



Rally Agenda

Opening remarks by rally co-host Delegate Nicole Williams
Greeting by House Speaker Adrienne Jones

Gender-Based Violence

Delegate Nicole Williams
Senator Susan Lee
Delegate Lesley Lopez
Melanie Shapiro, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

Conditions of Confinement/Reentry

Carlita Brown, Maryland Justice Project
Delegate Wanika Fisher
Kimberly Haven, Reproductive Justice Inside
Delegate Jessica Feldmark
Nicole Hanson, Out for Justice

Systems Reform

Joe Spielberger, ACLU of Maryland
Cathryn Paul, CASA
Staci Hartwell, Maryland State Conference of the NAACP

Education Reform/Equity

Shanetta Martin, Advocates for Children and Youth
Delegate Michele Guyton
Delegate Kirill Reznik
Riya Seth, Maryland NOW's Young Women's Task Force
Delegate Gabe Acevero
Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins

LGBTQ+ Rights

Jeremy LaMaster, FreeState Justice
Senator Mary Washington
Delegate Emily Shetty
Delegate Julie Palakovich-Carr
Senator Shelly Hettleman

Public Health

Delegate Robbyn Lewis
Ana Rodney, MOMCares
Diana Philip, NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland
Delegate Dana Jones

Economic Security

Delegate Lily Qi
Myles Hicks, Maryland Rise
Eve Hurwitz, March on Maryland

Closing

Diana Philip, NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland



MARYLAND
Gender Justice
RALLY

February 15th, at 7:00 pm

The Bills:

Gender-Based Violence

HB0411 / SB0043 Criminal Law -Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition on Sexual Activity

Current Maryland law only bans sexual activity between law enforcement officers and those in their custody. HB0411 extends this ban to include people requesting assistance from a police officer, as well as victims, witnesses, and suspects in investigations in which an officer is involved, unless the officer previously had a legal sexual relationship with that person. HB0411 represents a major step toward eliminating sexual misconduct perpetrated by law enforcement officers.

HB0638 / HB0624 Public Safety - Untraceable and Undetectable Firearms

This bill alters the definition of regulated firearm to include a certain unfinished frame or receiver a person to continue to possess a certain firearm or unfinished frame or receiver. It aims to reduce gun violence.

HB0147 / SB0250 Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense

The bill repeals a certain prohibition on prosecuting a person for rape or a certain sexual offense against a victim who was the person's legal spouse at the time of the alleged rape or sexual offense. Sexual acts committed without complete, free consent from all parties constitute assault, regardless of marital status. The bill demonstrates Maryland's commitment to justice for survivors of sexual assault regardless of the perpetrator.

Conditions of Confinement/Reentry

SB0684 Correctional Services- Prerelease Unit for Women – Facilities and Services

The bill mandates pre-release services for women inmates and the creation of a dedicated pre-release facility for women. It is a step towards rectifying the disparity in pre-release services offered to incarcerated women and ensuring access to programs that will aid in the transition back into society. In order to provide incarcerated women with a safe, positive, and constructive reentry into society, there is a need to establish gender-responsive education to incarcerated persons. The focus of our correctional facilities should be on reform and rehabilitation, not punitive measures.

HB1233 Correctional Services - Inmates - Intake and Release Requirements

The bill requires the Division of Correction to provide screening for and access to private mediation between a certain inmate and an individual identified by the inmate as essential for the successful reentry of the inmate into society. It also requires the Division of Correction to work with inmates to ensure they have access to medication, social service programs, and public transportation at the time of the inmate's release.

HB0235 – Correctional Services – Pregnant Incarcerated Individuals – Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment

This bill ensures that pregnant incarcerated individuals will be able to access critical healthcare and be provided continuity of care upon release by requiring institutions to offer pre-natal testing, screening for mental health and SUD, and referrals to a community-based healthcare provider prior to release. This effort prevents unnecessary complications during pregnancy and creates a pathway for improved maternal health outcomes.

HB0560 Human Relations - Discrimination in Housing - Reentry-Into-Society Status

This bill expands the state's housing policy to include fair housing to all citizens regardless of reentry-into-society status. It also prohibits any individual from refusing to sell or rent to an individual based on their reentry-into-society status. All people deserve access to safe housing, and no person should be denied this fundamental right based on prior involvement with correctional systems.

Systems Reform

HB0139 Law Enforcement Officers – Use of Force

The bill limits the use of force by law enforcement. Maryland is one of only nine states without legal limits on how officers can use force. House Bill 139 would raise legal standards and accountability so officers could use force only when absolutely necessary. The bill has clear definitions of lethal force including chokeholds, multiple discharges of a Taser, strikes to the head or neck and other specific behaviours.

