



MARYLAND NETWORK AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

# 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

The Maryland Network Against domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition whose mission is to lead diverse community partners toward the common purpose of reducing the occurrence and impact of intimate partner violence.

During the 2024 legislative session MNADV continued to take an intersectional approach to our advocacy supporting legislation that impacts the complex needs of victims and survivors of domestic violence including access to safe and affordable housing, civil legal remedies, and ensuring that prohibited persons do not have access to firearms. Central to our legislative advocacy is also the critical need for sufficient funds for the service providers that offer lifesaving services to victims and survivors of domestic violence.

We are tremendously grateful to all our members, member programs, and survivors that supported our efforts in Annapolis by calling and emailing legislators, testifying in Annapolis, and submitting written testimony. MNADV is also thankful for those that participated in weekly calls to offer thoughts and feedback on legislation introduced as well as the support and insights offered by the Legislative Subcommittee of the MNADV Board.

Below are some highlights of legislation from the 2024 session that impact our work and those that we serve.

Please contact MNADV's Public Policy Director, Melanie Shapiro, at [mshapiro@mnadv.org](mailto:mshapiro@mnadv.org) with any questions regarding legislation from the 2024 session or with ideas for future legislation.



# BILLS THAT PASSED

## BUDGET AND FUNDING:

### **SB 360 - Budget Bill**

#### **SUMMARY**

Level funding was maintained for the Maryland Domestic Violence Program (DOMV) which provides funds for the comprehensive domestic violence programs in Maryland. The Domestic Violence Centers Grant was funded at \$1 million dollars.

### **SB 439 - Family Law - Victims of Domestic Violence Program - Certification and Grant Fund**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Senator Elfreth

**SUMMARY:** Creates the Victims of Domestic Violence Program Grant Fund as a special, non-lapsing fund in the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services for comprehensive domestic violence programs and authorizes the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Fund. Requires a domestic violence program be certified by the federally recognized State domestic violence coalition as a comprehensive domestic violence program.

**NOTES:** Delegate Ivey sponsored the House cross-file [HB 656](#) which was voted out of the House but did not pass the Senate. The language was identical to SB 439. This bill was a priority for MNADV and was supported by all 19 comprehensive domestic violence programs as well as other non-comprehensive service providers.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2024





# CIVIL LAW AND FAMILY LAW

## **HB 435: Child Support – Incarcerated Obligor**

**MNADV POSITION:** None

**SPONSORS:** Departmental Bill

**SUMMARY:** Specifies that if a party becomes incarcerated, a court may find that there is a material change in circumstances resulting in a modification of child support if the party's ability to pay child support is sufficiently reduced due to incarceration. States that a parent who is incarcerated may not be found to be voluntarily impoverished and prohibits a potential income determination for an incarcerated parent. Repeals the requirement that a period of incarceration must be for 180 days to stay arrears from accruing, so that pursuant to this bill, for any period of incarceration, regardless of length, a child support payment is not past due and arrearages may not accrue during any period when the obligor is incarcerated, and continues for 60 days after the obligor's release from confinement.

**NOTES:** This bill brings Maryland into full compliance with the Flexibility, Efficiency and Modernization (FEM) Rule of 2017 established by the federal Office of Child Support Services.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** **October 1, 2024**

## **SB 708: Family Law – Kinship Care**

**MNADV POSITION:** None

**SPONSORS:** Departmental Bill

**SUMMARY:** Prioritizes placing children in need of out-of-home placement in kinship care by defining kinship caregiver to include a kinship parent, an individual who is related to the child through blood or marriage, adoption, tribal law or custom, or cultural custom or practice, and, an individual who is unrelated to the child but has a strong familial or other significant bond with the child or is a person identified by the child's parent. Absent good cause to the contrary, the local department shall give preference to a kinship caregiver and must make proactive, thorough, and timely efforts to locate a kinship caregiver for initial placement of the child. If a kinship caregiver is located after the placement of a child in a foster care setting, the local department must, in the best interest of the child, place the child with the kinship caregiver. When there is no kinship care placement, the local department will identify a placement that most approximates a family in which the child's special needs, if any may be met. The local department shall take into account the proximity of the placement to the child's home, extended family, or siblings; the child's culture or language continuity; the child's age; and the child's developmental and educational needs when identifying a non-kinship placement.

