



**FAMILY LEAGUE**  
OF BALTIMORE

# MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

2024

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# ESTABLISHING PRIORITY

TEAM MEMBERS PICTURED HERE: NINA K. KEONTAE K. & ROSS H.

The 2024 Legislative Session has concluded with the passing of thousands of new bills that will impact Marylanders over the next year and years to come. We close this session with the passing of the state budget and increased funding to Family League and Local Management Boards across the state, in addition to some of our priority bills passing.

This session Family League prioritized legislation with a primary focus on: Babies Being Born Healthy, Children Entering School Ready to Learn, Children Are Successful in School, Families are Safe and Economically Stable and Communities are Safe for Children, Youth and Families. In addition to these issues, our efforts focused on the support for increased investment and making high-quality services for youth exposed to the juvenile justice system available in our communities. Two of the priority bills this year were:

1. As an implementing partner in B'more Healthy Babies (BHB), a collective impact strategy aimed at addressing infant mortality while further closing the disparity gaps in birth outcomes. In alignment with BHB, to ensure that babies are born healthy we supported legislation that raises the critical awareness of Safe Sleep for Infants. The bill aims to provide extensive education and resources to the parents before they leave the hospital, known as the Safe Sleep Act of 2024. This bill passed and will go into effect October 1, 2024.

2. The ENOUGH Act was a part of the Governor's package and possesses an intentional focus on building the intersection between community impact and reducing child poverty by addressing systemic barriers. The passing of this bill creates an additional opportunity for human capital investment in support of improving outcomes for children and families, while laying the foundation to address critical gaps in infrastructure at the community level. The passing of this bill also harnesses the power of community impact from early childcare and education to affordable housing, and public safety. The bill passed and will go into effect July 1, 2024.

# MARYLAND'S RESULTS FOR CHILD WELL- BEING



# MARYLAND RESULTS FOR CHILD WELL-BEING

Family League engages, informs and collaborates with leaders and policymakers to create an efficient network of opportunities for children and families in Baltimore through policy recommendations at the local, state and national levels.

Foundational to the success of this work is our ability to influence systems and advocate for solid public policy. Our 2024 policy priorities are guided by the eight Maryland Results for Child Well-Being.

Family League understands the interdependence of all the Results Areas of Child Well-Being. We will continue to work with our partners and the community to improve outcomes across all domains. Check out our impact across our priority result areas.

TEAM MEMBERS PICTURED HERE: DEMAUNE M. KEONTAE K. NINA K. & ROSS H.





# CHILDREN ARE SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL

Family League supports policy that improves student attendance, supports high-quality expanded learning opportunities and improves school climate.

# CHILDREN ARE SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL

## **HB200: Community Schools - Alterations**

This bill requires the State Director of Community Schools to, in consultation with local school systems and members of the community schools' leadership team, create a common needs assessment tool that each community school coordinator must use to complete the community school needs assessment. The definitions of "community school" and of "wraparound services" are altered. The Director of Community Schools must create an evaluation form, including several elements specified under the bill, that each community school coordinator must annually complete. By December 1 of each year, the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) must compile and submit the community school annual evaluations to the General Assembly. The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Position: Monitor | Status: **PASSED**

## **HB1441: Early Childhood Education - Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Programs – Alterations**

This bill makes numerous changes related to publicly funded prekindergarten programs, including adjusting staff credentials, altering slot allocations for providers, requiring agreements between local boards and relevant agencies, authorizing applications for State funding for leased space, introducing support initiatives, establishing a career ladder for private prekindergarten providers, establishing provider hubs, and extending funding timelines for grant programs.

Position: SUPPORT | Status: **PASSED**

## **SB579/ HB696: Primary and Secondary Education - Breakfast and Lunch Programs - Universal Expansion Report**

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to report to the General Assembly on the cost to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students in public schools in the State by December 1, 2024. Specified items that MSDE must consider for each county in determining the cost include the current rate of providing free breakfast and lunch through (1) Maryland Meals for Achievement; and (2) participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Program (CEP). Also, in determining the cost, specified data by county must be considered and must be disaggregated by (1) elementary, middle, and high school; and (2) breakfast and lunch. The bill takes effect July 1, 2024, and terminates June 30, 2025.

Position: SUPPORT | Status: **PASSED**



# FAMILIES ARE ECONOMICALLY STABLE

Family League supports policy that provides equitable access to a living wage and opportunities for economic security.



# FAMILIES ARE ECONOMICALLY STABLE

## **SB482/ HB694: Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)**

This Administration bill codifies the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) and specifies that the Special Secretary of GOC is the head of the office. The Special Secretary must establish an ENOUGH Grant Program designed to advance place-based strategies targeting child poverty. The bill also establishes an ENOUGH Grant Fund and requires the Governor to include in the fiscal 2026 budget bill an appropriation of \$15.0 million to the fund. This appropriation is supplemental to and not intended to supplant any federal funding received for place-based support. The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

Position: SUPPORT | Status: **PASSED**

## **SB35: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - State Supplement**

This bill lowers the age, from 62 to 60, that an individual must be for their household to receive the State supplemental benefit under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The bill also increases the supplemental benefit to ensure that households with an individual age 60 or older receive a total benefit of \$50 per month.