HB0151 / SB0627 Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights - Repeal

This bill repeals the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights (LEOBR). LEOBR was enacted in 1974 to guarantee police officers specified procedural safeguards in any investigation that could lead to disciplinary action.

HB0016 / SB0088 Correctional Services – Immigration Detention – Prohibition (Dignity Not Detention Act)

HB0016 prohibits the state from entering into agreements with private immigration detention facilities. Disturbing reports of forced sterilization, reproductive coercion, and denied medical care are clear violations of reproductive justice.

SB0690 Public Information Act – Inspection of Records From Body-Worn Digital Recording Devices

This bill ensures uniform access to the video recorded by the body cameras worn by law enforcement officials. In doing so, the bill aims to decrease police misconduct by holding law enforcement members accountable for misconduct.

HB0023 / SB0088 Personal Information – State and Local Agencies – Restrictions on Access

This bill prevents Maryland agencies and employees from providing information to federal agencies regarding personal information (including photographs or information attained through facial recognition technology) without a warrant. By denying ICE and other federal agencies such information, the bill aims to protect the privacy of undocumented individuals.

Systems Reform cont.

HB0304 / SB0088 State and Local Government - Participation in Federal Immigration Enforcement

This bill aims to maintain community trust in Maryland governmental operations and law enforcement efforts by clarifying the parameters of State and local participation in federal immigration enforcement efforts.

HB0750 / SB0317 Office of the Attorney General - Right to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings Coordinator

This legislation will make it mandatory for each immigrant facing removal proceedings to have access to legal representation for their trial. It gives the best chance for each case to be heard fairly and justly in a U.S. court of law and can, according to the data, potentially lead to fewer family separations of pregnant and parenting individuals from their children.

HB0114 / SB0199 Maryland Transit Administration - Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act)

The Transit Safety & Investment Act will mandate that MTA's capital budget be at a level that allows it to repair its systems in order to operate safely and reliably. It will also make funding available to the locally operated transit systems throughout Maryland.

HB0583 / SB0414 Climate Solutions Now Act 2021

The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021 seeks to ameliorate the effects of climate change with a focus on environmental justice concerns, climate equity, and resilience within disproportionately affected communities.

Education Reform/Equity

HB0401 Public Schools -Pregnant and parenting students - Policies and Reportings

The bills would require existing secondary school personnel to coordinate supports needed to help pregnant and parenting youth stay in school and prevent school push-out, while establishing designated private lactation spaces and establishing a liaison in each school district to connect pregnant and parenting youth with childcare and transportation resources. Nationally, close to half of female school dropouts and one-third of male dropouts report that becoming a parent was a factor in their decision to leave school. t pregnant and parenting students should be included among the youth that deserve as rigorous an education as their non-pregnant and parenting peers

HB0496 Primary and Secondary Education - Mental Health Services - Expansion (Counselors Not Cops Act)

This bill repeals mandated State funding for school resource officers (SRO), and instead requires the Governor, beginning in fiscal 2023, to include \$10 million in the State budget to enhance school-based mental and behavioral health services for students. It also expands the membership of the School Safety Subcabinet Advisory Board, requires the Senate President and Speaker of the House to appoint the chair of the advisory board, alters the definition of school security employee, and requires specified reports by recipients of the grant funding mandated by the bill.

HB1089 Primary and Secondary Education - Expansion of Mental Health Services and Prohibition of School Resource Officers (Police-Free Schools Act)

This bill prevents a local school system from contracting with a police force to place law enforcement on school property. Similar to HB496, it works to expand students' access to mental health services and it also requires school systems to provide information on the number of social workers, psychologists, and behavioral specialists.

Education Reform/Equity

HB205 Public Schools - Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products - Requirement

The bill requires each county board of education to ensure that each public school provide, at no charge to students, menstrual hygiene products via dispensers in the restrooms at the school (high school, middle school and elementary). Menstrual equity is a reproductive justice issue. To provide all students with a positive and meaningful education, we must acknowledge that when socioeconomic disparities are coupled with menstrual inequity, gaps in education attainment widen further. An investment in menstrual equity is an investment in Maryland students, and thereby an investment in Maryland's future.

HB1300 Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Implementation

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future aims to transform the state's education system and bring us to the the level of high-performing systems around the world. The bill establishes a method for verifying synthesized and compiled school-level and school system data to better understand educational outcomes and where resources would be best spent. It also aims to improve the well-being of Maryland teachers by establishing the Teacher Quality and Diversity Program and the related grant program.

LGBTQ+ Rights

HB768 Nondiscrimination and LGBTQ+ Individuals

The purpose of the bill is to state that it is the policy of the State to provide equal access to various courts, agencies, programs, departments, and services for certain individuals, to improve their safety, well-being, and stability. The bill seeks to ensure that individuals belonging to the LGBTQ+ community are protected from discrimination and it prohibits discrimination. It also provides appropriate training to employees and contractors of the court system regarding LGBTQ+ individuals. It also prohibits a contractor, grantee, or other entity receiving public funds from engaging in certain discriminatory behavior.

