

https://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/continuing_coverage/annapolis_2017/a-look-at-some-of-the-local-bills-that-passed/article_ebe38bff-5b1c-596a-a90e-59522549f348.html

A look at some of the local bills that passed the Maryland General Assembly this session

By Danielle E. Gaines dgaines@newspost.com Apr 11, 2017

ANNAPOLIS — The Maryland General Assembly passed 935 bills and five resolutions during its 90-day session. Here are the bills introduced by Frederick County lawmakers that passed both chambers and now await action from Gov. Larry Hogan:

Delegate William Folden, R-District 3B

HB836 — adds the charge of common-law battery to the list of crimes eligible for expungement in the state. Expungement for common-law battery would be available 15 years after a conviction.

HB851 — expands housing protections for active-duty military members to include military spouses who have to move quickly because the military member has been reassigned to a new duty station.

HB1451 — which would reserve the left lane on three-lane roads for passing cars only was passed out of the House of Delegates, but failed to get a vote in a Senate committee.

Sen. Michael Hough, R-District 4

SB16 — streamlines the handgun permit application process by allowing buyers to provide their handgun qualification license number rather than having to provide a copy of the license.

SB666 — expands access to medical records by best-interest attorneys for senior citizens and minors.

Another bill from Hough that would have established a 10-year criminal sentence for those caught knowingly distributing fentanyl — SB619 — was put into a measure introduced by Gov. Larry Hogan (R) that was passed by the General Assembly.

Delegate Carol Krimm, D-District 3A

HB28 — extends the state's practice of using budget surpluses to pay down pension liabilities and also diverts surpluses to the state's post-retirement health benefits program.

HB269 — doubles the state's funding for the Housing Navigator and Aftercare Program in the Department of Human Resources to assist families and individuals who are experiencing, or are in imminent danger of, becoming homeless.

A bill that would have changed the leasing procedures for local Department of Social Services offices to give counties more input was heavily amended in the House of Delegates, where it passed, but was voted down by a Senate committee.

Delegate Karen Lewis Young, D-District 3A

HB584 — dubbed the "Right to Try Act," allows terminally ill patients expanded access to experimental medical treatments.

HB1093 — allows parents to compel medically required treatment at an intensive outpatient treatment program such as The Youth Ranch in Frederick County.

A bill that would have prohibited employers from asking about the past salaries of applicants was passed by the House of Delegates, but had a hearing canceled in the Senate after a cross-filed bill was voted down.

Delegate David E. Vogt III, R-District 4

HB1275 — requires each unit of state government to designate an employee as a “veterans’ services specialist.” Duties would include coordinating veterans’ services with the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs.

Another Vogt bill — to extend credit monitoring to students who have their identities stolen through school system data breaches — was referred to an “interim study.” That means lawmakers will examine the issue and make recommendations for the 2018 General Assembly session. This arises from the data breach that saw Frederick public school students’ data be available on the internet.

Sen. Ron Young, D-District 3

SB268 — restricts cownose ray fishing tournaments in the Chesapeake Bay for the next two years while the Maryland Department of Natural Resources creates a management plan for the rays.

SB713 — prohibits future sales of electric switches, relays or gas-valve switches containing mercury, which are the largest tonnage of mercury used in the United States.

SB327 — curbs “scholarship-award displacement” — when colleges pull back institutional financial aid awards if a student receives private scholarships. The bill would let students at public colleges keep institutional awards and private scholarships up to their federally defined level of financial need.

Follow Danielle E. Gaines on Twitter: @danielleegaines.

Follow Danielle E. Gaines on Twitter: @danielleegaines.

Danielle E. Gaines

Danielle E. Gaines covers politics and government in Frederick County, splitting her time between Winchester Hall and The State House. Having grown up in Illinois, she lived in New York and California before settling in Maryland.