

Legislative Update



AIA Maryland Legislative Update

Week Starting March 16, 2026

The Maryland General Assembly is approaching key crossover deadlines, and committees are moving quickly to advance priority legislation. AIA Maryland remains actively engaged to protect licensure, strengthen permitting efficiency, and advocate for policies that support the built environment.

Priority Legislation – Architects Act

SB 653 – Fraud Prevention & Digital Seal Verification

- **Status:** Moving following hearing and sponsor amendments.
- **Crossfile:** HB 1180 continues under House consideration.
- **Position: Support**

SB 653 strengthens enforcement of Maryland’s Architects Act and establishes a formal verification process for digital permit submissions at every level of government.

Recent sponsor amendments:

- Clarify that the licensed architect — not simply the permit applicant — must certify plan submissions.
- Authorize the State Board of Architects to create an anonymous reporting portal.

Advocacy continues in both chambers as crossover deadlines approach.

Bills We Are Supporting

HB 691 – Permitting Efficiency

- Streamlines state-level permitting.
- Addresses costly delays impacting financing and project delivery.
- Support position remains active.

HB 1016 – Non-Compete Reform

- Support letter submitted.
- Clarifies AIA Maryland’s position with sponsors.

Bills We Are Opposing or Monitoring

HB 716 – Surveyor Restrictions During Deer Season

- \$440,000 fiscal note.
- Opposition submitted.
- Unlikely to advance due to fiscal constraints.

SB 158 – Safe Routes to School

- \$96 million fiscal note.
- Monitoring; significant fiscal hurdles remain.

HB 647 – Nuclear Energy Classification

- Monitoring energy policy implications.

HB 548 – Vested Rights

- Monitoring potential downstream impacts on review timing and code updates.

Fiscal Environment & Session Outlook

Committees continue to apply heightened fiscal scrutiny. Bills with significant fiscal notes face procedural challenges as the session advances toward crossover.

AIA Maryland remains strategically engaged with sponsors, committee leadership, and coalition partners to advance priority legislation and protect the profession.

Live Legislative Tracking List

For detailed bill summaries, status updates, and committee assignments, visit:

www.aiamd.org/bills

This page is updated regularly as legislation progresses.

How well do you know how a bill becomes a law? Take our quiz, and if you get the answer right, you'll be entered into a drawing to win one-of-a-kind AIA Maryland swag. Get your entries in by March 30th!

Take the Quiz

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.



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