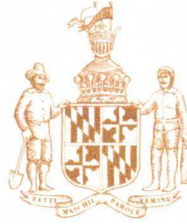


KENT ROBERSON  
Legislative District 25  
Prince George's County

Ways and Means Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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## THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Dear District 25 Resident,

I am writing at the close of this year's 448th Legislative Session to share encouraging updates about the work we've done on your behalf. Throughout this session, we remained focused on ensuring that Maryland continues to be a safe, just, and affordable place to live. We addressed the state's budget deficit while preserving essential programs and services—all without raising taxes. We also advanced measures to counteract federally implemented racial profiling and unconstitutional actions carried out by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). We strengthened our investments in public education and took meaningful steps to address the rising energy crisis that is impacting many families in our community. At a time when so much feels uncertain, I am proud that our legislature has enacted policies that protect and support our residents.

This year marked my third legislative session, and I was honored to be appointed Chair of the Local Revenues Subcommittee. In this role, I have worked to position our county for economic growth by supporting tax credits designed to attract and sustain small businesses, bringing much-needed revitalization to our community. This includes overseeing the Tax Incremental Financing bill which is paving the way for the Sphere coming to National Harbor. As Chair, I also advanced legislation promoting urban agriculture tax credits and the expansion of agrivoltaics—the integration of farming with community solar energy generation. These bills have passed both chambers and now await the Governor's signature.

I have continued to champion the restoration of jury service rights for formerly incarcerated individuals, ensuring that they can fully reintegrate into society and serve as peers in the administration of justice. This effort aligns with broader criminal justice reforms enacted this session, including changes to longstanding automatic sentencing practices that have resulted in children as young as fourteen being charged and housed as adults.

Additionally, with the help of Delegates Roberts, Toles, and Senator Charles, we secured more than \$10,000,000 in Legislative Bond Initiatives and capital funds to support our municipalities and community-based organizations, enabling them to continue their vital work on behalf of District 25.

With the session now concluded, I look forward to seeing you throughout the community. If your organization is hosting an event, my office would welcome the opportunity to attend. I also want to remind students residing in District 25 to visit [kentroberson.org](http://kentroberson.org) and apply for my legislative scholarship.

It remains an honor to represent you in Annapolis. If you have questions, concerns, or thoughts about issues affecting our community, please contact my office at 4108413557 or email [kent.roberson@house.maryland.gov](mailto:kent.roberson@house.maryland.gov). My team and I are here to assist you.

Yours in Service,  
Delegate Kent A. Roberson

# Legislation sponsored by Delegate Roberson during the 2026 Session of the Maryland General Assembly

## HB359

### Property Tax Credit - Urban Agricultural Property – Alterations

This bill first alters the definition of urban agriculture property and purposes by removing outdated qualifications for what constitutes urban agriculture property based on dimensions and location restrictions. Rather it places a clear standard that assesses whether the property is agricultural land and actively used for urban agriculture. Furthermore, this bill expands eligible activities to include indoor and outdoor crop production, value added agricultural products, beekeeping, livestock, composting, pollinator habitat creation, agricultural education, and agritourism. These changes accurately represent the full scope of modern urban farming.

## HB414

### Courts - Jury Service – Disqualification

Under current law, individuals convicted of a crime and sentenced to more than one year in prison are disqualified from serving on a jury. This further separates these individuals from the communities they seek to reintegrate into after their release.

Allowing those who have been convicted of a crime to serve on a jury would also answer the demand for qualified jurors.

This legislation addresses gaps in opportunities for those who have served their time while also expanding Maryland's pool of jurors. Supporting their re-entry into society includes allowing them to serve on juries, which fosters a sense of belonging and civic responsibility.

## HB734

### Property Tax - Agricultural Use Assessment - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems

This bill updates the current statute on Agrivoltaics so that farmers developing community solar projects may continue to qualify for tax credits that will subsidize farmers' efforts to keep working the land, maintain soil health, and produce food while also generating clean electricity.

Agrivoltaics projects also help bring much needed income to small farms, helping them to stay in business and continue growing products that feed out communities.

# Legislation Affecting You In 2026

## Immigration

At the start of this session, we passed [HB444](#) barring local law enforcement agencies from entering into 287(g) agreements—or any similar contracts—that deputize local officers to perform the work of federal immigration agents. This bill also requires counties with existing agreements to terminate them immediately. With this bill we took a major step to combat the inhumane actions we have seen the federal government and ICE agents take against people in our own communities and across the state.

Along with this bill we passed [The Maryland Values Act of 2026](#), which updates school policies by requiring public school employees such as teachers, administrators, and school resource officers to alert the local superintendent if they are aware of immigration enforcement taking place at their school. The bill also keeps students and families safe by barring school employees from sharing data about students and families for purposes of immigration enforcement.

## Energy

Marylanders are facing rising energy costs driven by the convergence of several forces — rapidly rising demand, delays in bringing new power online, and shifting national policies.