**NOTES:** [HB 1499](#), the House cross-file, passed out of the House but did not move in the Senate.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** **October 1, 2024**

# CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

## **HB 115: Criminal Procedure - Victims' Rights - Notification of Release From Confinement (Jaycee Webster Victims' Rights Act)**

MNADV POSITION: Support

SPONSORS: Delegate Kaufman

SUMMARY: Requires a commitment unit provide a victim, victim's representative, or witness the telephone number of Maryland's Crime Victim Resource Center, when a sentenced defendant or child respondent is being released from confinement.

NOTES: **SB 4**, sponsored by Senator Waldstreicher, was the Senate cross-file. It passed out of the Senate but did not receive a vote in the House.

**EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024**

## **HB 458/SB 111: Criminal Procedure - Protection of Identity of Minor Victim**

MNADV POSITION: Support

SPONSORS: Delegate Phillips and Senator Sydnor

SUMMARY: Prohibits the disclosure of identifying information of a minor victim to a nonparty in a criminal or delinquency proceeding in any electronic or paper filing unless the identifying information is redacted, or a court finds by clear and convincing evidence there is good cause to order otherwise.

**EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024**

## **HB 496: Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Definition of Consent and Repeal of Force**

MNADV POSITION: Support

SPONSORS: Delegate Shetty

SUMMARY: Repeals the requirement of force or threat of force as an element of rape in the 2nd degree. Defines "consent" for all sexual crimes found in Title 3, Subtitle 3 of the Criminal Law Article.

NOTES: **SB 758**, sponsored by Senator Kelly, passed Second Reading in the Senate.

**EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024**

## **HB 544/SB 391: Criminal Law - Sexual Extortion, Stalking, and Revenge Porn - Statute of Limitations and In Banc Review**

MNADV POSITION: Support

SPONSORS: Delegate Atterbeary and Senator Kelly

SUMMARY: Modifies the statute of limitations for sexual extortion to 5 years, stalking to 10 years, and revenge porn no statute of limitations. Each offense previously had a 1- year statute of limitations because they are misdemeanors.

NOTES: This bill originated as a recommendation from the Family Violence Council's Stalking Subcommittee of which MNADV is a participant.

**EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024**

## **HB 575: Criminal Procedure - Victim Compensation - Alterations (Victim Compensation Reform Act of 2024)**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Administration

**SUMMARY:** Removes eligibility requirements such as reporting the crime to law enforcement within 48 hours, fully cooperating with law enforcement, and a determination that an individual did not contribute to their own victimization. Allows for alternate documentation as proof that a crime was committed and an eligible expense incurred including documentation from a domestic violence advocate or service provider. Clarifies and expands which relatives are eligible to receive compensation, what types of expenses are eligible for reimbursement, and increases the allowable reimbursement amounts. Streamlines the claims process and increases the membership and diversity of the Board. Authorizes the Governor to include funds in the annual budget to ensure a balance in the fund.

**NOTES:** The provision authorizing the Governor to include an appropriation in the annual budget goes into effect July 1, 2024. The remaining provisions go into effect July 1, 2025. MNADV was honored to work with GOCPP and the Moore/Miller Administration on this critical piece of legislation.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025

## **SB 379: Task Force to Study Crime Classification - Renaming, Membership, and Duties**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Senator West

**SUMMARY:** Extends the Task Force Study Crime Classification until June 30, 2026, and renames it to the Task Force to Study Crime Reclassification and Penalties. The Task Force is charged with the responsibility to review the penalties for all criminal and civil violations in the Criminal Law Article, Criminal Procedure Article, Public Safety Article, and Maryland Sentencing Guidelines and make recommendations regarding the current scheme for criminal and civil violations in the Criminal Law Article, Criminal Procedure Article, Public Safety Article, and Maryland Sentencing Guidelines.