Position: SUPPORT | Status: **PASSED**

## **HB1434: Department of Human Services - Electronic Benefits Transfer Cards - Restoration of Benefits**

This bill requires the Department of Human Services (DHS), by December 31, 2025, to restore benefits to any household that lost benefits due to theft that occurred between January 1, 2021, and September 30, 2024. Any claim for restoration of benefits lost due to theft during this period must be submitted to DHS by September 30, 2025. Even so, restoration of lost benefits is subject to the limitations of the State budget. For benefits lost due to theft outside of this specified period, DHS, subject to the limitations of the State budget, must restore such benefits as provided for by an appropriation made for electronic benefit theft (EBT) restoration. Uncodified language requires DHS to establish a workgroup to study and make recommendations on a dedicated funding stream for the restoration of stolen benefits, as specified, and submit a report on the findings and recommendations of the workgroup to the General Assembly by December 1, 2024

Position: OPPOSE | Status: **DID NOT PASS**



# FAMILIES ARE ECONOMICALLY STABLE CONT.

## **SB992 Real Property - Landlord and Tenant - Procedures for Failure to Pay Rent, Breach of Lease, and Tenant Holding Over**

This bill establishes additional requirements once a court has issued a warrant of restitution in a failure to pay rent, breach of lease, or tenant holding over action, as specified, including requirements related to notice and the storage of a tenant's property. The bill also establishes civil remedies for a tenant if a landlord is in violation of the bill's provisions.

Position: SUPPORT | Status: **DID NOT PASS**

## **SB644 Landlord and Tenant - Residential Leases and Holdover Tenancies - Local Just Cause Termination Provisions**

This bill authorizes a county (including Baltimore City) to enact local laws or ordinances that prohibit a landlord of residential property from failing to renew a lease during the lease term or seeking to terminate a holdover tenancy without just cause.

Position: SUPPORT | Status: **DID NOT PASS**

## **SB481/ HB693 Renters' Rights and Stabilization Act of 2024**

This departmental bill increases a certain surcharge assessed in civil cases in the District Court and the circuit courts and alters the distribution of surcharge revenues in certain landlord-tenant cases. The bill also establishes the Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs (OTLA) in the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). In addition, among other provisions, the bill (1) extends the period between granting judgment for possession in favor of a landlord and the execution of the warrant of restitution; (2) establishes a tenant's right of first refusal (and an exclusive negotiation period) prior to the sale of certain residential rental property; and (3) expands the categories of eviction data that must be collected by the Judiciary and provided to DHCD.

Position: SUPPORT | Status: **PASSED**



# COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Family League supports policy that ensures safe environments that allow children and families to thrive.

# COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

## SB744/HB814: Juvenile Law - Reform

This bill makes numerous changes to the juvenile justice process in the State, including (1) altering the jurisdiction of the juvenile court; (2) altering procedures relating to juvenile intake, complaints, detention, and probation; (3) repealing provisions relating to the State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services; (4) altering provisions relating to the Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging and Best Practices; and (5) altering reporting requirements for the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit (JJMU), the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP), and the Department of Juvenile Service (DJS). The bill also prohibits registered juvenile sex offenders from entering onto places for education, as specified. Additionally, the bill codifies the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) and a Children's Cabinet, to be administered by GOC. As noted below, most of the bill's provisions take effect January 1, 2025; however, provisions related to JJMU, the commission, and an annual report by GOCPP take effect July 1, 2024.

Position: Monitor | Status: **PASSED**

## SB98 Interagency Food Desert Advisory Committee - Food Desert Study

This bill requires the Interagency Food Desert Advisory Committee to study "food deserts" in the State and make recommendations (1) to reduce the number of food deserts in the State and (2) regarding the available funding sources for fresh food financing initiatives and programs in the State. By November 30, 2024, the committee must submit a report of its findings and recommendations to specified legislative committees. "Food desert" means the part of a priority funding area or an eligible opportunity zone designated by the Secretary of Housing and Community Development under the Neighborhood Business Development Program.

Position: SUPPORT | Status: **DID NOT PASS**



# BABIES ARE BORN HEALTHY

Family League supports policy to achieve healthy birth outcomes; specifically decreased infant and maternal mortality.

# BABIES ARE BORN HEALTHY

## **SB59 Hospitals - Care of Infants After Discharge (Safe Sleep Act of 2024)**

This bill requires a hospital, as soon as practicable before discharging an infant after birth, to provide oral and written educational resources to the infant's parent or legal guardian on how to provide a "safe sleep environment." By January 1, 2025, each hospital must establish a process for (1) providing each parent or legal guardian with oral and written educational resources and information regarding a safe sleep environment and the risks of suffocation and sudden infant death in unsafe sleep environments; (2) a parent or legal guardian to confirm receipt of the educational resources; and (3) maintaining the records of confirmations. By January 1, 2025, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in consultation with local health officers, must develop for distribution to birthing parents and legal guardians a list of resources available by county to obtain the items necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for an infant. Each local health department must provide an updated list of resources to MDH each year. Fiscal Summar

Position: SUPPORT | Status: **PASSED**

## **HB177 Hospitals - Care of Infants After Discharge (Safe Sleep Act of 2024)**

This bill requires a hospital, as soon as practicable before discharging an infant after birth, to provide oral and written educational resources to the infant's parent or legal guardian on how to provide a "safe sleep environment." By January 1, 2025, each hospital must establish a process for (1) providing each parent or legal guardian with oral and written educational resources and information regarding a safe sleep environment and the risks of suffocation and sudden infant death in unsafe sleep environments; (2) a parent or legal guardian to confirm receipt of the educational resources; and (3) maintaining the records of confirmations. By January 1, 2025, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in consultation with local health officers, must develop for distribution to birthing parents and legal guardians a list of resources available by county to obtain the items necessary to provide a safe sleep environment for an infant. Each local health department must provide an updated list of resources to MDH each year.

Position: SUPPORT | Status: **PASSED**