

## Environment

### **SB313/HB209 Plastics and Packaging Reduction**

**Act:** Bans unnecessary single use plastics by prohibiting stores from distributing plastic bags, requires a charge for paper bags and establishes a working group to study make recommendations to the MGA on plastic use reduction. Plastic bags are a fossil fuel product, contain toxic chemicals are unrecyclable and don't biodegrade.

**Coal Fire Plant closure:** Schedules closure of 6 carbon-emitting coal fire plants in Maryland - 2 in AACO. WISE supports transition funds for workers and communities, with those impacted having major influence over how the fund is utilized.

**SB300/HB229 Ban on Chlorpyrifos:** Bans chlorpyrifos pesticides to protect babies, children, pregnant women and farmworkers. Chlorpyrifos is



found to damage children's brain development, contaminate waterways and injure wildlife. Chlorpyrifos is linked to autism,

ADHD and other neurological issues.

## Gun Violence Prevention

### **HB4/SB208 Rifles and Shotguns – Secondary Transfers:**

Closes loop hole allowing prohibited purchasers to buy from unlicensed sellers by requiring background checks for all rifle and shotgun sales.

**SB39 Regulated Firearms:** Eliminates loopholes to expand the definition of banned firearms.

### **Child Access Prevention and Safe Storage:**

Strengthens safe storage requirements for gun owners to reduce child access to firearms. Changes definition of a minor from under 16 to under 18 and provides penalties for failing to securely store firearms.

## Constitutional Rights and Democracy

**Democracy Amendment Resolution:** Calls for an Article V convention to amend U.S. Constitution to: (1) affirming every citizen's voting rights; (2) reserving constitutional rights to natural persons; and/or (3) authorizing regulation of expenditures intended to influence elections.

### **Fix Maryland's Fair Campaign Finance Fund:**

Secures an expanded and stable small donor public finance fund for gubernatorial elections.

### **Public Funding and Small Donor Act for General Assembly Elections:**

Establishes a small donor public finance fund for general assembly elections.

### **HB34/SB87 Contributions, Expenditures, or Donations by Foreign-Influenced Corporations**

**Principals:** Prohibits a foreign-influenced corporation from making campaign contributions.

### **HB51/SB91 Individuals Released From Correctional Facilities - Voter Registration:**

Requires a correctional facility to provide a released felony inmate with voter a registration form before release and to inform them of the requirement to register before voting.

## Racial Justice

**SB161/HB5 Hate Crimes:** Requires jail time and fines for use of an item or symbol with intent to threaten or intimidate. Increase in hate crimes in the state requires legislation to prohibit placing or inscribing an item or symbol, including an actual noose and swastika, on public or private property without express owner consent.

The **Blueprint for Maryland's Future** and legislation creating a **Prerelease Unit for Women** are measures addressing racial injustice in Maryland and are prioritized by Racial Justice Huddle.

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## Maryland State Legislative Priorities

2020

**WISE was born out of the Women's March on Washington, DC, and a sense of urgency that we had to work together to improve our community. As a women's movement based in Anne Arundel County we advocate for a broad range of issues that are important to our members. We have a clear mission statement and issues-based huddles that act on our priorities at the local, state and national level. We are nonpartisan and welcome women of all ideologies who agree with our mission statement and want to be effective agents for change.**

## Education

**HB2 Blueprint for Maryland's FUTURE (Kirwin recommendations):** The bills address many of the objectives of WISE with a 5-pronged approach to overhauling our educational system: (1) maintains quality teachers in our schools by raising the standards and support for teaching; (2) provides more resources to students who need them by giving increased support for special education and English learners, and by providing more resources to schools in areas of concentrated poverty; (3) provides quality early education so that all children begin kindergarten ready to learn; (4) creates improved pathways to careers whether children are college bound or not; and (5) ensures resources are being used to accomplish these goals with good accountability. The Blueprint is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a world-class school system for Maryland.

**SB1/HB1 Build to Learn Act:** Provides more funding for school construction to ensure our children are learning in modern facilities with access to technology needed to be competitive in the 21st century.

**School Behavioral Health Supports:** The Kirwan report included strategies for enhancing school-based behavioral health services, which are proven to improve health and educational outcomes.

## Animal Welfare

**Ban on Cosmetics Testing on Animals:** Prevents companies from selling cosmetics that have been newly tested on animals.

**Ban on Wildlife Killing Contests:** Prohibits killing mammals in killing contests, where the sole purpose of the event is to kill the largest number of animals possible, often for cash or guns. Bodies of animals are usually left or discarded, leaving their young to starve.



## Healthcare and Healthy Families

**Time to Care Act:** Establishes a Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program to make paid leave available to Maryland workers for up to 12 weeks following the birth or adoption of a child, and when needed to provide care for a family member or oneself. The leave would be funded through an insurance pool, into which workers and their employers contribute.

**End of Life Option:** Authorizes an individual to request aid in dying. Prohibits another individual from requesting aid in dying on behalf of an individual. Includes specific requirements for written request for aid in dying and witnessing written request for aid in dying.

**Improve Access and Coordination of Community Behavioral Health Services:** Marylanders with private insurance struggle to access timely behavioral health care, and many Medicaid consumers are unable to obtain recognized effective behavioral health care.

## Criminal Justice

**Correctional Services – Diminution Credits – Education:** Reduces prison terms for inmates completing vocational or scholastic certificate or diploma; requires Commissioner of Correction to establish a uniform system of deductions and criteria for awarding diminution credits including a maximum deduction earned by an inmate.

**Life Imprisonment Parole Reform:** Allows inmates serving life imprisonment to be paroled without the Governor's approval after serving a certain amount of time under certain circumstances.

**Expungement or Partial Expungement of Misdemeanor Conviction:** Allows a petition for expungement or partial expungement of certain criminal records under certain circumstances; and establishes procedures for the filing of petitions.

## Women's Issues

**Expansion of Maryland's Vacatur Law for Survivors of Human Trafficking.** Expands Maryland's current "vacating convictions" law to allow criminalized survivors of human trafficking to remove crimes *other than* prostitution from their criminal records, significantly increasing the ability of these survivors to access employment and stable housing, as well as heal from the trauma of their trafficking experience.

**Prerelease Unit for Women:** Requires the Commissioner of Corrections to operate a pre-release unit for women offering reentry services and programming to help women prepare to reintegrate and provide the best chance at success. Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services operates no dedicated lower-security facility for women preparing to return to the community, there are 9 facilities for men.

**Protective Orders – Relief Eligibility – Rape and Sexual Offenses:** Alters the definition of "person eligible for relief" in domestic violence protective orders to include individuals who allege they are victims of rape or sexual offense within one year of filing petition and removes them from peace order to clarify that victims are eligible to receive all protections of a protective order rather than those provided by a peace order.

## LGBTQ+ Advocacy

**HB2 Blueprint for Maryland's Future:** Includes needs of LGBTQ student in implementation of Kirwan Commission recommendations.

**Ensuring non-discrimination protections in health care facilities.**

**Ending Youth Homelessness:** Increases appropriations for the grant program within the Department of Housing and Community Development.