



**Committee:** Directly to Council  
**Committee Review:** N/A  
**Staff:** Wellons, Chen, McCartney-Green, Ndou  
**Purpose:** Final action – vote expected

**Agenda Item #1**  
February 7, 2022

## **SUBJECT**

2022 Legislative Session, Maryland General Assembly

## **EXPECTED ATTENDEES**

Melanie Wenger, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR)  
Kathleen Boucher, OIR  
Sara Morningstar, OIR  
Leslie Frey, OIR  
Jason Mathias, OIR  
Ed Lattner, Chief, Division of Government Operations, Office of the County Attorney

## **COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Review and take positions on General Assembly bills.

## **DESCRIPTION/ISSUE**

The Council will review pending State bills and, if desired, take positions on the bills.

## **SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS**

Determine whether to support, support with amendments, take no position on, hold, or oppose the following State bills:

### Public Safety

- [HB 425 / SB 387](#): Public Safety – Untraceable Firearms

### Health and Human Services

- [HB 517 / SB 460](#): Consumer Health Access Program for Mental Health and Addiction Care –Establishment
- [HB 533 / SB 523](#): Occupations and Professions – Licenses, Certificates, and Registration – Immigrants

### Fiscal Health / Education

- [HB 685 / SB 448](#): Education – Regional Resource Centers and Libraries – Funding

### Cybersecurity / Education

- [HB 24 / SB 4](#): Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment

**This report contains:**

Chart of State Bills (with Council Staff recommendations)

©1

Memorandum from OIR (with detailed bill descriptions and context)

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State Bill Review  
February 7, 2022

Bill Number	Bill Title	Subject matter	Attorneys/ Analysts	Staff Rec.	Attorney/Analyst Comments
HB 425 / SB 387	Public Safety – Untraceable Firearms (The Speaker (By Request - Office of the Attorney General) and Delegate Lopez; The President (By Request - Office of the Attorney General) and Senator Lee)	Public Safety	Wellons	Staff Reommends Support	The bill would prohibit purchasing, receiving, selling, offering to sell, or transferring an unfinished frame or receiver without a serial number imprinted by a federally licensed firearms manufacturer or importer. The bill would be consistent with the County Council's efforts to restrict the use of "ghost guns" in the County under Council Bill 4-21, which the County enacted unanimously in 2021.
HB 517 / SB 460	Consumer Health Access Program for Mental Health and Addiction Care –Establishment (Delegate R. Lewis; Senator Augustine)	Health and Human Services	McMillan/ Yao	Staff Reommends Support	The bill would establish a state pilot program utilizing a hub and spoke model (consisting of a university and non-profit entities) to help consumers (both uninsured and those with private or public insurance) and health care providers navigate and resolve issues related to health plan enrollment and coverage, consumer access to mental health and substance use disorder services, and enforcement of rights under mental health parity laws. The Program will be a three-year pilot. Staff believes that the bill is consistent with the County's priorities regarding the equitable delivery of health care to residents.

State Bill Review  
February 7, 2022

<p><u>HB 533 / SB 523</u></p>	<p>Occupations and Professions – Licenses, Certificates, and Registration – Immigrants (Delegates Pena-Melnyk, B. Barnes, Lehman, Love, Shetty, Terrasa, and Valentino-Smith; Senator Kagan)</p>	<p>Health and Human Services</p>	<p>McMillan/ Yao</p>	<p>Staff Reommends Support</p>	<p>The bill would prohibit a State occupational or professional licensing board from denying an occupational or professional license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual otherwise meets all educational, training, or professional requirements for licensure, certification, or registration.</p>
<p><u>HB 685 / SB 448</u></p>	<p>Education – Regional Resource Centers and Libraries – Funding (Delegates C. Branch, Amprey, Attar, Ebersole, Foley, Henson, Jackson, D. Jones, R. Lewis, McIntosh, Palakovich Carr, and Smith; Senator King)</p>	<p>Fiscal Health / Education / Libraries</p>	<p>Wellons</p>	<p>Staff Reommends Support</p>	<p>The bills increase per capita State funding for public libraries and regional resource centers in each of the next five fiscal years. For county libraries, the per capita funding increases from \$17.10 per resident in fiscal 2022 to \$20.00 per resident in fiscal 2027 and each year thereafter. Increased funding for public libraries and regional resource centers supports County priorities, including inclusive access to job information and education.</p>

State Bill Review  
 February 7, 2022

<p><u>HB 24 / SB 4</u></p>	<p>Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment□□ (Senator Hester)</p>	<p>Cybersecurity</p>	<p>Toregas</p>	<p>Staff Reommends Support</p>	<p>The bills expand the existing Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program (Scholarship Program) and create a new Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program (Loan Repayment Program). In particular, students would be able to fulfill the cybersecurity work requirement of the programs - not only at state agencies - but also at local governments, public high schools, or community colleges. The bill aligns with the County's priority to increase funding for cybersecurity programs.</p>
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## OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Marc Elrich  
County Executive

Melanie Wenger  
Director

February 7, 2022

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Montgomery County Council

FROM: Melanie L. Wenger, Director *MLW*  
Office of Intergovernmental Relations

SUBJECT: Discussion: State Legislation

#### UPDATE

- Update on the 2022 Session
- Local Bond Initiatives introduced to date at number 1

#### State Legislation

1. **HB 24 / SB 4: Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment**  
(Senator Hester)

**Bill summary:** The bills expand the existing Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program (Scholarship Program) and create a new Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program (Loan Repayment Program). The Scholarship Program is expanded to allow a full-time student to hold an award for a maximum of 3 years, rather than 2 years, and to allow a part-time student to hold an award for a maximum of 6 years. The Office of Student Financial Assistance at the Maryland Higher Education Commission is given authority to determine prorated awards for part-time students. Currently, an award recipient is required to work for a State agency in a cybersecurity field for the same number of years that the recipient held the award. The bills allow a recipient to meet the work requirement through employment in the cybersecurity field

with a county or municipal government, public high school (including teaching), or community college (including teaching). The new Loan Repayment Program will assist in the repayment of higher education loans for individuals who are employed in the cybersecurity field with the same employers who qualify under the Scholarship Program. The Office of Student Financial Assistance is required to adopt regulations governing the application process, system of prioritizing applicants, and maximum amount of loan repayment award.

2. **HB 685 / SB 448: *Education – Regional Resource Centers and Libraries – Funding*** (Delegates C. Branch, Amprey, Attar, Ebersole, Foley, Henson, Jackson, D. Jones, R. Lewis, McIntosh, Palakovich Carr, and Smith; **Senator King**)

**Bill summary:** The bills increase per capita State funding for public libraries and regional resource centers in each of the next five fiscal years. For county libraries, the per capita funding increases from \$17.10 per resident in fiscal 2022 to \$20.00 per resident in fiscal 2027 and each year thereafter. In fiscal 2022, the Montgomery County public library system received \$3.5 million in State aid.

3. **HB 425 / SB 387: *Public Safety – Untraceable Firearms*** (The Speaker (By Request - Office of the Attorney General) and **Delegate Lopez**; **The President** (By Request - Office of the Attorney General) and **Senator Lee**)

**Bill summary:** The bills expand the definition of “firearm” to include an unfinished frame or receiver, described as a forged, cast, printed, extruded, or machined body or similar article that has reached a stage where it could be used as parts of a functional firearm and is marketed or sold as such, once completed, assembled, or converted. The bills prohibit purchasing, receiving, selling, offering to sell, or transferring an unfinished frame or receiver without a serial number imprinted by a federally licensed firearms manufacturer or importer. Also, beginning January 1, 2023, they prohibit possessing any firearm without a serial number imprinted by a federally licensed firearms manufacturer or importer, as prescribed in the bills. Any person convicted of a violating these provisions is subject to up to three years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000. The effective date of HB 425/SB 387 is June 1, 2022.

4. **HB 517 / SB 460: *Consumer Health Access Program for Mental Health and Addiction Care –Establishment*** (Delegate R. Lewis; **Senator Augustine**)

**Bill summary:** The bills create a collaborative program between the University of Maryland Baltimore School of Social Work Center for Addiction Research, Education, and Services (the “incubator” entity under the bills); a private, community-based non-profit organization or public university located in Maryland (the “hub” entity); and private, community-based non-profit organizations located in eight regions across the state (the eight “spoke” entities).

The incubator and hub entities administer the Consumer Health Access Program for Mental Health and Addiction Care (the Program) and its funding. Under the bills, the Governor is required to appropriate \$1M for the Program for fiscal years 2024-2026 and the Program may seek additional private or public funding.

The Program utilizes a hub and spoke model to help consumers (both uninsured and those with private or public insurance) and health care providers navigate and resolve issues related to health plan enrollment and coverage, consumer access to mental health and substance use disorder services, and enforcement of rights under mental health parity laws. The Program will be a three-year pilot, and will consist of:

- Outreach, education, and assistance to consumers regarding insurance enrollment and access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment;
- a toll-free helpline and online assistance portal available to consumers, health care providers and individuals within the State's behavioral health crisis response system to enable access to the services of the Program;
- assistance with and representation of consumers in the filing of complaints;
- coordination with state agencies to promote greater access to mental health and substance use disorder services and resolution of consumer complaints;
- data collection and analysis of program utilizers to address disparities in accessing mental health and substance use disorder services by race, ethnicity, and gender;
- identifying trends and gaps in coverage of and access to mental health and substance use disorder services and violations of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act;
- recommending policies and practices to resolve deficiencies in coverage and access to services;
- conducting advocacy with State agencies and the General Assembly to address systemic issues; and
- issuing an annual report.

The eight spoke entities will be contracted with the hub entity to provide consumer assistance services. The hub and incubator entities will operate the Program, including establishing the Program and facilitating its implementation. The bills have considerations for providing services that meet the cultural and linguistic needs of consumers and that utilize best practices such as peer service delivery, multiple service delivery modalities, and ensuring the consumer assistance services include and represent the diversity of the population of the State across many demographics. The bills empower the Program to obtain appropriate records from insurers, providers, and state agencies upon consent of the consumer as necessary to enable the Program to assist with consumer complaints.



These bills touch on the County priority to support all efforts to implement a Statewide plan to address the shortage of inpatient mental health treatment beds.

5. **[HB 533](#) / [SB 523](#): *Occupations and Professions – Licenses, Certificates, and Registration – Immigrants* (Delegates Pena-Melnyk, B. Barnes, Lehman, Love, Shetty, Terrasa, and Valentino-Smith; **Senator** Kagan)**

**Bill summary:** The bills prohibit a State occupational or professional licensing board from denying an occupational or professional license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual otherwise meets all educational, training, or professional requirements for licensure, certification, or registration.

These bills further the County priority to increase the number of linguistically and culturally competent health care, behavioral health, and social services professionals, including efforts to reduce unnecessary professional licensure barriers.

Additional information:

Link to the Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental website:  
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oir/>.

Link to the Maryland General Assembly website:  
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frm1st.aspx?tab=home>.

Link to the Montgomery County Delegation website which allows you to access the text of all local and bi-county bills: <http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/legislation.html>.

Link to the Montgomery County Association of Counties (MACo) website:  
<https://www.mdcounties.org/>

**Montgomery County 2021 Bond Initiatives**  
**As of 2/3/2022**  
**(DRAFT)**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount Funded</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>House Sponsor</b>	<b>Senate Sponsor</b>
Black Rock Center for the Arts		250,000		Feldman
Blohm Park Trail Project		250,000		Kagan
CSAAC Expansion & Renewable Energy Infrastructure		2,348,500		King
F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre		250,000		Kagan
Friends House Retirement Community		250,000	Kaiser	Zucker
Greenwood Local Park		250,000	Kaiser	Zucker
Ivymount School, Inc		350,000	Foley	Feldman
McKnew Local Park		250,000	Kaiser	Zucker
Montgomery History Office Relocation		500,000		Kagan
Olney Family Neighborhood Park		125,000	Kaiser	Zucker
Olney Mill Neighborhood Park		150,000	Kaiser	Zucker
Sandy Spring Museum		250,000	Kaiser	Zucker
Upton Community Living Sports Expansion		150,000		King
Watkins Mill Recreation Area Outdoor Fitness Park		350,000		King
		<b>5,723,500</b>		