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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.



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Jeff Ghrist

Maryland

Delegate, HD-036 (R)

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Lifetime
Freedom
Score

MD Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. HB1424 Federal Employee Assistance Fund (Passed 105 to 33 on 4/7/2025). Establishes the Federal Government Employee Assistance Loan Fund, expanding it to provide no-interest loans to federal employees unpaid due to a government shutdown, terminated due to closures, relocations, layoffs, or financial hardship.			NO ★
2. HB525 "AI" Media Ban (Passed 127 to 10 on 4/3/25). Prohibits influencing or attempting to influence a voter's decision to cast a vote for a candidate or ballot issue by disseminating a "deepfake" to falsely depict a person with "false intent."			NO ★
3. HB991 Minority Business Enterprise Program (Passed 121 to 16 on 4/2/2025). Extends the Minority Business Enterprise Program's termination date, while postponing deadlines for reports evaluating "compliance with federal and constitutional" requirements, and mandating "race and gender-neutral" approaches to support minority and women-owned businesses.			NONE ?
4. SB587 Reparations Bill (Passed 101 to 36 on 4/2/2025). Establishes the Maryland Reparations Commission to study and recommend benefits for descendants of individuals enslaved in Maryland or impacted by inequitable government policies.			NO ★
5. HB1466 Centrally Planned Housing (Passed 138 to 1 on 3/17/2025). Mandates that legislative bodies of certain Maryland counties and municipalities adopt laws authorizing accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on lots with a single-family detached dwelling as the primary unit, while prohibiting restrictions on ADU rental.			YES ✗
6. HB930 Abortion Grant Program (Passed 98 to 37 on 3/13/2025). Establishes the Public Health Abortion Grant Program to provide funds for health care practitioners and organizations to provide access to abortion services.			NO ★

Scorecard Votes: 80%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Federal Employee Assistance Fund

HB1424 establishes the Federal Government Employee Assistance Loan Fund, expanding it to provide no-interest loans to federal employees. It also establishes the Expedited Hiring Program to prioritize former federal employees for state positions, authorizes the Attorney General to pursue legal action.

This legislation violates equal-protection principles. It prioritizes certain residents over others, diverting taxpayer resources to financial and employment assistance, and expands bureaucratic overreach in state hiring processes.

2. “AI” Media Ban

HB525 prohibits influencing or attempting to influence a voter’s decision to cast a vote for a candidate or ballot issue by disseminating a “deepfake” created or altered using artificial intelligence to falsely depict a person with “false intent.” Violations are punishable by a fine up to \$5,000, imprisonment up to 5 years, or both.

This legislation imposes restrictions on speech in violation of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It infringes on individual liberty by restricting free expression and enabling selective enforcement against political speech, expanding government overreach in regulating digital content creation and dissemination.

3. Minority Business Enterprise Program

HB991 extends the Minority Business Enterprise Program’s termination date, while postponing deadlines for reports evaluating “compliance with federal and constitutional” requirements, and mandating “race and gender-neutral” approaches to support minority and women-owned businesses.

This legislation expands government authority and perpetuates race and gender-based discrimination, violating equal protection principles. This legislation prioritizes certain groups over others, and mandates discriminatory practices in state procurement processes.

4. Reparations Bill

SB587 establishes the Maryland Reparations Commission to study and recommend benefits for descendants of individuals enslaved in Maryland or impacted by inequitable government policies from 1877 to 1965, such as housing segregation and redlining. The commission, composed of legislative members, state officials, and representatives from various organizations, will examine reparations models, eligibility criteria, and funding sources.

This legislation expands government authority beyond its proper constitutional bounds, creating a commission to study and recommend reparations for “historical inequities.” Such measures promote race-based policies that favor certain groups, undermining individual liberty and equal protection under the law.

5. Centrally Planned Housing

HB1466 mandates that legislative bodies of certain Maryland counties and municipalities adopt local laws authorizing accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on lots with a single-family detached dwelling as the primary unit, while prohibiting restrictions that limit ADU development or rental. It exempts ADUs from density calculations, allows homeowner associations to treat ADUs as separate lots for voting and assessments, and promotes ADUs to address housing needs.

This legislation expands government regulation of private property, and imposes state mandates on local zoning. It overrides local government, and compels property owners to conform to centralized housing policies, expanding bureaucratic overreach in private property.

6. Abortion Grant Program

HB930 establishes the Public Health Abortion Grant Program to provide state budget appropriation funds for authorized health care practitioners, and eligible organizations, to provide access to abortion services for uninsured, “underinsured”, or “at-risk” individuals.

This legislation creates a state-funded program to subsidize abortion services. Maryland should act to ban abortion, which violates the unalienable right to life endowed by God to every person, as guaranteed by both the 5th and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.