

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 24

(Senator Kagan)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Rules and Executive Nominations

**Annotated Code - Terminology - Clergy and Churches, Faith Institutions, and
Places of Worship**

This bill alters terminology throughout the Maryland Annotated Code so that (1) references to clergymen are replaced with terms that are religiously and gender neutral and (2) references to churches are replaced with terms that are religiously neutral, including “faith institutions” and “places of worship.” A “faith institution” is any Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, or Hindu congregation, or any other religious society, congregation, or denomination. The bill also makes conforming changes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is technical in nature and has no effect on governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, the Maryland Annotated Code refers to clergy in gendered language and religious institutions as churches.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 2 (Delegate Stewart) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 4, 2025
rh/mcr Third Reader - March 14, 2025
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 14, 2025

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