# **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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