**NOTES:** MNADV is a member of the Task Force.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 1, 2024

## **SB 468: Criminal Law - Private Home Detention Monitoring - Notification**

**MNADV POSITION:** None

**SPONSORS:** Senator McCray by request of Baltimore City Administration

**SUMMARY:** Requires a private home detention monitoring agency to notify the court and designated law enforcement agency immediately if a defendant enters an exclusionary zone, within 1 hour if defendant tampered with or failed to maintain home detention monitoring equipment, and 24 hours for all other violations of home detention monitoring.

**NOTES:** [HB 614](#), the House cross-file sponsored by Delegate Smith on behalf of Baltimore City Administration, passed the House but did not receive a vote in the Senate.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2024



## **SB 1095: Workgroup on Home Detention Monitoring**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support with amendment

**SPONSORS:** Senator Smith

**SUMMARY:** Creates a Workgroup on Home Detention Monitoring until June 30, 2027. The Workgroup shall study and make recommendations regarding the costs and availability of both publicly and privately provided pretrial home detention monitoring systems.

**NOTES:** MNADV is a member of the Workgroup.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2024

## **ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

### **HB 622: Consumer Reporting Agencies - Records of Criminal Proceedings - Prohibition**

**MNADV POSITION:** None

**SPONSORS:** Delegate Healey

**SUMMARY:** Prohibits consumer reporting agencies from including information about criminal proceedings that did not result in a conviction or that have been expunged in consumer credit reports. Prohibits a consumer reporting agency from relying on information contained in criminal records or proceedings that did not result in a conviction or that have been expunged to determine creditworthiness of a consumer.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2024

### **HB 649/SB 525: Labor and Employment - Equal Pay for Equal Work - Wage Range Transparency**

**MNADV POSITION:** None

**SPONSORS:** Delegate White Holland and Senator Kelly

**SUMMARY:** Expands Maryland's Equal Pay for Equal Work law to require employers to disclose wage range, a general description of benefits, and any other compensation offered for a position in each public or internal position posting.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2024

### **HB 666/SB 35: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - State Supplement**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Delegate Shetty and Senator McCray

**SUMMARY:** Increases the supplemental benefit to ensure that households with an individual age 60 or older receive a total benefit of \$50 per month and 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.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2024





# HOUSING

## **HB 7: Housing Innovation Pilot Program and Housing Innovation Fund - Establishment (Housing Innovation Pilot Program Act of 2024)**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Delegate Stewart

**SUMMARY:** Establishes the Housing Innovation Pilot Program in the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide funds for local housing authorities and county governments to develop mixed-income, cross-subsidized housing for the purpose of increasing the volume of housing production. Authorizes the Governor to include an appropriation of \$5 million in either the capital or operating budget in fiscal years 2026 through fiscal year 2029.

**NOTES:** [SB 203](#), the Senate cross-file sponsored by Senator Waldstreicher, passed the Senate but did not receive a vote in the House.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** **July 1, 2024, and terminates June 30, 2029**

## **HB 577: Housing and Community Development - Study on the Establishment of a Homeless Shelter Licensing Program**

**MNADV POSITION:** Oppose unless amended

**SPONSORS:** Delegate Grossman and Senator M. Washington

**SUMMARY:** Establishes a Study on the Establishment of a Homeless Shelter Licensing Program in the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The study must review current habitability and admission standards of homeless shelters in the State; recommend a basic habitability and admission standard for homeless shelters in the State; and recommend a plan to establish a program within DHCD to license homeless shelters in the State. The Study shall report its findings on or before July 1, 2025.

**NOTES:** Domestic Violence Shelters are included in the definition of homeless shelters relied upon in this bill. MNADV opposed the original bill as drafted and requested an amendment to exclude shelters operated by comprehensive domestic violence programs from licensing requirements. MNADV supports the Study established through amendments to the original bill.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** **July 1, 2024**

## **HB 693: Renters' Rights and Stabilization Act of 2024**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Departmental Bill

**SUMMARY:** Creates the Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs (OTLA) in the Department of Housing and Community Development. Increases from \$8 to \$43, the fee for a landlord to file an eviction notice on renters who do not pay their rent on time. The eviction filing fee may be deducted from a tenant's security deposit if the judge rules in favor of the landlord. Limits the maximum amount of a security deposit to one month's rent in most situations and two months' rent if other conditions are met. Creates a renter's right of first refusal if a landlord decides to sell the residential property subject to certain exceptions.

