



Celebrating 50 Years of Advancing Justice

Dear Jessica,

Around the country, folks are celebrating March Madness and following their favorite basketball teams as the brackets narrow down to the Sweet Sixteen, Elite Eight, and eventually Final Four. But those of us following the Maryland General Assembly knew the real action was yesterday, Cross-Over Day, the day by which bills from either chamber must “cross-over” to the other in order to be considered for passage. While we will no doubt see significantly more than just these bills make it to law, take a look the Sweet Sixteen that are one step closer to the Governor’s desk.



2023 MD Legislative Session Sweet 16

Physical Safety

- HB4/SB129 - [Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense](#)
Sponsors: Delegate Crutchfield and Senator Kelly
Status: Passed House; Passed Senate
- HB297/SB292 - [Criminal Law - Victims of Child Sex Trafficking and Human Trafficking - Safe Harbor and Service Response](#)
Sponsors: Delegate Bartlett and Senator Waldstreicher
Status: Passed House; Passed Senate
- HB3/SB185 - [Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders](#)
Sponsors: Delegate Bartlett and Senator Beidle
Status: Passed House; Passed Senate
- HB630 - [Utility Account Holders - Victims of Abuse – Protections](#)
Sponsor: Delegate Queen
Status: Passed House

Economic Security

- HB14/SB 36 – [Family Law – Grounds for Divorce](#)

Sponsors: Delegate Atterbeary and Senator West
Status: Passed House; Passed Senate

- HB549/SB555 - [Fair Wage Act of 2023](#)

Sponsors: Speaker Jones and President Ferguson
Status: No committee vote in House; Passed Senate

- HB 988/SB828 - [Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Modifications](#)

Sponsors: Delegate Qi and Senator Hayes
Status: No committee vote in House; Passed Senate

- HB1050/SB756- [Access to Counsel in Evictions- Funding](#)

Sponsors: Delegate Taylor and Senator Guzzone
Status: No committee vote in House; Passed Senate

Bodily Autonomy

- HB705/SB798 - [Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom](#)

Sponsors: Speaker Jones and President Ferguson
Status: Passed House; Passed Senate

- HB477/SB341 - [Public Senior Higher Education Institutions - Reproductive Health Services Plans – Requirements](#)

Sponsors: Delegate Kelly and Senator Feldman
Status: Passed House; Passed Senate

- HB812/SB786 - [Health - Reproductive Health Services - Protected Information and Insurance Requirements](#)

Sponsors: Delegate Rosenberg and Senator Hettleman
Status: Passed House; Passed Senate

- HB808/SB859 - [Reproductive Health Protection Act](#)

Sponsors: Delegates Williams and Hill and Senator Smith
Status: No Committee vote in House; Passed Senate

Justice for All

- HB283/SB 460 - [Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender– Affirming Treatment \(Trans Health Equity Act\)](#)

Sponsors: Delegate Kaiser and Senator M. Washington
Status: Passed House; Passed Senate

- HB772/SB540 - [Human Relations - Civil Rights Enforcement - Powers of the Attorney General](#)

Sponsors: Speaker Jones and President Ferguson
Status: No committee vote in House; Passed Senate

- HB13/SB5 - [Hate Crimes – Civil Remedy](#)

Sponsors: Delegate Crutchfield and Senator Kramer
Status: Passed House; Passed Senate

- HB186/SB148 - [Victim Services Programs - Supplementing Federal Funding and Support \(Victim Services Stabilization Act\)](#)

Sponsors: Delegate Barnes and Senator Guzzone
Status: Passed House; Passed Senate



Contact the House Judiciary Committee, House Appropriations, & Committee on Economic Matters to ask for FAVORABLE votes on these essential pieces of legislation!

Contact members of Judiciary

- HB808/SB859 Reproductive Health Protection Act
- HB772/SB540 Human Relations- Civil Rights Enforcement- Powers of the Attorney General

Contact members of Economic Matters

- HB549/SB555 Fair Wage Act of 2023
- HB988/SB828 Family & Medical Leave Insurance Program- Modifications

Contact members of House Appropriations

- HB1050/SB756- Access to Counsel in Evictions- Funding

We need YOUR voice!

A number of priority bills still have necessary steps to move forward to the Governor's desk. Contact members of the [House Judiciary Committee](#), [House Appropriations](#), and [Economic Matters Committee](#) and ask them to vote FAVORABLY on these bills!

Not all bills crossed over...

Sadly, many more bills failed to make it this far and there are some we will need to revisit in future years, such as the ones listed below.

- HB832 - [Labor and Employment - Equal Pay for Equal Work - Wage Range Transparency](#)

Sponsor: Delegate Queen

- HB495/SB350 - [Early Childhood Development – Child Care Scholarship Program – Funding](#)

Sponsors: Delegate Solomon and Senator King

- HB181/SB197 - [Four-Day Workweek Pilot Program and Income Tax Credit – Established \(Four-Day Workweek Act of 2023\)](#)

Sponsors: Delegate Stewart and Senator Hettleman

- HB412 - [Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Consent and Second-Degree Rape](#)

Sponsor Delegate Shetty

Of course, there are still twenty days left in session and our work won't be done until the General Assembly adjourns *sine die* on April 10th. Some of the bills that passed one chamber were fighting an uphill battle in the other one. Some bills came out with different amendments that will need to be addressed and conformed. We will continue to let you know the status of these bills, and more, as well as what needs to be done to make it through to the finish line.

Onward together,

P.S. As always, if you appreciate the work we do, whether in the General Assembly or through our [direct legal services](#) across the State, [give here!](#) And if this email was forwarded to you by a friend, make sure to sign up for our legislative alerts [here!](#)

P.P.S. **Save the Date for the WLC's [Annual Celebration and Awards Ceremony on May 3rd at 6pm at Citron!](#)** Join us in presenting the Rosalyn B. Bell Award to Marla Zide, Esq.; the Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award to Robyn Elliott; and the Access to Justice

Award to Natasha M. Dartigue, Esq. and Debbie Feinstein, Esq. For more information or to buy tickets, click [HERE](#).

Have an event you'd like to share with us? Send us an [email!](#)

About The Women's Law Center of Maryland: The vision of the Women's Law Center of Maryland is a legal system that provides justice and fairness for women. The Women's Law Center's mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and autonomy of women throughout the State. We work towards this goal by providing direct legal representation, information and referral services, and legislative advocacy.

Our efforts to promote justice, fairness, and equality for women are only possible because of friends like you.

Give Today

The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. is a charitable organization designated as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). A copy of our financial statement is available upon request. Documents and information submitted under the State of Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State of Maryland, Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of copying and postage.



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