



**MARYLAND  
GRAIN PRODUCERS  
ASSOCIATION**

## **Maryland Grain Producers 2025RS End of Session Report**

### **HB 81 (SB 661) – Support - Did not Pass**

**Del. Nino Mangione**

#### **Real Property - Condemnation - Compensation for Farm and Agricultural Property (Protect Maryland Farm Lands Act)**

This bill, under Title 12 (“Eminent Domain”) of the Real Property Article, requires that the fair market value of property actively used for farm or agricultural purposes in a condemnation proceeding be 350% of the highest appraisal value of the property. The bill applies only to property that is actively used for farm or agricultural purposes as determined by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT), including property acquired by condemnation for the construction or maintenance of a transmission line. The bill applies retroactively and must be applied to and interpreted to affect any condemnation proceeding initiated on or after January 1, 2024.

### **HB 83 – Monitor - Did not Pass**

**Del. Regina Boyce**

#### **Environment - Tire Recycling Fee - Alterations**

Requiring the Department of the Environment, instead of the Board of Public Works, to establish a tire recycling fee to be imposed on the first sale of a new tire in the State by a tire dealer; requiring the Department to set the tire recycling fee at \$1 per tire beginning January 1, 2026; authorizing the Department to adjust the tire recycling fee for inflation every 2 fiscal years; and prohibiting the tire recycling fee from exceeding \$2 per tire.

### **HB 113 (SB 584) – Monitor - Did not Pass**

**Del. Natalie Ziegler**

#### **Civil Actions - Noneconomic Damages - Personal Injury and Wrongful Death**

This bill repeals the limitations (caps) on noneconomic damages in civil actions for personal injury or wrongful death and related provisions. The bill does not alter the caps on damages in medical malpractice cases, which are addressed in a different statute. The bill applies prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to any cause of action arising before October 1, 2025.

**HB 114 (SB 249) – Monitor - Passed**

**Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee**

**Pesticide and Pest Control - Revisions to Pesticide Applicator's Law and Repeal of Obsolete Provisions**

This departmental bill (1) eliminates the ability for a noncertified individual to do a commercial application of a restricted use pesticide under the supervision of a certified pest control applicator or certified public agency applicator and (2) establishes additional requirements that must be met in order for a noncertified individual to do a private application of a restricted use pesticide under the supervision of a certified private applicator. The bill also repeals provisions governing cyclodiene termiticides and antifouling paint containing a tributyltin compound.

**HB 140 (SB 176) – Monitor - Did not Pass**

**Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee**

**Agriculture - Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan - Uses of Information**

This departmental bill requires a supervisor (i.e., a member of the governing body of a soil conservation district) to make a soil conservation and water quality plan available to the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) for enforcement action under Title 8, Subtitle 8 of the Agriculture Article (the State's Nutrient Management Law).

**HB 173 – Monitor - Did not Pass**

**Del. Ryan Nawrocki**

**Baltimore County - Deer Management Program - Establishment**

Requiring the Department of Recreation and Parks of Baltimore County to establish a deer management program to manage the deer population on county parklands.

**HB 225 (SB 203) – Support - Passed**

**Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee**

**Vehicle Laws - Exceptional Hauling Permits for Farm Products**

This departmental bill simplifies and modifies the requirements for, and permissions associated with, exceptional hauling permits issued by the State Highway Administration (SHA) to haul farm products.

**HB 262 (SB 240) – Support - Passed**

**Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee**

**Department of Agriculture - Maryland Agricultural Commission and Young Farmers**

This departmental bill (1) alters the membership and appointment process of the Maryland Agricultural Commission (MAC) within the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA); (2) establishes the Committee on Young Farmers, staffed by MDA; and (3) repeals the Young Farmers Advisory Board within MDA. The bill also makes a conforming change to the statute establishing the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation board of trustees.

**HB 278 – Support - Did not Pass****Del. Christopher Bouchat****Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Enhanced Agricultural Management Equipment**

This bill expands the existing Maryland income tax subtraction modification for purchase and installation costs of enhanced agricultural management equipment to include purchase and installation costs of equipment (other than eligible equipment specified under existing law) that the Secretary of Agriculture determines by regulation to qualify as enhanced agricultural management equipment.

