



January 2026 Newsletter Issues 7 & 8

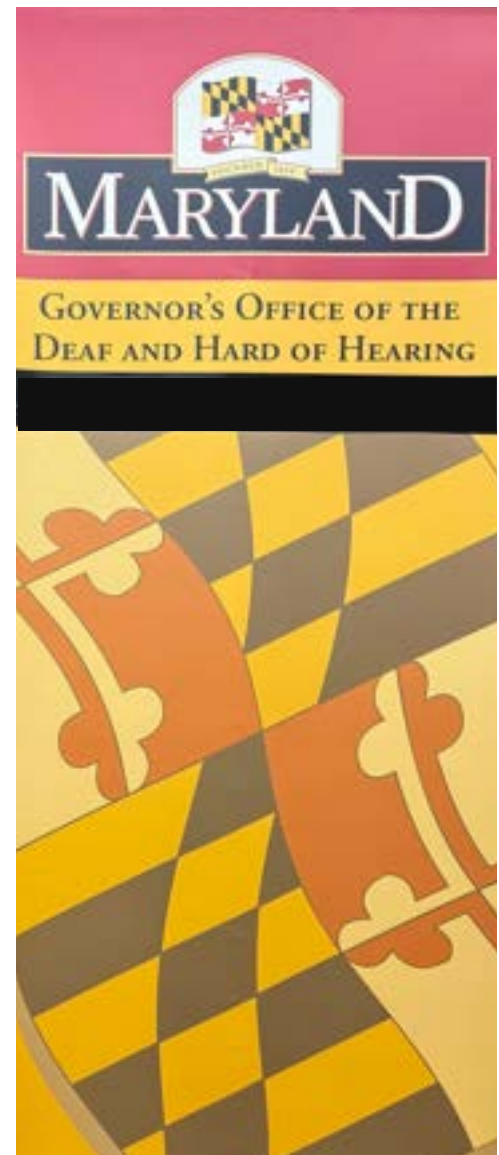
Usherla DeBerry | Director

Issued January 7 and January 31, 2026



You can find our brief ASL Updates on YouTube or our Social Media @MDGOVODHH.

Join our Email Newsletter



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GOVERNOR MOORE JANUARY RECAP

Economic Development

Housing Growth and Affordability Agenda

- Maryland Transit & Housing Opportunity Act of 2026 to reduce zoning and financing barriers.
- Focus on transit-oriented development, mixed-use housing, and expanded financial incentives.

BWI Marshall Airport Concourse A/B Connector & Baggage Handling Project

- \$520 million capital improvement project.
- Expands passenger capacity, supports airline growth, and boosts economic activity.

Maryland Community Business Compass

- New data platform supporting entrepreneurs with access to capital, information, and business resources.
- Includes \$10 million investment for fresh food retailers and childcare providers.

Hercules Custom Iron Manufacturing Plant Ribbon Cutting

- Expansion of manufacturing operations supporting job creation and local industry growth.

Affordable and Reliable Energy Future Executive Order

- Aims to reduce energy costs and expand cost-effective energy solutions.
- Addresses electricity generation gaps and long-term affordability.



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GOVERNOR MOORE JANUARY RECAP CONTINUED

Public Assistance Programs

- **Vax Act Legislative Initiative**

- Protects vaccine access and ensures insurance coverage for recommended vaccines.
- Expands pharmacists' authority to administer flu and COVID vaccines to individuals age 3 and older.

- **Team Melo Youth Development Grant**

- \$40,000 grant supporting youth basketball and developmental opportunities for young scholars through Baltimore City Recreation and Parks.

Other Updates

State Employee Union Economic Agreements

- Average 2% pay increase for over 11,000 state employees.
- Represents a \$37 million workforce investment.
- Establishes compensation and benefits guidelines through union agreements.

Maryland.gov Website Rebuild

- Redesigned as a user-friendly “digital front door.”
- Includes accessibility improvements, plain language content, and improved user experience.

Resources:

- <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Announces-Economic-Agreements-with-Majority-of-State-Employee-Unions.aspx>
- <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Announces-New-Maryland-gov,-Improving-Access-to-State-Benefits,-Services,-and-Resources.aspx>
- <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Announces-Housing-Growth-and-Affordability-Agenda-for-2026-Legislative-Session.aspx>
- <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Celebrates-Major-Terminal-Enhancement-at-BWI-Thurgood-Marshall-Airport.aspx>
- <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Announces-Legislative-Action-to-Safeguard-Vaccine-Access-for-Marylanders-with-Vax-Act-of-2026.aspx>

GODHH January Events

NIC/BEI Study Table

On Saturday, January 10, 2026 at the Laurel Branch Library, Outreach Interpreter Manager, Tanéa Brown, hosted a Study Table designed to provide a focused and disciplined learning space for interpreters. The initiative supports HB260 and aligns with the Moore–Miller Administration’s priorities of Connecting Marylanders to Jobs and Being a State that Serves.

The Study Table offers interpreters an opportunity to exchange notes, collaborate, and support one another in preparation for the certification exam.



ID: Eight people sitting on a yellow couch at the library, five are holding up the ASL sign for “love.”

2026 Legislative Session

The 2026 Maryland General Assembly session officially convened on January 14, 2026 and will run through April 13, 2026, as lawmakers consider hundreds of bills and the state budget.

This session matters to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community as decisions made in Annapolis can directly affect access to services, disability supports, interpreter funding, employment rights, education equity, and more. Whether it’s state budget allocations that impact community programs or legislation that affects communication access and civil rights, staying informed ensures our voices are heard. Advocacy at the State House through testimony, meetings with legislators, or community outreach can make a real difference in shaping laws that affect daily life.



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