**NOTES:** [SB 481](#), the Senate cross-file, did not receive a vote in the Senate.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** **October 1, 2024**

## **SB 19: Failure to Pay Rent Proceedings – Shielding of Court Records**

**MNADV POSITION:** None

**SPONSORS:** Senator Sydnor

**SUMMARY:** Requires the District Court within 60 days after the final resolution of a failure to pay rent proceeding that did not result in a judgment of possession, to shield all related court records. The District Court may shield records of a proceeding that resulted in a judgment of possession upon motion of a tenant if certain conditions are met.

**NOTES:** [HB 181](#), the House cross-file sponsored by Delegate Hill, passed the House but did not receive a vote in the Senate.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** **August 1, 2024, October 1, 2024**

## **FIREARMS AND PUBLIC SAFETY:**

### **HB 583/SB 475: Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention – Establishment**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Administration

**SUMMARY:** Creates the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention in the Maryland Department of Health to reduce firearm violence, harm from firearm violence, and misuse of firearms in the State by partnering with federal, State, and local agencies and affected communities to implement a public health approach to firearm violence reduction.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** **October 1, 2024**

## **HB 947: Civil Actions – Public Nuisances – Firearm Industry Members (Gun Industry Accountability Act of 2024)**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Delegate Phillips

**SUMMARY:** Authorizes the Attorney General, a county attorney, or the Baltimore City Solicitor to bring a public nuisance action against a firearm industry member if the firearm industry member knowingly created, maintained, or contributed to harm to the public through the sale, manufacture, distribution, importation, or marketing of a firearm-related product by engaging in conduct that is unlawful or unreasonable under the totality of the circumstances.

**NOTES:** [SB 488](#), the Senate cross-file sponsored by Senator Waldstreicher, passed second reading in the House.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 1, 2024

## **SB 905: Public Safety – Extreme Risk Protective Orders – Review of Court Records**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Senator Kelly

**SUMMARY:** Authorizes researchers affiliated with institutions of higher education conducting academic or policy research to review a court record related to a petition for an extreme risk protective order if they have entered into agreements with the Maryland Judiciary to ensure confidentiality of the records.

**NOTES:** [HB 1267](#), sponsored by Delegate R. Lewis, passed the House but did not receive a vote in the Senate.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2024

# REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

## **SB 975: Maryland Department of Health – Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program – Establishment (Supporting Reproductive Health Care Clinics Act)**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Senator Elfreth

**SUMMARY:** Establishes the Reproductive Health Care Clinic Security Grant Program in the Maryland Department of Health to assist reproductive health care clinics in the State with costs associated with security improvements and safety operational expenses. Authorizes the Governor to include in the Fiscal Year 2026 annual budget a \$500,000 appropriation for the Program. Prohibits the release of personal information of grant applicants, participants, or administrators and information about a grant awarded if it would compromise the safety of the grant recipient.

**NOTES:** Delegate Vogel sponsored the House cross-file [HB 1091](#) which did not receive a vote.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2024

# INTERSECTIONAL AREAS OF LAW

## **HB 127: Public Health – Nonoccupational Postexposure Prophylaxis (nPEP) Standing Order Program – Establishment**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Departmental Bill

**SUMMARY:** Establishes the Nonoccupational Postexposure Prophylaxis (nPEP) Standing Order Program that authorizes pharmacists to dispense nPEP under certain circumstances.