**HB 386 (SB 345) – Oppose - Did not Pass****Del. Sheila Ruth****Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions**

This bill establishes provisions relating to the use and registration of pesticides that contain PFAS chemicals. Specifically, the bill requires the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to develop and maintain a list of each “PFAS pesticide” that is registered with the Secretary of Agriculture under Title 5, Subtitle 1 of the Agriculture Article (Maryland Pesticide Registration and Labeling Law). By January 1, 2032, MDA must post the list on its website and distribute it to all certified applicators. In consultation and agreement with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), MDA may list additional PFAS chemicals, as specified. Beginning June 1, 2032, (1) a person may not use a PFAS pesticide that is listed by MDA at specified locations or for specified activities (and MDA must notify certified applicators of that prohibition before it takes effect); (2) MDA may not register a PFAS pesticide for sale in the State; and (3) a person may not use a PFAS pesticide in the State.

**HB 471 – Monitor - Did not Pass****Del. Brian Chisholm****Agricultural Land and Programs - Scrutinized Entities**

This bill prohibits specified individuals and entities associated with certain embargoed countries from purchasing agricultural land in the State or participating in State agricultural programs that are unrelated to regulatory requirements for food or food safety. The bill terminates as of the effective date of a federal law that no longer authorizes the states to adopt and enforce provisions of the type authorized under the bill.

**HB 483 – Support - Did not Pass****Del. Natalie Ziegler****Income Tax Credit - Venison Donation - Alterations**

This bill repeals the \$300 limit on the amount of venison donation tax credits an individual may claim against the State income tax for any tax year.

**HB 506 (SB 428) – Support - Passed****Del. Adrienne Jones****Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act**

This Administration bill makes changes to State law relating to (1) a Maryland Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming (LEEF) Program; (2) regenerative practices and traditions, and healthy soils; (3) finfish harvested and processed by ike jime; (4) water quality monitoring; (5) fishery management plans; (6) aquaculture leases; (7) the Whole Watershed Restoration Partnership; (8) water quality trading; and (9) stream and floodplain restoration project requirements.

**HB 631 (SB 189) – Support - Did not Pass**

**Del. Michele Guyton**

**Eminent Domain - Agricultural and Conservation Easements - Prohibited Taking**

This bill, under Title 12 (“Eminent Domain”) of the Real Property Article, prohibits the State or any of its instrumentalities or political subdivisions from taking, by eminent domain, privately owned property that is subject to a perpetual agricultural or conservation easement.

**HB 645 – Monitor - Did not Pass**

**Del. Michele Guyton**

**Transmission Line Siting - Comprehensive Plan, Recommendation, and Reporting Requirements**

This bill requires each county (including Baltimore City) to add an electric system planning element to its comprehensive plan, which, to minimize the impact of future transmission line development in the State, must conform to a list of specifications laid out in the bill. Additionally, the bill requires that, before taking final action on an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the construction of a new overhead transmission line, the Public Service Commission (PSC) must take into consideration (1) any existing infrastructure, rights-of-way, or transmission line corridors the applicant considered and (2) the recommendation of each affected county or municipality as to whether existing infrastructure, rights-of-way, or transmission line corridors can be used to accomplish the applicant’s goal rather than constructing a new overhead transmission line. The bill contains multiple related reporting requirements. The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.

**HB 650 (SB 563) – Monitor - Did not Pass**

**Del. Jesse Pippy**

**Maryland Fair and Agricultural Education Promise Fund - Establishment (Maryland Fair and Agricultural Education Promise Act)**

This bill establishes the Maryland Fair and Agricultural Education Promise Fund to advance agricultural fairs and education in the State. The bill requires that \$1.45 million of proceeds from the State Lottery Fund be distributed to the new special fund beginning in fiscal 2026. The bill repeals requirements that specified amounts from the State horse racing special fund be used to promote State agricultural fairs and education. The bill takes effect June 1, 2025.

