

Legislative Update



AIA Maryland Legislative Update

As of February 9, 2026

The 2026 Maryland General Assembly continues at full pace, and AIA Maryland remains actively engaged in advancing policies that protect the practice of architecture, strengthen professional accountability, and support smart, sustainable development across the state.

Protecting the Practice of Architecture

SB 653 – Architects Act Enforcement & Accountability

- **Committee:** Senate Education, Energy & the Environment (EEE)
- **Status:** Committee education meetings underway with Chair and leadership
- **Summary:** Strengthens enforcement of Maryland's Architects Act by requiring Board action in cases of fraud or misrepresentation and mandating notification to county code officials when a license is suspended or revoked.
- **AIA Maryland Position:** **Support**

This legislation was introduced in partnership with AIA Maryland and Senator Cheryl Kagan to address the fraudulent use of architectural seals. In addition, the bill establishes a verification process for all digital permit submissions at every level of government, ensuring authenticity, accountability, and protection of the public.

Clean Energy & Building Electrification

- **Status:** Ongoing policy discussions
- **Focus:** Phased implementation, infrastructure readiness, and flexibility for existing and historic buildings
- **AIA Maryland Position:** Engaged – Advocating for realistic, data-driven implementation

Streamlining Permitting & Plan Review

- **Status:** Ongoing discussions with stakeholders
- **Focus:** Digital plan review, standardized procedures, and efficiency improvements
- **AIA Maryland Position:** Support efforts that increase efficiency without compromising safety

Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS)

- **Status:** Monitoring implementation discussions
- **Focus:** Tailored compliance pathways, incentives, and realistic timelines
- **AIA Maryland Position:** Advocating for achievable, building-type-specific standards

Legislative Action Day

As we prepare for Legislative Action Day, our primary focus will be educating lawmakers on SB 653 and reinforcing the importance of licensure as a public safeguard.

- Meetings scheduled with committee chairs and leadership
- Clear ask: Support SB 653 as written
- Emphasis on public health, safety, and professional accountability

Architects design the schools, hospitals, housing, and civic spaces that shape Maryland's communities. Legislative Action Day ensures that the voice of the profession remains strong, visible, and impactful in Annapolis.

[Register for Legislative Action Day](#)

Live Legislative Tracking List

All bills we are tracking — including summaries, current status, committee assignments, and AIA Maryland notes — are available at:

www.aiamd.org/bills

This page is updated regularly as bills progress, hearings are scheduled, and actions are taken.

