



April 15, 2025

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP UP

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As the 2025 Maryland General Assembly session concludes, Family League of Baltimore is pleased to provide our stakeholders, funded partners, and colleagues with a comprehensive update on key legislation affecting Maryland's children and families. This session brought both challenges and victories, with critical funding preserved and important policy advancements secured despite a challenging fiscal climate.

### FUNDING VICTORIES: FY2026 BUDGET

We are pleased to report that despite initial concerns, the General Assembly retained critical investments through the state's Children Cabinet. This achievement represents a significant win for Baltimore's children and families, particularly amid challenging budget deliberations and competing priorities at the state level.

*"As the 2025 legislative session concludes, Family League extends our sincere gratitude for preserving our grant funding despite withdrawal recommendations. We recognize the difficult fiscal decisions you've faced while prioritizing Maryland's needs. Your leadership ensures vital resources reach our most vulnerable families when needed most."*

— Demaune Millard, President & CEO

### LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

The 2025 session resulted in 23 bills of interest making it to Governor Wes Moore's desk for signing. The breakdown across our select focus areas includes:

- **Healthy Families:** 10 bills
- **Cradle to Career Education:** 8 bills
- **Economically Secure Families:** 5 bills

### BILL SIGNING PROCESS

Governor Moore has begun signing bills into law, with the first ceremony held on April 8, 2025. Two key bills supported by Family League were signed during this first round:

- **[SB213/HB170](#):** Maternal and Child Health Population Health Improvement Fund
- **[HB33/SB248](#):** Department of Service and Civic Innovation - Maryland Corps Program Service Year Option Pathways

Additional bill signing ceremonies are scheduled for April 22, May 6, May 13, and May 20. The complete schedule and updates can be found on the [Bill Signings website](#).



## HEALTHY FAMILIES

Of the Healthy Families bills awaiting the Governor's signature, key legislation includes:

**SB156/HB334: Universal Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Services**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

This legislation establishes a program providing universal newborn nurse home visiting services to all Maryland families with newborns, requiring certain insurers to provide coverage and reimbursement for these services.

**SB213/HB170: Maternal and Child Health Population Health Improvement Fund**

*Status: Signed on April 8, 2025*

This bill extends the use period of the Maternal and Child Health Population Health Improvement Fund from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2027.

**SB277/HB466: Health Equality for Service Members Act**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

This bill extends certain public health, health occupations regulation, and housing assistance provisions to all uniformed services rather than just armed forces.

**HB185/SB359: Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program - Funding - Alterations**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Extends the fiscal years through FY2029 during which the Governor is required to include an annual appropriation of \$1,500,000 to the Therapeutic Child Care Grant Program.

**HB497/SB400: Preventing Abduction in Youth Transport Act of 2025**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Prohibits transportation companies that transport children to residential child care programs from using certain restraints and from picking up children between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

**SB833/HB1057: Department of Human Services - Study on Private Treatment Foster Care Homes**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Requires the Department of Human Services to study appropriate state support for private providers of treatment foster care homes, with findings due by December 1, 2025.

**HB1121/SB687: Child Care Scholarship Program - Youth Transitioning From Foster Placement**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Establishes a pilot program from January 2026 to December 2028 to assist foster youth in accessing Child Care Scholarship Program subsidies.

**HB1122: Office of Child Care Advisory Council - Membership - Alterations**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Increases the maximum number of members of the Office of Child Care Advisory Council from 30 to 31, adding a representative from the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators.

**HB1475: Office of Child Care Advisory Council - Publicly Funded Prekindergarten**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Requires analysis of the mixed delivery prekindergarten system established under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, with a final report due by December 31, 2027.

**HB477: Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers - Regulatory Analysis**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Requires thorough analysis of state regulations affecting child care facilities, with interim and final reports due January 1, 2026, and September 1, 2026, respectively.

**CRADLE TO CAREER EDUCATION**

Of the Cradle to Career Education bills awaiting the Governor's signature, key legislation includes:

**SB68/HB197: Public Schools – Restorative Practices Schools**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Requires the State Department of Education to develop a comprehensive plan by July 1, 2026, for establishing Restorative Practices Schools that integrate restorative practices into daily school activities.

**SB269/HB473: Maryland Community College Scholarship Programs**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Modifies the duration for which recipients may hold awards under the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program under certain circumstances.

**SB252/HB150: Child Care Centers – Certificated Staff Ratio Requirement**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Proposes repealing the requirement that child care centers with 20 or more children maintain a specific ratio of staff certified in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

**HB415/SB378: State Library Agency - Family Literacy Pilot Program**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Establishes a pilot program enabling incarcerated individuals to record themselves reading aloud to their children.

**SB880: Governor's Office for Children - Boys and Girls Clubs of Maryland - Grant Funding**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Requires the Governor to include \$250,000 in the annual budget for fiscal years 2027 through 2030 to fund operating expenses for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maryland.

**HB814: Department of Juvenile Services - Report on Youth Service Bureaus**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Requires annual reporting on efforts to promote predelinquent programs and youth service bureaus, including assessment of their effectiveness.

**HB504/SB429: Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Alters funding sources for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund and establishes the Academic Excellence Program to address critical academic needs in public schools.

**HB33/SB248: Department of Service and Civic Innovation - Maryland Corps Program**

*Status: Signed on April 8, 2025*

Revises the Maryland Corps Program, renames the Governor's Volunteer Council to the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism, and makes other changes to service programs.



## ECONOMICALLY SECURE FAMILIES

Five bills related to economic security have made it to the Governor's desk:

**SB894/HB1364: Office of Social Equity - Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Modifies provisions related to the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund, altering certain limitations on fund use and requiring counties to administer funds in a specific manner.

**HB809/SB765: Out-of-Home Placement Providers - Individuals Enrolled in Higher Education**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Authorizes individuals enrolled in higher education or vocational training to return to previous out-of-home placement providers during scheduled breaks.

**HB881/SB703: Family Investment Program - Child Support**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Phases in requirements that child support received in a month pass through to families seeking assistance under the Family Investment Program.

**HB127/SB238: DHCD - Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Expands entities eligible to administer local rehabilitation programs to include certain nonprofit sponsors.

**HB1066: Commission on Behavioral Health Care Treatment and Access - Workgroups**

*Status: Passed; Awaiting Governor's Signature*

Establishes a workgroup on improving health, social, and economic outcomes related to substance use, with recommendations on mitigating harm related to criminalization of substance use.

## LOOKING AHEAD

As we await the remaining bill signing ceremonies, Family League will continue to monitor the implementation of these important legislative initiatives. The Governor's commitment to these bills signals a strong dedication to supporting Maryland's children and families.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP

Family League extends sincere appreciation to all stakeholders who participated in engagement efforts throughout this session. Your calls, emails, testimony, and collective voice made a significant difference in securing these legislative victories.

The impact of your support extends beyond budgets—it strengthens communities and builds brighter futures for our children. We look forward to continuing our partnerships as we implement these new efforts and prepare for future year ahead.

For more information about Family League's ongoing work, please visit [www.familyleague.org](http://www.familyleague.org) or follow us on social media.