retirement & Pension System – Divestment From Israel (Break the Bonds Act)

Sponsor: Delegate Caylin Young, et al  
Hearing Date: TBD  
Position: Support  
House Committee: Appropriations

### Overview

Israel has been upholding a brutal system of total domination over Palestinians since 1948 – a separate-and-unequal apartheid system and a violent occupation of stolen Palestinian land. For over two years, Israel has also been committing a genocide of Palestinians. This legislation, led by Jewish Voice for Peace chapters, would require Maryland’s State Retirement and Pension System (MSRPS) to review whether it is investing public pension money in certain financial assets connected to the government of Israel.

If the pension system finds those investments, the bill requires the state to sell them when it can do so at fair market value and prevents new investments in those specific Israeli government-related assets.

### What This Bill Does

- Requires MSRPS to identify and sell certain investments tied to the Israeli government
- Prohibits the pension system from making new investments in Israeli government bonds, sovereign debt, or related financial assets using newly invested funds
- Requires the pension board to report regularly to the legislature on divestment actions

### Take Action

- 1) Contact the House Appropriations Committee and ask that this bill be passed out of committee.
- 2) Contact your legislators and urge them to support this bill.
- 3) Submit written testimony in favor of this bill.

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### Why This Bill Matters

- Promotes ethical investment standards by ensuring public pension funds are not tied to government activities lawmakers or constituents find concerning.
- Aligns Maryland’s investment practices with human rights accountability principles.
- Gives the state the ability to use its financial influence to encourage compliance with international humanitarian and human rights norms.
- Responds to constituent concerns about how taxpayer-supported retirement funds are invested.
- Builds transparency by requiring regular public reporting on investment holdings and divestment actions.
- Reinforces the idea that government funds should reflect public values and policy priorities.
- Establishes a clear framework for responsible investing rather than leaving decisions to inconsistent policies.
- Maintains fiduciary protections by allowing trustees to avoid actions that would harm retirees’ financial interests.
- Positions Maryland as a leader in socially responsible investing among states and public institutions.
- Encourages long-term risk management by considering reputational, political, and market risks tied to certain sovereign investments.
- Strengthens legislative oversight of how large public retirement assets are managed.
- Supports accountability and due diligence in public investment decision-making.
- Provides legal clarity and liability protection for pension trustees acting in good faith to comply with state law.

# HISTORIC ANNOUNCEMENT



**Official Launch: Maryland Legislative Muslim Caucus**  
*Maryland General Assembly*

*February 16, 2026*

