



Women's Law Center of Maryland

Celebrating 53 Years of Advancing Justice

What's happening in Annapolis this week?

The legislative session started on January 10th! The last four weeks have been full of incredible work from the movers and changemakers championing Women's Rights - our amazing partners!

Check out some incredible bills being heard this week to make a difference for Maryland women!

Tuesday February 6th:



HB301 Correctional Services- Diminution of a Term of Confinement- First-Degree rape and First-Degree Sexual Offense (The Pava Marie LePere Act)

will prohibit a person convicted of a first-degree rape and a first-degree sexual offense from being entitled to diminution of the incarcerated individual's term of confinement. An incarcerated person convicted of these two specific crimes will still be eligible for release by the Parole

Commission. This bill will end the existing law which allows for the mandatory release of these violent sex offenses.

HB301 will be heard on Tuesday, 2/6, at 1 pm!

Click below to email members of the Judiciary Committee and ask for a favorable vote.

Email Judiciary Committee Members to support HB301

HB575 Criminal Procedure-

Victim Compensation- Alterations (Victim Compensation Reform Act of 2024)

will create an accessible, non-discriminatory victim compensation process to support all victims of crime or their family members left behind. It will provide prompt and crucial financial support when needed most and remove unnecessary and arbitrary denials of financial relief for applicants for expenses incurred because of being a victim of crime. This bill also eliminates the

requirement that a victim report a crime within 48 hours (about two days) and that the victim must fully cooperate with law enforcement. Lastly, the bill reconstitutes the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to include more members with lived experiences and members who work directly with victims.

HB575 transforms the victim compensation process, ensuring **accessible & non-discriminatory support, removing hurdles, & incorporating diverse perspectives for a more equitable system.**

**The Women's Law Center
of Maryland supports
HB575**



HB575 will be heard on Tuesday, 2/6, at 1 pm!
Click below to email members of the Judiciary Committee and ask for a favorable vote.

Email Judiciary Committee Members to support HB301

Wednesday February 7th:

Ultimately, allowing incarcerated new mothers the ability to remain with their newborns **will help the hidden victims of crime, namely the children left behind.**

**The Women's Law Center
of Maryland supports
SB0071.**



SB0071 Correctional Services- Pregnancy and Postpartum Support (Prevention of Forced Infant Separation Act)

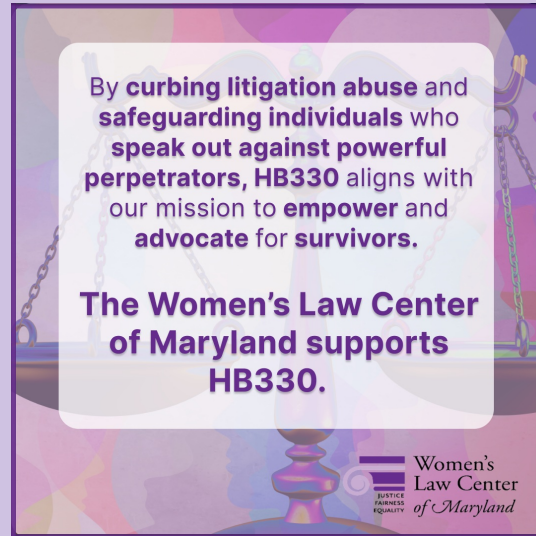
will create the Healthy Start Bonding Program within the Maryland correctional system, which will allow women who are on prerelease status and who have recently given birth to reside with their child in the prerelease unit for up to a year following the birth of their child. Currently, most incarcerated

women have less than 48 hours (about two days) with their newborns before the baby is forcibly separated from their mother.

SB0071 will be heard Wednesday, 2/7, at 1 pm!
**Click below to email members of the Judicial Proceedings
Committee and ask for a favorable vote.**

HB 330 Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP)

clarifies the exercise of Constitutional Rights to petition the Courts and exercise free speech by amending the existing law regarding SLAPP suits. SLAPP suits intentionally target survivors, whistleblowers, and advocates who speak out against powerful perpetrators, creating a chilling effect on other victims who may want to speak out to do the same. HB330 will prevent litigation abuse.



HB330 will be heard Wednesday, 2/7, at 2:30 pm!
Click below to email members of the Judiciary Committee and ask for a favorable vote.

Email Judiciary Committee Members to support HB330

We will provide updates on these bills and others we are working on as session progresses. In the meantime, don't forget to let [your legislators](#) know about what issues matter most to you!

Onward together,

Team WLC

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. If you're interested in getting even more information related to the state of reproductive rights, and the legislative package seeking to support abortion care in Maryland, follow the Marylanders for Reproductive Choice coalition, of which the WLC is a member of the steering committee! MRC is on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#): [@mdreprochoice!](#)

P.P.P.S. Save the Date for the WLC's Annual Celebration and Awards Ceremony on May 7th at 6pm at Citron!

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.



Women's Law Center | 102 W. Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 100, Towson, MD 21204

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