This is a regional challenge requiring regional and national solutions. The PJM grid covers 67 million people across 13 states, and no single state can solve these pressures alone. But Maryland is using every tool available to lower costs, increase supply, protect ratepayers, and affirm our commitment to clean energy goals.

[HB1532](#), the Utility RELIEF (Reducing Energy Load Inflation for Everyday Families) Act, is a package of bills that builds on the 2025 Next Generation Energy Act and is grounded in four priorities: protecting ratepayers, ensuring reliability as demand grows, advancing clean energy, and preserving programs that reduce costs over time.

Alongside the Utility RELIEF Act, the state will be investing: \$100 million to pay EmPOWER Program costs, resulting in significant rate relief; \$37 million to partially offset ratepayer costs in Limited Income Program; \$73 million for heat pumps for low- and moderate-income households; \$10 million for HVAC upgrades in public schools; \$20 million for Solar on State Facilities; \$42 million in Higher Education Research Grants over three years; \$3 million for the Power Plant Assessment Program within DNR to assist with the review of renewable and clean energy projects; and \$24 million for MD Clean Energy Center's Climate Catalytic Capital Fund, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change .

## Criminal Justice

In response to the large percentage of Maryland juveniles who are tried in adult court, we have passed SB 323 which removes seven offenses (six of which are handgun misdemeanor offenses) from the list of 33 offenses that automatically sends children into adult courts. SB 323 would raise the age when a youth could be tried as an adult for most crimes from 14 to 16, but 14- and 15-year-olds charged with first-degree murder or rape would still go directly to adult court. It also says 16-year-olds charged with offenses such as first-degree assault and some firearms offenses would remain in juvenile court.

This bill attempts to protect youths who would otherwise be tried as and housed with adults in correctional facilities, even before they have been convicted of a crime.

## Education

As the federal government continues to cut funding for childcare and education, we have worked to reinvest \$20 million to erase the waitlist for the Child Care Scholarship, opening the door for approximately 3,700 additional families to access affordable care, to support their children's development, and enable more parents to enter or remain in the workforce.

Furthermore, we have introduced and passed the [Maryland Phone-Free Schools Act](#) which is aimed at both promoting attention while learning, but also protecting students from predatory platforms and bad actors online who take advantage of the unsupervised internet time.

## Budget

Maryland is confronting the real consequences of federal actions that have displaced tens of thousands of workers, reduced funding for critical programs, and created economic uncertainty for our residents. In response, the House worked closely with the Senate and the Governor's Office to develop a budget that meets this moment.

This budget directly addresses our fiscal challenges while continuing to move Maryland forward by making strategic investments in transportation, education, social services, public safety, and economic development. It achieves that balance through disciplined cost containment and strong accountability measures, without raising taxes on hardworking Marylanders.

## Housing

The state is making targeted budget investments to expand access to safe, affordable housing by increasing funding for new construction, preservation of existing units, and support services that stabilize households. To accomplish this, we have made allocations designed to address rising demand, reduce housing insecurity, and strengthen longterm community resilience. These include: \$384 million to support low-income rental assistance, helping keep affordable housing units stable and accessible; \$42 million to support low-income rental assistance for households in designated rural communities, expanding access to safe and affordable housing; 48 million for the Division of Homeless Solutions, which supports homeless services and prevention, shelter, emergency rental assistance, and permanent supportive housing; and \$25 million for the Homeownership Program to provide down payment assistance to home buyers who finance mortgages through the Maryland Mortgage Program.

## Healthcare

The budget makes significant, forwardlooking investments to strengthen Maryland's health care system and ensure residents of all ages can access the care and support they need. To help older adults live with dignity and independence, the state is investing \$20.1 million to support roughly 4,000 seniors through assisted living subsidies, inhome services for congregate housing placements, and financial assistance for individuals living independently. To expand health care access more broadly, the budget provides \$14 billion for Medicaid and the Maryland Children's Health Program, which deliver medical assistance to 1.47 million lowincome families, and allocates \$44.2 million to the worldrenowned Maryland Shock Trauma Center, which maintains a 95% patient survival rate as a global leader in trauma care.

The budget also strengthens behavioral health services with \$3.92 million for the Public Behavioral Health System, which treated 330,000 individuals with specialty behavioral health services in FY 2024. In addition, the state continues its deep commitment to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by investing \$3.3 billion (including federal matching funds) to support more than 19,000 people receiving home and communitybased care through a unique federal option that allows support for family caregivers. However, rapid cost growth in recent years has threatened the federal requirement that communitybased services remain costneutral compared to institutional care. To protect the longterm sustainability of this essential program, the budget includes thoughtful, targeted costcontainment measures that reduce proposed cuts from \$150 million to \$127 million, while also providing a \$23.1 million restoration, the largest program restoration in the entire state budget for FY 2027. These actions ensure that the system remains stable, equitable, and capable of serving Marylanders for years to come.

For the full list of bills passed by the General Assembly please visit:

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite>