

Final Legislative Report for 2023

The 2023 session saw 2372 bills introduced during its 90 days and 230 bills passed. The MRSPA Legislative Committee reviewed 45 bills that were determined to be a part of the 9 priority areas: Pension Protection, Health Care, Safety, Education, Technology, Civic Participation, Consumer Protection, Quality of Life, and Long-Term Care. 18 bills were opposed (mostly curriculum), 15 were supported, and 10 were monitored with 4 (mostly aging bills) going to the governor for signature. The final Legislative Update of those bills monitored by the committee is on the MRSPA website: <https://www.mrspa.org/legislative-updates>

Other hot topics included:

- minimum wage rate of \$15 an hour will be in effect by January 2024
- gun violence & firearm safety/storage with the passage of Jaelynn's Law (named after the Great Mills High School student who was killed a few years ago)
- recreation cannabis bills for licensing and tax rates beginning July 1st (due to the passage of the Constitutional Amendment last fall)
- Blueprint commitment money by the state was given; counties now have to fulfill their obligation in order for implementation
- emergency wait time task force bill did not pass due to disagreement of the size of the group; hopefully will topic will be brought up again next year
- fentanyl testing to be required in emergency rooms
- bills concerning elections/balloting issues including counting of mail-in ballots early
- sunset of telehealth access bill extended

The Oversight Committee on Nursing Homes and Long Term Care will be working over the summer. There is hope to get regulations in place and then enforcement although staffing continues to be a bid concern.

The MRSPA Legislative Committee will continue to work with AARP-MD as many of our priorities are the same.

A 426 page document review of the Maryland 2023 session is available:
https://dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/RecurRpt/23rs_90_Day_Report.pdf