**NOTES:** [SB 246](#), the Senate cross-file, did not receive a vote.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** **October 1, 2024**

## **HB 418/SB 459: Grant Applications and Reporting – Maryland Efficient Grant Application Council – Alterations**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Delegate Stein and Senator Kagan

**SUMMARY:** Extends the length of the Council until June 30, 2029. Adds the Comptroller or designee as a member to the Council. Requires the Council to study the feasibility, costs, and impacts of designating a State Grants Ombudsperson and make recommendations on or before July 1, 2025.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** **July 1, 2024**

## **HB 434: Persons Providing Lobbyist Compensation – Statement of Political Contributions – Exemption for Nonprofits**

**MNADV POSITION:** None

**SPONSORS:** Delegate Atterbeary

**SUMMARY:** Exempts qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations from having to file a disclosure statement with the State Board of Elections for spending at least \$500 to compensate one or more regulated lobbyists

**NOTES:** [SB 1143](#), the Senate cross-file sponsored by Senator Kagan, remained in the Senate Rules Committee and did not have a bill hearing.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** **July 1, 2024**

## **HB 508/SB 550: Children – Labor Trafficking**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Delegate Embry and Senator Sydnor

**SUMMARY:** Adds labor trafficking by any individual to the definition of abuse for purposes of child in need of assistance cases. Expands the role of Regional Navigators to enable them to provide services to victims of child labor trafficking.

**NOTES:** MNADV is a member of Maryland's Human Trafficking Task Force. This was the MD-HTTF legislative priority for the 2024 legislative session.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** **October 1, 2024**



## **HB 1047: Consumer Protection – Self-Administered Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Delegate Bartlett

**SUMMARY:** Prohibits the sale or distribution of a self-administered sexual assault evidence collection kit in Maryland. Creates the Forensic Nurse Examiner Training Grant Program and Forensic Nurse Examiner Training Grant Program Fund administered by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy.

**NOTES:** [SB 949](#), the Senate cross-file sponsored by Senator Hettleman, passed the Senate but did not receive a vote in the House.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** In effect, it is an emergency bill.

## **HB 1127/SB 950: Sexual Assault Forensic Examinations Conducted Through Telehealth - Reimbursement and Study**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Delegate Bartlett and Senator Hettleman

**SUMMARY:** Authorizes reimbursement for a sexual assault forensic exam conducted via peer-to-peer telehealth. Requires the Maryland Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Policy and Funding Committee to study and make recommendations to the General Assembly on the feasibility of a telehealth program in Maryland.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2024

## **SJ 1: Affirming the Federal Equal Rights Amendment**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Senator Kelly

**SUMMARY:** Urges President Biden and his administration to publish the federal Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and for the U.S. Congress to affirm, by joint resolution removing the timeframe for ratification, the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment. This indicates that the General Assembly of Maryland believes that The Equal Rights Amendment meets the requirements of Article V of the Constitution and should be recognized as the 28th Amendment.

**NOTES:** [HJ 1](#), the House cross-file sponsored by Delegate Patterson, did not receive a vote in committee.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Signed by House Speaker Jones and Senate President Ferguson



# BILLS THAT FAILED

## **HB 869/SB 753: Public Safety – Firearm Background Checks, Victim Notification, and the Maryland State Police Gun Center**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Delegate Bartlett and Senator Hettleman

**SUMMARY:** Requiring the Maryland State Police to notify local law enforcement when an individual, who is a prohibited person pursuant to a final order of protection, tries to legally purchase a firearm and is denied. Local law enforcement must notify the holder of the final order of protection of the attempted purchase of the firearm.

**NOTES:** MNADV worked very closely with Maryland State Police to draft amendments to this legislation. There was a fiscal note of \$651,500.

## **HB 482/SB 398: Criminal Injuries Compensation Board – Victims of Nonfatal Strangulation**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Delegate Simpson and Senator Folden

**SUMMARY:** Requires that non-fatal strangulation forensic examination expenses be paid for through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

**NOTES:** The fiscal note estimated a minimum annual general fund increase of \$500,000. The bill was on a voting list in JPR but did not receive a vote.

## **HB 406: Marriage – Confidential Communication**

**MNADV POSITION:** Support

**SPONSORS:** Delegate Simpson

**SUMMARY:** Empowers a victim spouse to waive the marital privilege and testify against their spouse if they choose to do so. A spouse may, but does not have to, reveal a confidential communication made by the other spouse, such as an apology, if the other spouse has committed a crime where the spouse is the victim.

**NOTES:** This bill passed out of the House but did not receive a vote in JPR.





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