



Maryland – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

12th Edition – 2025

Summary

The latest edition of the Maryland CPAC Scorecard assesses 25 votes in the State Senate and 25 votes in the State House from the 2025 legislative session. Maryland Republicans earned an average score of **78%**, a 4% increase from the 74% average score they earned in 2024. Democrats this year earned an average score of **5%**, similar to the 4% they earned in 2024. Maryland Democrats are some of the most liberal scoring lawmakers in the entire country.

In 2025, Maryland Democrats ran the show. A culturally and economically liberal agenda was pushed through every chamber and committee in government. Several policy goals lead the way, including pursuing green energy, spending money on large public education plans and opposing immigration enforcement. Maryland Republicans resisted where possible, adding amendments and speaking strongly on the floor against proposed legislation. The budget was a significant focus during this session, as Maryland was experiencing a \$1.6 billion budget deficit. Despite this, more spending was enacted in certain areas and taxes and fees were raised as well to balance the budget.

Key Takeaways

Taxes and Fees Raised Across the Board

As previously mentioned, Maryland was facing a \$1.6 billion budget deficit. While spending was cut in certain areas, new taxes and fees were increased to make up a large portion of the deficit. **HB 352** was the main source of this. First, a new 3% tax on data and IT services was established. This tax is predicted to take millions out of the state's economy and use it to pay for budget deficits. Other fees and taxes were included as well, including a raised vehicle emissions inspection fee, an increase to the vehicle excise tax and an increased sales tax to vending machine products. Several other fee and tax ideas were proposed during the session also, including raising taxes on firearms, but these died before they reached the floor.

Attempting to Solve the State's Energy Needs

Going into this session, Maryland was in somewhat of an energy crisis. Utility bills were increasing for residents as coal power plants were being shut down. The Maryland General Assembly produced several major bills this session which focused on energy. Sadly, all of the major bills passed involved some form of green energy prioritization, to the detriment of the residents of the state. **HB 1036** removed the agency of local governments by preventing them from prohibiting solar or energy projects in their jurisdictions. **HB 1037** establishes a new office which is tasked to find solutions for long-term energy costs and included in this is mandates to achieve Maryland's lofty renewable energy goals. **HB 1035** has the most promise. While it incentivizes the state to pursue nuclear energy, it also introduces other confining regulations which inhibit energy production.

An Overwhelming Left-Wing Cultural Agenda

Democrats this session pushed some of the most left wing policies in the country. **HB 930** established a public grant program to help fund abortions. The bill uses certain funds which were created by insurance providers and mandated by the ACA, making this bill the first-in-the-nation to allocate funds to abortions in this way. **SB 587** establishes a commission on reparations for those whose ancestors were enslaved in the state. Later in the year, the Democrat governor actually vetoed this legislation. Despite that, the Democrat supermajority in the legislature overrode the veto and the bill was made law. This session opened the door for more radical policies to be advanced in the state.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

HB 1222 – Restricting Immigration Enforcement

Prevents federal immigration enforcement from entering into certain “sensitive locations” without a warrant. CPAC opposes legislation designed to hamper law enforcement in their jobs to uphold public safety and opposes this bill. The House passed this bill on 2025-04-07 by a vote of 101-38. The Senate passed this bill on 2025-04-07 by a vote of 34-13. The bill later became law.

HB 1424 – Favoritism to Federal Workers

This bill significantly strengthens the state's loan assistance program for federal employees by removing the time limit in which you could receive a loan and allowing the state to entirely forgive loans under certain circumstances. Also allows the governor to transfer funds from the state's “Rainy Day Fund” to help pay for the assistance loan accounts. CPAC opposes a large, bloated government, supports private sector employment and ultimately opposes this bill. The House passed this bill on 2025-04-07 by a vote of 105-33. The Senate passed this bill on 2025-04-07 by a vote of 33-13. The bill later became law.

HB 352 – Raising Taxes and Fees

This bill imposes a long list of new taxes and fees on residents in the state in order to balance the state budget. Some of the new taxes include a new tax bracket with a higher tax rate for people who make over \$600,000, a new 6% tax on vending machine products and a new 3% sales tax on all data and IT services. Some new fees include an increased vehicle emissions inspection fee, a tire fee and doubling of the certificate of title fee. CPAC opposes tax increases which hurt jobs and fees which harm middle-class Americans and opposes this legislation. The House passed this bill on 2025-04-07 by a vote of 94-46. The Senate passed this bill on 2025-04-07 by a vote of 29-18. The bill later became law.

SB 587 – Establishing a Commission on Reparations

This bill establishes a commission to study and make recommendations for benefits to be offered to individuals whose ancestors were enslaved in the State. The benefits may include official statements of apology, monetary compensation, property tax rebates, debt forgiveness, higher education tuition payment waivers and reimbursement and more. CPAC opposes racist laws which favor those with a certain skin color, ethnicity or ancestry and opposes this bill. The Senate passed this bill on 2025-03-14 by a vote of 32-13. The House passed this bill on 2025-04-02 by a vote of 101-36. The bill was later vetoed by the Governor, and the veto was overridden by the legislature, making the bill law.

Trends and Observations

Friction between the Legislature and the Governor

Despite majority leaders from the state legislature and the governor being from the same political party, notable differences have arisen over which bills and policies should be advanced. About 4 of the major bills chosen this session and advanced by Democrats were actually vetoed by the governor. Furthermore, in almost all of these cases the Democrat controlled legislature overrode the governor's veto, asserting their dominance. This phenomenon is interesting, and frankly shows just how radical and left-wing the Maryland legislature can be.

Resistance to the New Federal Administration

Another theme of this legislative session was resisting the new Republican Administration in Washington. This came up perhaps most notably in regards to immigration. In committee, a major bill was being pushed which would terminate the 287(g) immigration program in the state, preventing local law enforcement from working with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). In the end, this provision was removed, but **HB 1222** was still passed to combat the attempts of law enforcement made by the federal government. Besides this, **HB 1424** was designed to resist the newly formed Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). This bill strengthened federal worker assistance and allowed those laid off to find jobs easier in the Maryland government.

Conservative Victories Still Possible

Despite an overwhelming liberal majority, this session proved that conservative priorities can still be advanced in the legislature. **HB 179** increased public safety by increasing the criminal severity of retail theft in the state. This was due largely to the recognition that these types of crimes were becoming more of a problem in the state. This bill passed unanimously in both chambers. Commonsense legislation like this can still pass in Maryland, and it's possible that this can continue in future legislative sessions.

Conservative Excellence - House

Lauren Arikan - 100%
Terry L. Baker - 100%
Brian Chisholm - 100%
Mark Fisher - 100%
Jefferson Ghrist - 95%
Robin Grammer - 96%
Wayne Hartman - 100%

Seth Howard - 91%
Nicholaus Kipke - 92%
Nino Mangione - 100%
Susan McComas - 92%
Matthew Morgan - 100%
Ryan Nawrocki - 96%
LaToya Nkongolo - 92%

Jesse Pippy - 96%
April Rose - 96%
Kathy Szeliga - 96%
William Valentine - 92%
William Wivell - 92%

Conservative Excellence - Senate

NONE

Conservative Achievement - House

Christopher Adams - 84%
Steven Arentz - 83%
Barrie Ciliberti - 83%
April Miller - 88%

Tom Hutchinson - 80%
Jay Jacobs - 80%
Robert Long - 88%
Todd B. Morgan - 84%

Charles Otto - 84%
Teresa Reilly - 83%

Conservative Achievement - Senate

NONE