HB231 Crimes – Mitigation – Race, Color, National Origin, Sex, Gender Identity, or sexual orientation

The bill establishes that the discovery or perception of, or belief about, another person's race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation, whether or not accurate, does not constitute legally adequate provocation to mitigate a killing from the crime of murder to manslaughter or an assault from the crime of assault in the first degree to assault in the second degree or another lesser crime.

HB0039 Action for Change of Name – Waiver of Publication Requirement

The bill would require courts to waive the publication requirement for individuals seeking to change their name. Under Maryland law, an applicant for a name change must petition the court, and publish notice of their petition to the court in a county newspaper at least fifteen days before the end of the objection period. This requirement may too costly particularly for low-income individuals. While individuals change their names for many reasons, this issue is particularly important for LGBTQIA+ individuals seeking a name change on their identity documents that better reflects their sexual orientation and identity. HB0039 is an important step to protect privacy and safety

LGBTQ+ Rights cont.

HB0155 County Boards and Public and Nonpublic Prekindergarten Programs and Schools - Discrimination - Prohibition

HB0155 seeks to establish written protections against discrimination in public schools and expand these protections into private schools that receive any public funding. As such, it will allow more students across our state to thrive and realize their educational goals. Positive school climates should be a priority in all schools. Any school receiving public funding should be prohibited from engaging in discriminatory enrollment practices as well as discipline, expulsion, suspension, or exclusion of students based upon certain diversity factors or particular identities.

HB0130 Commission on LGBTQ Affairs - Established

HB0130 seeks to establish an LGBTQ commission with a diverse background, to better serve the needs of LGBTQ Marylanders. As such, it will allow more LGBTQ people across our state to thrive and realize their educational and career goals. This discrimination effects all ages of LGBTQ individuals, and having a LGBTQ commission that is codified in Maryland will be the first step in supporting LGBTQ communities throughout our state.

HB0128 Criminal Law - Hate Crimes - Protected Groups and Penalties

The bill alters the term "sexual orientation" in the context of hate crimes; including gender identity in the list of characteristics on the basis of which a person may not commit certain acts. It also authorizes a court to require an offender convicted of hate crimes to complete an antibias education program in addition to any other penalties imposed and it requires the University System of Maryland to manage the development of an antibias education program.

Public Health

HB0548 Human Services - Trauma-Informed Care - Commission and Training

The bill helps to implement trauma-informed delivery of state services, which can help standardize and set the model for care delivery across the state. HB0458 also mandates at least two staff members several statewide agencies to participate in a formal course of trauma-informed care each year. Trauma-informed care is important to achieve reproductive justice for all communities, particularly communities of color. Trauma informed care helps to provide a nurturing environment for care and to establish understanding of how multiple traumas can affect an individual.

HB1202 Hospitals and Birth Centers - COVID-19 Visitation Policies - Doulas

The bill requires that a doula be authorized to be present with a birthing person during labor, delivery, and postpartum recovery under certain circumstances. It prohibits a doula from being considered a visitor under certain circumstances, since many hospitals have created policies during the pandemic saying that visitors aren't allowed. Doulas play a vital role in supporting birthing people and advocating for their needs, and HB1202 works to ensure that no person is forced to give birth alone.

Economic Security

HB0711 - Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Donations to Diaper Banks and Other Charitable Entities

HB 0711 will allow Marylanders to give in a meaningful and tangible way while also allowing diaper banks to keep their shelves stocked. The ability to parent with dignity is essential to the realization of reproductive freedom, and contributes to realizing plans to add to one's existing family. Encouraging and incentivizing giving to organizations that address diaper need in Maryland through income tax deductions is a small, but important step to ensure families have access to basic needs.

HB0375 Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2021)

This bill establishes the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program and FAMLI Fund to provide up to 12 weeks of benefits to a covered individual taking leave from employment due to caring for specified family members, the individual's own serious health condition, or a qualifying exigency arising out of a family member's military deployment. The bill includes the birth and care of a newborn child and the adoption or placement of a child which are key in terms of reproductive justice.

HB0257 Maryland Commission on Civil Rights - Employment Discrimination - Reporting

The bill requires the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights to include a review of certain data and recommendations, if any, for policy changes to address discriminatory trends noted in the data in its annual report. It requires certain county offices of civil rights to report certain information relating to complaints of employment discrimination to the Commission.

HJ0003 Commission to Establish a Maryland Women Veterans Memorial

The bill urges the Governor to create a certain commission with appropriate funding and authority for the purpose of establishing a Maryland Women Veterans Memorial that honors the service of women veterans of the State.