



Guidelines E-News

Vol. 20, No. 2 – November 2025



IN THIS ISSUE

- **Revisions to the Guidelines Offense Table**
- **Sentencing Guidelines Revision to the Multiple Victims Stacking Rule in Response to Senate Bill 152/House Bill 89 (2025)**

Revisions to the Guidelines Offense Table

The Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy (MSCCSP) has revised the Guidelines Offense Table to reflect:

- (1) classification of new offenses passed during the 2025 Legislative Session;
- (2) classification of amended offenses passed during the 2025 Legislative Session; and
- (3) minor edits to the table.

These changes were adopted in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) effective November 3, 2025. A print friendly version of the updated [Guidelines Offense Table](#) (Appendix A of the [Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Manual](#); MSGM, version 17.1) is available on the MSCCSP website. This file is searchable by key word, CJIS Code, Source, etc. Please discard any prior versions of the Guidelines Offense Table, as information in prior versions may no longer be accurate.

New Offenses, 2025 Legislative Session

Legislation	Annotated Code of Maryland	Offense	Statutory Maximum	Adopted Seriousness Category	Offense Type
Chapter 183 (SB0080)	CR, §10-604.1	Animals, Crimes Against Abuse or neglect of an animal that results in the death of or need to euthanize a domestic animal or livestock	1 year ¹	VII	Property
Chapters 189 and 190 (HB0943/SB0334)	CR, §6-112	Arson and Burning Malicious or fraudulent burning resulting in the death of or serious physical injury to a firefighter	10 years	IV	Person
Chapter 275 (SB0123)	NR, §8-724(a)(3)(ii)(1)	Boating Offenses Failure to immediately stop a vessel involved in a collision, accident, or other casualty that results in bodily injury to another person	1 year ¹	VII	Person

Legislation	Annotated Code of Maryland	Offense	Statutory Maximum	Adopted Seriousness Category	Offense Type
Chapter 275 (SB0123)	NR, §8-724(a)(3)(ii)(2)	Boating Offenses Failure to immediately stop a vessel involved in a collision, accident, or other casualty that results in the death of another person	5 years	V	Person
Chapter 275 (SB0123)	NR, §8-724(a)(3)(iii)(1)	Boating Offenses Failure to immediately stop a vessel involved in a collision, accident, or other casualty when the person knew or reasonably should have known that serious bodily injury to another person might occur and serious bodily injury actually occurred	5 years	V	Person
Chapter 275 (SB0123)	NR, §8-724(a)(3)(iii)(2)	Boating Offenses Failure to immediately stop a vessel involved in a collision, accident, or other casualty when the person knew or reasonably should have known that the death of another person might occur and death actually occurred	10 years	IV	Person
Chapter 275 (SB0123)	NR, §8-724(b)	Boating Offenses Failure to render all practical and necessary assistance to persons affected by a vessel collision, accident, or other casualty; failure to provide operator's information	2 months ¹	VII	Person
Chapter 704 (HB0996)	HG, §21-2F-02(f)	CDS and Paraphernalia Prepare, distribute, sell, or expose for sale phenibut product without required disclosures; not recognized by the FDA; adulterated or contaminated with a dangerous substance; or to an individual under the age of 21 years	90 days ¹	VII	Drug
Chapter 545 (HB0674)	CR, §10-405	Cemeteries and Funerary Objects, Crimes Involving Committing, or aiding or abetting another to commit, certain destructive acts to human remains with the intent to conceal a crime	5 years	VI	Property

Legislation	Annotated Code of Maryland	Offense	Statutory Maximum	Adopted Seriousness Category	Offense Type
Chapters 160 and 161 (SB0081/HB0445)	CR, §7-302(d)(5)	Telecommunications and Electronics, Crimes Involving Taking certain actions with the intent to interrupt or impair the functioning of a public safety answering point	5 years	V	Property
Chapters 191 and 192 (SB0011/HB0179)	CR, §7-104.1(c)(1)	Theft, Crimes Involving Organized retail theft, at least \$1,500 but less than \$25,000	5 years	VI	Property
Chapters 191 and 192 (SB0011/HB0179)	CR, §7-104.1(c)(2)	Theft, Crimes Involving Organized retail theft, at least \$25,000 but less than \$100,000	10 years	V	Property
Chapters 191 and 192 (SB0011/HB0179)	CR, §7-104.1(c)(3)	Theft, Crimes Involving Organized retail theft, \$100,000 or greater	20 years	III	Property

¹ By MSCCSP rule, any offense with a maximum incarceration penalty of one year or less is automatically assigned a seriousness category VII (COMAR 14.22.01.09B(2)(f)) unless the Commission chooses to adopt a different seriousness category. The Commission added these offenses to the Guidelines Offense Table because it expects they will be prosecuted in the circuit courts.

