



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Keeping Members
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Women and
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and work

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2021 Legislative Priorities Wrap-Up Maryland Paves the Way...

The 442nd session of the General Assembly of Maryland has come to a close and our WDC community can take pride: **We made a difference!**

Criminal justice and police reform were at the heart of our advocacy efforts in a truly groundbreaking session. With the passage and veto override of the Juvenile Restoration Act Maryland abolished juvenile life sentences without the possibility of parole. This brings Maryland in line with the U.S. Supreme Court and 24 other states and the District of Columbia that have banned life without parole for children.

In more history-making news our legislature overrode Hogan's vetoes to implement sweeping police reform and accountability, becoming the first state in the nation to end the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights (LEOBR) and establish a statewide use-of-force policy. Other wins in the area of Criminal Justice reform are legislation that removes the Governor from the process of granting parole to those serving life sentences; and to continue Maryland's focus on Juvenile Justice, the General Assembly passed the Juvenile Justice Reform Act that alters current law relating to children under a certain age not being subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and may not be charged with a crime.

But that is not all! Beyond police reform and criminal justice, WDC together with 400 members of our grassroots advocacy team, advocated for issues that will help Women and their families in Montgomery County and across Maryland. These new laws tackle drug prices, protect families from excessive medical debt, create a targeted child tax credit, address the challenges of parenting students, usher in a new age of telehealth medicine, override the veto of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and pass needed modifications; and by no means last, or least – repeal Maryland's racist state song!

However, it wasn't all rosy - we had some disappointments. Some bills didn't move at all, and others passed the House only to be stalled in the Senate. We will focus on turning these bills around going forward.

WDC's advocacy activities included submitting written and oral testimony, meetings with legislators, grassroots advocacy by our Advocacy Alert team, and coordination with other advocacy organizations. WDC advocated for a total of 35 bills, including the cross-files (totaling 55 testimony submissions!); thirteen (13) were passed by the state legislature, with provisions in 6 additional bills WDC supported rolled into two of the 13 passed bills. The Governor vetoed two (2) of these bills before the end of the session; however, both vetoes were overridden.

Each bill WDC supported during the 2021 Maryland Legislative session is listed below along with the final status and a brief bill summary. For a more complete record [click here](#) to access bills on the MGA website by typing the bill number in the search field (i.e. HB123, SB123, HB1234, SB1234).

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Criminal Justice & Public Safety (*Including School Resource Officers)

➤ Passed

SB0494/HB0409 - Juvenile Restoration Act (Veto Override)

Abolishes lifetime sentences without possibility of parole for juveniles convicted as adults. Provides close to 400 people with an opportunity for re-sentencing.

HB0670 - Police Reform and Accountability Act of 2021 (Veto Override)

Repeal of the Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights (LEOBR), ensuring transparency and review of police misconduct by a board that consists of professionals and civilian members. Included use of force limitations delineated in **HB0626**.

Following bills were rolled into passed bill HB0670:

SB0626 – Law Enforcement Officers – Use of Force

SB0627 - Law Enforcement Officers' bill of Rights – Repeal and Procedures for Discipline

SB0050 - Criminal Procedure – Police Officers – Duty to Intervene –

SB0166 - Criminal Procedure - Police Officers - Duty to Report Misconduct (Maryland Police Accountability Act)

HB1187/SB0853 - Juvenile Law - Juvenile Justice Reform (as amended)

This bill proposed numerous changes to the juvenile justice process in the State by generally implementing the recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Reform Council. However, consideration of the bill's substantive provisions was postponed until 2022 after further study is completed.

SB0202 - Correctional Services - Parole - Life Imprisonment

This removes the Governor from making parole decisions and leaves it to the Maryland Parole Commission. Included language from **HB0003** regarding parole for those sentenced to life imprisonment.

Failed, Withdrawn, or Redirected

(HB0188) No-Knock Warrants – Elimination (Duncan's Act) – **(Provisions incorporated into passed bill SB0178)**

(HB0147/SB0250) Criminal Law – Sexual Crimes – Repeal of Spousal Defense (Love Is No Defense to Sexual Crimes) – (Stalled in Conference Committee)

(HB0315/SB0136) Juvenile Interrogation Protection Act – (Passed the House but not the Senate) – (Passed House, stalled in Senate)

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(HB0385/SB0395) Criminal Law - Felony Murder - Limitation and Review of Convictions for Children – (Stalled in Committee)

