

## 2017 Legislative Session Update

### Homelessness

<p>HB 172 SB 728</p>	<p>Home Act of 2017</p> <p>This bill would have prohibited landlords from discriminating against potential tenants based on their sources of income, including Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8), Veteran's HUD-VASH vouchers, alimony, and other sources of income.</p>	<p>Failed</p>
<p>HB 269 SB 531</p>	<p>Housing Navigator and Aftercare Program</p> <p>This bill will codify the Housing Navigator and Aftercare program, which already exists in several Maryland counties, and allocates additional funding to the program. This program will be housed in the Department of Housing and Community Development, along with the Bureau of Homeless Services which is being transferred from the Department of Human Resources.</p>	<p>Passed</p>
<p>HB 689 SB 813</p>	<p>Department of Housing and Community Development - Rental Assistance Programs - Duration of Assistance</p> <p>This bill specified that payments households through the Rental Allowance Program be made for not less than 4 consecutive years.</p>	<p>Failed</p>
<p>SB 625 HB1067</p>	<p>Public Schools and Shelters - Homeless Girls and Women - Feminine Hygiene Products</p> <p>This bill requires schools to provide free feminine hygiene products to girls experiencing homelessness in the school - provided by local county boards of education - as well as requires homeless shelters to provide free feminine hygiene products - provided by DHCD - to women experiencing homelessness residing in shelters.</p>	<p>Passed</p>

## Structural Changes

HB 103	<p>Department of Human Resources and Child Support Enforcement Administration - Renaming</p> <p>This bill updates the name of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to the Department of Human Services (DHS) and accordingly renames the Secretary of Human Resources as the Secretary of Human Services. The Child Support Enforcement Administration is also renamed to be the Child Support Administration.</p>	Passed
HB 134	<p>Homelessness and Supportive Services - Transfer to Department of Housing and Community Development</p> <p>This bill transfers the Bureau of Homeless Services - which is currently housed within the Department of Human Resources - to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Programs that are under the umbrella of the Bureau of Homeless Services that are being moved to DHCD include the Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Women's Shelter Crisis Home Program, Service-Linked Housing Program, Housing Counselors, and Emergency Transitional Housing Services.</p>	Approved by the Governor
HB 180 SB 82	<p>Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Renaming</p> <p>This bill updates the name of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and accordingly renames the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene as the Secretary of Health.</p>	Passed

## Collateral Bills

HB 1 SB 230	<p>Labor and Employment - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act</p> <p>This bill will allow workers in businesses with 15 or more employees to earn 1 hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked, up to 5 days a year. For employees in businesses with 14 or fewer employees, the leave is unpaid. The employee must work at least 12 hours/week to qualify, and the leave cannot be used in the first 106 days of employment.</p>	Passed
HB 1469 SB 1009	<p>Public Assistance - Family Investment Program - Child Support Pass Through</p> <p>This bill - starting in July 2019 - will allow the Department of Human Resources to pass through child support payments to families receiving Temporary Cash Assistance, and disregard these payments when calculating their benefit. Up to \$100/month will be passed through to TCA families with one child, and up to \$200/month will be passed through to TCA families with more than 1 child.</p>	Passed
HB 586 SB 278	<p>Maryland Farms and Families Act</p> <p>This bill creates the Maryland Farms and Families Program within the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). This program provides matching dollars to individuals receiving WIC and SNAP when they spend their benefits at local farmers markets. The bill also creates the Maryland Farms and Families Fund supported by an annual general fund appropriation of \$500,000, though the funding is not mandated and is subject to the limitations of the State budget.</p>	Passed

HB 694 SB 543	<p>Higher Education - Admissions Process - Criminal History (Maryland Fair Access to Education Act of 2017)</p> <p>This bill prohibits colleges and universities that receive State funds and use their own admissions application from asking about criminal histories. For colleges and universities that use the "common application", which contains questions about the criminal history of the applicant, the institution needs to posts a notice on its website stating that a criminal history does not disqualify an applicant from admission. The bill does not prohibit a student's criminal history to be considered for deciding access to campus residency, offering counseling and services, or deciding whether the student may participate in campus life activities.</p>	Passed
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