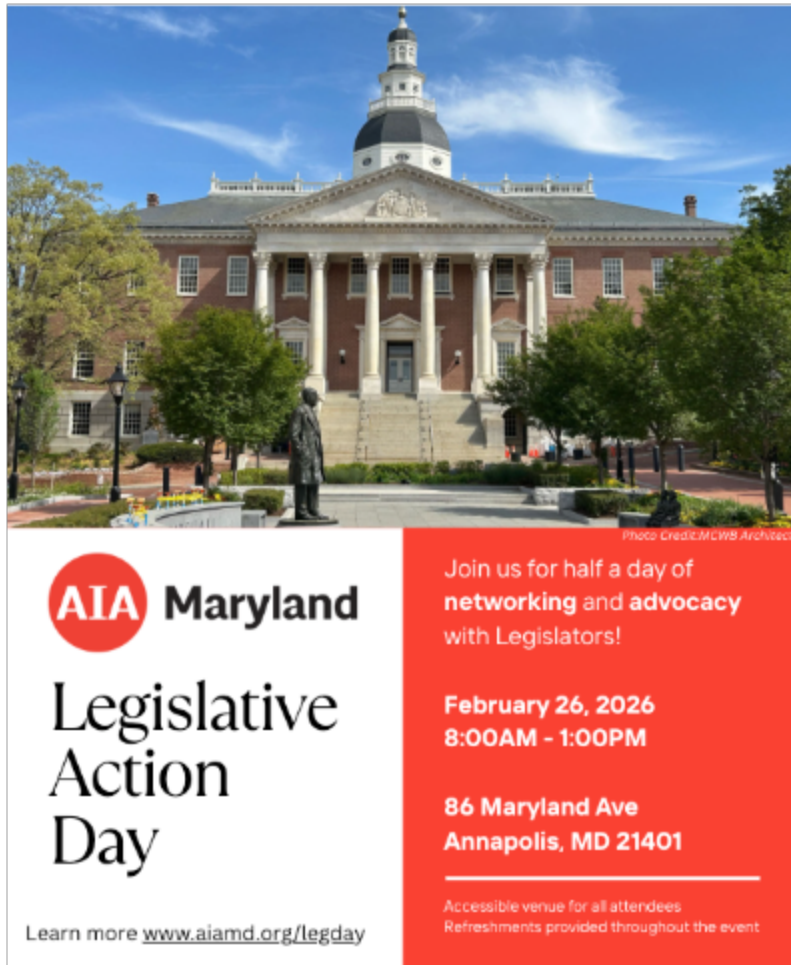


Photo Credit: MCWB Architects

AIA Maryland

Legislative Action Day

Join us for half a day of **networking and advocacy** with Legislators!

February 26, 2026
8:00AM - 1:00PM

86 Maryland Ave
Annapolis, MD 21401

Learn more www.aiamd.org/legday

Accessible venue for all attendees
Refreshments provided throughout the event

Join AIA Maryland for the 2026 Legislative Action Day in Annapolis. This is your opportunity to meet with state legislators, advocate for the profession, and support policies that strengthen Maryland's built environment. Your voice matters — be part of the conversation that shapes our communities.

Event Schedule – Thursday, February 26, 2026

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM: Coffee, Welcome & Orientation

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Attend Legislative Meetings in the Maryland State House

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Lunch to Go!

Visit www.aiamd.org/legday for more information

Virtual Orientation Session

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

A brief virtual session to help prepare you for Advocacy Day.

The link for the meeting and priorities will be in the confirmation email.

Meetings are scheduled with members of the Education, Energy & the Environment; Environment & Transportation; and Economic Matters Committees—where most of the bills of interest to AIA Maryland are heard.

Some of the meetings scheduled:

Senator Brian Feldman – Chair of the EEE committee

Delegate Pam Queen

Delegate Michelle Guyton

Delegate Steve Arentz

Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Delegate Brian Crosby

Senator Katie Fry Hester

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Maryland State of the State — Fast Recap

Theme: Protect. Deliver. Lead.

Leadership & Democracy

- Fourth State of the State address; emphasized bipartisan cooperation.
- Urged action on redistricting and reaffirmed commitment to democratic process.

Federal Impacts

- 25,000 federal job cuts affecting Maryland.
- Risks to health care and SNAP benefits highlighted.

Economy & Workforce

- 100,000 jobs created; 35,000 new businesses launched.
- \$4.3B advanced to minority-owned and disadvantaged businesses.

Energy, Infrastructure & Education

- \$100M in new energy rebates proposed.
- Major bridge, transit, and housing investments announced.
- \$10B proposed for public schools; teacher vacancies cut in half.

Innovation & Services

- \$4M investment in AI workforce training.
 - Technology partnerships to modernize public services.
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Bottom Line: A forward-focused agenda centered on economic growth, infrastructure investment, public safety, and protecting Marylanders amid federal uncertainty.

Not just a Political Action Committee

The Maryland Architects PAC Protects Architects' Careers.



Founded in 1995, the Maryland Architects PAC partners with AIA Maryland to achieve legislative goals, aiding architects in electing supportive legislators. Financial contributions are vital for promoting Maryland architects' interests and enhancing the state's architectural practice.

Every donation, big or small, helps support this cause.

Donate TODAY!



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