(HB1028/SB0875) Juvenile Law - Dispositions - Placement Guidance – (Withdrawn)

**School Resource Officers*

➤ **Passed**

NONE

Failed or Withdrawn

(HB0496) Primary and Secondary Education - Mental Health Services - Expansion (Counselors Not Cops Act) - (Stalled in Committee)

(HB1089) Primary and Secondary Education – Expansion of Mental Health Services and Prohibition of School Resource Officers (Police-Free Schools Act) – (Stalled in Committee)

(HB0700) Education - Crimes on School Grounds – Exemptions – (Passed House, stalled in Senate Committee)

Working Families & Economic Security

➤ **Passed**

(HB0143/SB0218) Maryland Child Tax Credit

This bill will create a targeted tax credit to benefit families that are excluded from the Federal Tax Credit Program – those with zero or very low-incomes.

(HB0581/SB0486) Labor and Employment - Employment Standards During an Emergency (Maryland Essential Workers' Protection Act) (as amended)

This emergency bill establishes benefits and protections for essential workers during a catastrophic health emergency, and related responsibilities for each employer of an essential worker.

Failed or Withdrawn

(HB0375)(SB0211) Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2021)

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Education

➤ Passed

(HB0205/SB0427) Public Schools - Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirement

This bill requires each county board of education to ensure that each public school provide, at no charge to students, menstrual hygiene products via dispensers in women's restrooms at the school.

(HB0401/SB0438) Public Schools - Pregnant and Parenting Students - Policies and Reports

This bill requires the State Department of Education to establish a model policy to support the educational and parenting goals and improve the educational outcomes of pregnant and parenting students.

(HB1372/SB0965) Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Revisions

This emergency bill generally makes revisions to Chapter 36 of 2021, Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Ensures full funding for Maryland school construction, and helps to advance revisions to the address learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This bill became law without the governor's signature on April 9. **(Revisions made to the 2020 Blueprint Bill HB1300 which was Vetoed by the Governor in 2020 and overridden in February 2021)**

Failed or Withdrawn

NONE

Health

➤ Passed

(HB0123/SB0003) Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021

This bill will preserve several telehealth provisions that will continue to allow telehealth to be provided to program recipients regardless of the program recipients' location and allow a distant site provider to provide services from any location. Further it allows those services to be provided in an audio-only conversation.

Following Bills Rolled into passed bill HB0123/SB0003:

HB0191/SB0056 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Psychiatrist and Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Telemedicine Reimbursement - Sunset Termination

SB0393/HB0551 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage and Reimbursement of Telehealth Services

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**(HB0565/SB0514) Health Facilities - Hospitals - Medical Debt Protection
(as amended)**

This bill will among several other things prohibit hospitals from placing a lien on a patient's home or car, prohibit hospitals from pursuing wage or bank garnishment to collect medical debt if a patient is uninsured, require hospitals to offer monthly payment plans to patients.

Failed or Withdrawn

NONE

Environment

➤ **Passed**

NONE

Failed or Withdrawn

(HB0857) Environment – Synthetic turf and turf Infill – chain of custody and Reuse – (Unfavorable Report)

(HB0033/SB0076) Climate Crisis and Education Act – (Unfavorable Report)

Affordable Housing

➤ **Passed**

NONE

Failed or Withdrawn

(HB0058/SB0117) Workgroup on Minority Homeownership, Neighborhood Revitalization, & Household Wealth Equity

(HB0574) Montgomery County Stable Homes Act MC 8-21

Aging

➤ **Passed**

(SB0537/HB0429) Pharmacists - Required Notification and Authorized Substitution - Lower-Cost Drug or Device Product

This bill requires a pharmacist to inform a consumer of the availability of a therapeutically equivalent brand name drug that is the lowest cost alternative to the originally prescribed drug or device and the cost difference between the equivalent drug or device and the prescribed drug.

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Failed or Withdrawn

(HB0255) Department of Aging - Grants for Aging-in-Place Programs – Funding

(HB0347) Criminal Law - Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult or Elderly Individual - Undue Influence

Environment

➤ Passed

NONE

Maryland State Song

➤ Passed

(HB0667/SB0008) General Provisions – State Song – Repeal

This bill will repeal Maryland's State song Maryland! My Maryland! The song is a Civil War era call to arms for the Confederacy against the North, referring to President Abraham Lincoln as a "despot" and makes reference to the "Northern Scum."

* (as amended) = WDC believes the final passed bill, as altered by amendments, resulted in a less effective bill than originally proposed.

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