**HB 657 (SB 483) – Monitor - Did not Pass**

**Del. Jesse Pippy**

**Public Utilities - Alternatives to Construction of New Transmission Lines**

This bill modifies and expands the circumstances under which the Public Service Commission (PSC) must examine alternatives to the construction of a new transmission line in a service area as part of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) process. PSC must examine these alternatives if the use of an alternative is (1) convenient to the service area; (2) will best promote economic and efficient service to the public; (3) will best maintain historical, environmental, or agricultural preservation areas; or (4) will avoid any overlap with a lot, parcel, or tract of land that is located within a planned growth area identified in the local jurisdiction’s comprehensive plan or zoned for residential use (or mixed use with a residential component). The bill specifies that alternatives to the construction of a new transmission line include the use of an existing transmission line of another company, the use of an existing right-of-way, reconductoring an existing transmission line, or undergrounding a transmission line. In considering the use an alternative, PSC does not need to consider whether the company that owns the line has a franchise in a service area.

**HB 739 (SB 478) – Support - Did not Pass**

**Del. Jefferson Ghrist**

**Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Stations - Local Approval**

This bill specifies that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Public Service Commission (PSC) may not approve a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for a solar energy generating station unless each county or municipality where any portion of the generating station is proposed to be located has provided PSC with written approval for the construction of the generating station.

**HB 741 (SB 634) – Support with Amendments - Did not Pass**

**Del. Nick Allen**

**Hunting - Nonlead Ammunition, Fox Chasing, and Deer Management**

This bill establishes a Deer Management Assistance Program within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to educate and assist farmers with deer management and hunting on private land and requires a permanent, classified position to administer the program. The bill also (1) requires DNR to phase in a requirement that nonlead ammunition be used for hunting of all game species, by July 1, 2029 (with the phase-in beginning July 1, 2026), and (2) requires a person who participates in unarmed fox chasing to possess a resident or nonresident full season hunting license.

**HB 742 (SB 640) – Support - Did not Pass**

**Del. Jefferson Ghrist**

**Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Stations - Eminent Domain**

This bill prohibits a person from exercising a right of condemnation in connection with the construction of a solar energy generating station in the State.

**HB 766 – Support - Did not Pass**

**Del. Charles Otto**

**Wildlife Advisory Commission - Membership - Alterations**

This bill requires that a member of the Wildlife Advisory Commission appointed to represent the farming community be selected from a list of candidates provided by the Maryland Farm Bureau.

**HB 834 (SB 806) – Oppose - Did not Pass**

**Del. Jen Terrasa**

**Agriculture - Confinement of Egg-Laying Hens in Commercial Egg Production - Prohibitions**

This bill prohibits, beginning January 1, 2030, knowing confinement of an “egg-laying hen” in an enclosure that is not a “cage-free housing system” and does not meet specified space requirements. The bill also prohibits the sale of shell eggs or egg products were produced in a manner inconsistent with that prohibition. The Secretary of Agriculture must administer and enforce the bill’s provisions and adopt implementing regulations by July 1, 2027. Specified enforcement provisions are established.

**HB 842 – Support - Did not Pass****Del. Kevin Hornberger****Consumer Protection - Right to Repair - Farm Equipment**

This bill requires an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) to make available, on fair and reasonable terms, certain documentation, parts, and tools (inclusive of any updates) to an independent repair provider (or owner) of farm equipment to allow for the diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of the farm equipment. Any contractual agreement purporting to waive, avoid, or limit a farm equipment manufacturer's compliance with the bill is void. A farm equipment manufacturer is prohibited from knowingly misrepresenting or withholding farm equipment part numbers from a customer for the purpose of preventing the customer from shopping for a competitive price on a replacement part. The bill only applies prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to abrogate, interfere with, contradict, or alter the terms of any contract that is executed between an authorized repair provider and a farm equipment manufacturer before the bill's effective date. Violation of the bill is an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act (MCPA), subject to MCPA's civil and criminal penalty provisions.

**HB 909 (SB 732) – Monitor - Did not Pass****Del. Dana Stein****Sewage Sludge Utilization Permits - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances - Concentration Limits**

This bill requires a sewage sludge utilization (SSU) permit issued or renewed by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for the land application of sewage sludge to agricultural land to limit the total concentration of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) to the lesser of (1) one microgram per kilogram ( $\mu\text{g/kg}$ ); (2) the level established in health-based standards adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); or (3) the level established in regulations adopted by MDE pursuant to the bill. Compliance must be demonstrated by performing an analysis of a sample of the entire quantity of sewage sludge to be land applied, as specified. MDE may adopt regulations to establish (1) PFOS and PFOA concentration limits that are more stringent than those established in the bill and (2) concentration limits for per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other substances that are not listed in the bill.