Amended Offenses with Changes to the Incarceration Penalty, 2025 Legislative Session

Legislation	Annotated Code of Maryland	Offense	Prior Stat. Max. / Seriousness Category	New Stat. Max. / Seriousness Category	Offense Type
Chapters 651 and 652 (HB0039/SB0356)	HG, §18-601.1	Assault and Other Bodily Woundings Knowingly transfer or attempt to transfer HIV virus	3 years / V	N/A ²	Person
Chapter 136 (HB0413)	CR, §5-612(c)(2)	CDS and Paraphernalia Manufacture, distribute, dispense, or possess 50 pounds or more of cannabis	5 years / IV (5Y mand. min.)	10 years / IV	Drug
Chapter 136 (HB0413)	CR, §5-613(b)(2)	CDS and Paraphernalia Drug kingpin—cannabis	40 years / II (20Y mand. min.)	20 years / III-B	Drug
Chapter 180 (HB0260)	CR, §5-619(c)(2)(ii)	CDS and Paraphernalia Paraphernalia—use or possess with intent to use drug paraphernalia—non-cannabis, subsequent	2 years / VII	1 year / VII	Drug

Legislation	Annotated Code of Maryland	Offense	Prior Stat. Max. / Seriousness Category	New Stat. Max. / Seriousness Category	Offense Type
Chapter 180 (HB0260)	CR, §5-619(d)(2)(ii)	CDS and Paraphernalia Paraphernalia—deliver or sell, or manufacture or possess with intent to deliver or sell, drug paraphernalia, subsequent	2 years / VII	1 year / VII	Drug
Chapter 180 (HB0260)	CR, §5-620(d)(1)	CDS and Paraphernalia Paraphernalia—possess or distribute controlled paraphernalia—non-cannabis, 1 st offense	4 years / V	N/A ³	Drug
Chapter 180 (HB0260)	CR, §5-620(d)(2)	CDS and Paraphernalia Paraphernalia—possess or distribute controlled paraphernalia—non-cannabis, subsequent	4 years / V	1 year / VII	Drug
Chapters 465 and 136 (SB0443/HB0413)	PS, §5-406(c)(1)	Handguns—In General Manufacture for distribution or sale a handgun that is not included on the handgun roster	N/A ⁴	5 years / VI	Person
Chapters 465 and 136 (SB0443/HB0413)	PS, §5-406(c)(2)	Handguns—In General Sell or offer to sell a handgun that is not included on the handgun roster	N/A ⁴	5 years / VI	Person
Chapters 446 and 447 (HB0744/SB0590)	TR, §21-901.1(c)(1)	Motor Vehicle Offense Reckless driving	N/A ⁴	60 days / VII	Person

² The Maryland General Assembly repealed the crime of *Knowingly transfer or attempt to transfer HIV virus* effective October 1, 2025. Since the guidelines apply only to criminal offenses, this offense was removed from the Guidelines Offense Table.

³ The Maryland General Assembly altered the maximum penalty from incarceration and/or a fine to a fine only effective October 1, 2025. Since the guidelines apply only to criminal offenses that carry a possible penalty of incarceration, this offense was removed from the Guidelines Offense Table. However, this offense remains a criminal offense, and any adjudication should be counted towards the scoring of the prior adult criminal record.

⁴ The Maryland General Assembly altered the maximum penalty from a fine only to incarceration and/or a fine effective October 1, 2025. Since the guidelines apply to criminal offenses that carry a possible penalty of incarceration, this offense was categorized and added to the Guidelines Offense Table.

Minor Edits

Minor edits to the Guidelines Offense Table include:

- adding a fraud offense with a penalty of one year;
- adding updated CJIS Codes for various offenses;
- changing the felony/misdemeanor classification for several offenses, due to changes resulting from the 2025 Legislative Session; and
- updating the statute reference for various offenses, due to updates resulting from the 2025 Legislative Session.

Sentencing Guidelines Revision to the Multiple Victims Stacking Rule in Response to Senate Bill 152/House Bill 89 (2025)

In its 2025 Legislative Session, the Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill 152/House Bill 89, which provides that each animal harmed in a violation of Section 10, Subtitle 6 of the Criminal Law Article is a separate offense and shall be deemed an individual victim for purposes of the sentencing guidelines stacking rule or what is referred to in the MSGM as the multiple victims stacking rule (MVSr). Additionally, Senate Bill 152/House Bill 89 establishes that a conviction for a crime relating to animals may not merge with a conviction for any other crime based on the act establishing the violation and that a sentence imposed may be separate from and consecutive to or concurrent with a sentence based on the act establishing a violation.

In response, the MSCCSP voted at its July 8, 2025, meeting to amend the MSGM and the corresponding language in COMAR to clarify that **each animal harmed in violation of Criminal Law Article, Title 10, Subtitle 6 shall be considered a victim for the purposes of applying the MVSr**. This guidelines revision was adopted in COMAR effective November 3, 2025. The affected section of the [Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Manual](#) (MSGM, version 17.1) is *10.1 Criminal Event with Multiple Unique Victims*.