

Women Legislators of the Maryland General Assembly, Inc.

2016 Legislative Wrap Up

The Women's Caucus supported ten bills, two passed or 20%.

Courts and Civil Proceedings

Peace Orders

SB 346/HB 314 (both passed) expand the applicability of peace orders by adding specified offenses to the list of offenses for which an individual may seek relief under provisions of law regarding peace orders. The offenses added are (1) "misuse of telephone facilities and equipment"; (2) "misuse of electronic communication or interactive computer service"; (3) "revenge porn"; and (4) "visual surveillance."

Domestic Violence

Peace Orders

A person who does not meet specified relationship status under the Family Law Article, which governs protective orders, may file a petition for a peace order to protect the person from further harm from another. A petition for a peace order must allege that specified acts occurred against the petitioner by the respondent within 30 days before the filing of the petition. Specified acts include (1) an act that causes serious bodily harm; (2) an act that places the petitioner in fear of imminent serious bodily harm; (3) assault in any degree; (4) rape or sexual offense, as specified or attempted rape or sexual offense in any degree; (5) false imprisonment; (6) harassment; (7) stalking; (8) trespassing; or (9) malicious destruction of property. SB 346/HB 314 (both passed) add the crimes of revenge porn and visual surveillance,

and crimes involving the misuse of telephone facilities and equipment, electronic communications, and interactive computer service to the list of offenses for which an individual may seek a peace order.

*Please note the description of the legislation is taken from:

*The 90 Day Report
A Review of the 2016 Legislative Session
Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly*

Public Health

HB 1303 Freestanding Birthcenters – Use of Ultra Sound Imaging also passed. It requires the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to develop the appropriate regulations that would allow for the use of ultrasound imaging in a freestanding birthing center.

Legislation supported by the Women’s Caucus that did not pass:

HB 4 Criminal Procedure – Domestic Violence – Active Electronic Monitoring (Amber’s Law)

HB 646/SB 593 Family Law – Child Conceived Without Consent – Termination of Parental Rights (Rape Survivor Family Protection Act)

HB 1001/SB 943 Criminal Procedure – Firearms Transfer

HB 677 Family Law – Child Support – Age of Majority – Postsecondary Education

HB 1183 Family Law – Divorce – Restoration of Former Name

HB 1396/SB 960 Domestic Violence – Education and Definition of Abuse

HB 819 Domestic Violence – Permanent Protective Orders – Probation and Suspended Sentence

HB 1142 Education – Institutions of Higher Learning – Affirmative Consent Standard