

# Legislative Update



## AIA Maryland Legislative Update

*As of March 2, 2026*

The Maryland General Assembly has now reached a critical midpoint in session. Hearings are underway, fiscal scrutiny is tightening, and committee decisions over the next several weeks will determine which bills advance.

### Priority Legislation

#### **SB 653 – Architects Act (Fraud Prevention & Digital Seal Verification)**

- **Status:** Hearing held; sponsor amendments adopted.
- **Crossfile:** HB 1180 under continued advocacy.
- **AIA Maryland Position:** **Support**

SB 653 strengthens enforcement of Maryland's Architects Act and directly addresses the fraudulent use of architectural seals. The bill establishes a formal verification process for digital permit submissions at every level of government to ensure seal authenticity and protect the public.

Two sponsor amendments were added:

- Clarifies that the individual certifying the plan signature must be a licensed architect — not merely the permit applicant.
- Authorizes the State Board of Architects to establish an anonymous reporting portal for individuals who wish to report concerns confidentially.

These amendments strengthen accountability while recognizing the close-knit nature of the profession.

## Additional Bill Activity

### HB 691 – Permitting Efficiency

- **Status:** Moving in committee.
- **Position:** Support.
- Streamlines state-level permitting processes to reduce costly delays affecting financing and project delivery.

### HB 716 – Surveyor Restrictions During Deer Season

- **Status:** Under review.
- **Position:** Oppose.
- Contains a \$440,000 fiscal note, exceeding informal Senate fiscal thresholds and creating unintended operational impacts.

### HB 1016 – Non-Compete Reform

- **Status:** Advocacy letter submitted.
- **Position:** Support.
- Clarifies AIA Maryland's support and maintains strong sponsor relationships.

### SB 158 – Safe Routes to School

- **Status:** Facing fiscal challenges.
- **Position:** Monitoring.
- \$96 million fiscal note makes advancement unlikely this session.

### HB 647 – Nuclear Energy Classification

- **Position:** Monitor.
- Adds nuclear to renewable energy research study parameters.

### HB 548 – Vested Rights

- **Position:** Monitor.
- Would vest development application approvals at submission; potential downstream effects on code updates and review timelines.



## 300+ Members Took Action

More than **300 AIA Maryland members** sent correspondence to their legislators and committee members in support of SB 653 and HB 1180. Thank you for showing the support.

**This is where advocacy comes together — and where it makes a measurable difference.**

Coordinated outreach from constituents strengthens our credibility and reinforces the importance of protecting architectural licensure in Maryland.

## Live Legislative Tracking List

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

[www.aiamd.org/bills](http://www.aiamd.org/bills)

This page is updated regularly as legislation progresses.

## Legislative Action Day – An Impactful Day in Annapolis

Legislative Action Day was an impactful and highly visible day in Annapolis.

Members met directly with lawmakers, reinforced the importance of licensure protection, and then attended the SB 653 hearing.

**Advocacy was not theoretical — it was happening in real time.**





## **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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