**HB 1024 (SB 958) – Support - Did not Pass****Del. Thomas Hutchinson****Agriculture - Catastrophic Damage Caused by Deer**

This bill authorizes the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to take extraordinary measures to control the local deer population and prevent future crop loss if it determines that deer have caused catastrophic damage to a field. The bill defines "catastrophic damage" as the loss of 50% or more of crops from a single field. MDA must adopt regulations to implement the bill.

**HB1036 (SB931) Oppose – Passed****Del. C.T. Wilson****Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act)**

Altering the factors the Public Service Commission must consider before taking final action on a certificate of public convenience and necessity; establishing a distributed generation certificate of public convenience and necessity to authorize the construction and operation of a certain distributed solar energy generating system; requiring the Power Plant Research Program, by July 1, 2026, to develop and submit to the Commission proposed siting and design requirements and licensing conditions; etc.

**HB 1175 (SB 898) – Oppose - Did not Pass**

**Del. Dana Stein**

**Nutrient Management - Tidal Buffer - Vegetative Buffers and Restriction on Fertilizer Application**

This bill expands and/or establishes State incentives for participation in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and for installation of fixed natural buffers within the 100-foot tidal buffer. The bill also establishes that a nutrient management plan renewed on or after July 1, 2025, may not allow application of fertilizer within 100 feet of tidal waters/wetlands.

**HB 1342 (SB 932) – Oppose - Did not Pass**

**Del. Mary Lehman**

**Pesticide and Pest Control - State-Owned Property - Pesticide Use Restrictions and Pollinator Habitat**

This bill authorizes the application of certain “listed pesticides” and restricts the application of certain “registered pesticides” on State-owned property. The bill also requires the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to develop a model pesticide and pollinator habitat management plan to be implemented on State-owned and managed property, as specified. In coordination with MDA, State government units that manage tracts of State-owned property must adapt the model plan to meet the specific needs of each individual tract of land.

**HB 1345 (SB 990) – Support - Did not Pass**

**Del. Jay Jacobs**

**Consumer Protection - Agricultural Equipment Warranties**

This bill requires, for purposes of making a claim under a warranty for “agricultural equipment,” a consumer to provide written notice (i.e., to a manufacturer or factory branch) to report a nonconformity, defect, or condition occurring in the equipment. The bill also establishes numerous procedures for remedying a nonconformity, defect, or condition. A consumer who suffers a loss because of a violation of a provision of the bill may bring a civil action to enforce the provision, as specified. In addition to any other remedies that may be available under the bill, if a manufacturer or factory branch or its agent or authorized distributor is found to have acted in bad faith, the court may award the consumer damages of up to \$10,000. The bill may not be construed to limit or impair a right or remedy that is otherwise available to a consumer under any other law. The bill only applies prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on (or application to) any agricultural equipment (as defined by the bill) purchased before the bill’s effective date. Violation of the bill is an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act (MCPA), subject to MCPA’s civil and criminal penalty provisions.

**HB 1511 (SB 736) – Support - Did not Pass**

**Del. Sheila Ruth**

**Natural Resources - Wildlife Damage Prevention and Reimbursement Fund - Establishment**

This bill establishes a Wildlife Damage Prevention and Reimbursement Fund in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide (1) reimbursement for damage caused by deer, geese, and other wildlife to crops and other agricultural products and (2) grants for projects to prevent damage caused by deer, geese, or other wildlife.

**SB 778 – Support - Withdrawn**

**Sen. Jason Gallion**

**Environment - Building Energy Performance Standards - Agricultural Buildings**

Prohibiting the Department of the Environment from requiring an owner, lessor, lessee, or operator of an agricultural building to apply to the Department for an exemption from certain building energy performance standards.

**SB 955 – Support - Did not Pass**

**Sen. Chris West**

**Overhead Transmission Lines - Eminent Domain**

This bill prohibits condemnation of property encumbered by a conservation easement for the purpose of constructing an overhead transmission line. The bill also requires that a reasonable counsel fee be awarded to counsel for the defendant in a condemnation proceeding if the final decision, or final decision on appeal, is that the assessed value of the property is greater than the appraised value placed on the property by the condemning authority. Finally, the bill allows for owners of nearby residential or agricultural property to bring an action for damages for diminished value of their property due to condemnation of property for an overhead transmission line or related infrastructure.