Vanessa Atterbeary

House of Delegates   District HD-013
Democrat
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View Online

This legislator voted constitutionally on **0%** of the votes shown below.

★ Pro-liberty	✖ Anti-liberty	❓ Did not Vote	**Vote**

1. SB36 'No-Fault Divorce' (passed 128 to 4 on 4/10/2023). Authorizes a family court to grant an "absolute divorce" on the grounds of either a six-month separation between the parties or "irreconcilable differences" based on reasons stated by the complainant. — **Yes** ✖

2. HB283 Medicaid-Covered Sex Mutilation (passed 97 to 39 on 4/7/2023). Requires Medicaid, under the "Trans Health Equity Act," to provide coverage for "gender-affirming treatment" to all "transgender, nonbinary, intersex, two-spirit, and other gender diverse individuals." — **Yes** ✖

3. HB1066 "Hate Crime" Commission (passed 106 to 31 on 3/31/2023). Establishes the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention to "develop strategies to prevent and respond to hate crime activity" and "evaluate State laws and policies." — **Yes** ✖

4. SB798 'Right to Abortion' in the Maryland Constitution (passed 98 to 38 on 3/30/2023). Proposes to amend the Maryland Constitution to declare a "fundamental right" to "reproductive freedom," including but not limited to the ability to "prevent, continue, or end one's own pregnancy." — **Yes** ✖

5. HB967 Daishan Day (passed 135 to 1 on 3/20/2023). Proclaims October 5 annually as Dashain Day, codifying into law a Hindu religious festival in honor of Durga, the Universal Mother Goddess. — **Yes** ✖

6. HB159 Warrantless Arrest for Firearms Purchases (passed 115 to 19 on 2/28/2023). Would allow a police officer to arrest a person without a warrant if the police officer has probable cause to believe that the person is a knowing participant in a "straw purchase" of a "regulated firearm." — **Yes** ✖

MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE
SCORECARD
BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Rep. Vanessa Atterbeary   **MD Scorecard 2023**
Lifetime Score: 0%   **2023 Regular Session Score 0%**

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide educational program of The John Birch Society. Its purpose is to create an informed electorate on how state legislators are voting. The Scorecard is nonpartisan; it does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are selected for their constitutional implications and cost to the taxpayers.
Please share this Scorecard in your district to inform people about your legislator's record on key votes.
U.S. Constitution, Amendment I --- 11 C.F.R. §114(4)(c)(4) --- 616 F.2d 45 (2d Cir. 1980)

The following scorecard lists several key votes in the Maryland General Assembly in 2023 and ranks state delegates and senators based on their fidelity to (U.S.) constitutional and limited-government principles.

This is our second state-level Scorecard; the selected votes may not be reflective of legislators' overall records. Their cumulative scores will change as we add more votes. Please check regularly for updates.

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The Constitution
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Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

1. 'No-Fault Divorce'

SB36 authorizes divorce on the grounds of either a six-month separation between the parties or "irreconcilable differences."

'No fault divorce' is blatantly unjust and unconstitutional. It permits persons to injure their spouses and children (e.g., adultery or abandonment) with impunity—thereby aiding and abetting violators of the marital covenant while denying victims due process of law. It also mistakenly assumes that valid grounds for divorce are to be determined exclusively, even frivolously, by the government. On the contrary, marriage is ordained by God, not the State. The most sacred of all human institutions, marriage serves as the foundation of the family. God-honoring marriages are essential to securing liberty and self-government for our children, whereas the fallout from 'no-fault divorce' has been devastating. Maryland should protect families rather than tear them apart.

2. Medicaid-Covered Sex Mutilation

HB283 requires Medicaid to provide coverage for "gender-affirming treatment."

Health care, let alone sex mutilation, is not the role of government. No person has a right to harm another using the pretext of LGBTQ+ ideology, and Medicaid is financed by immoral and anti-constitutional forms of taxation (e.g., personal or corporate income taxes) that take from citizens the wages they have duly earned. Not only do both the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment affirm the right to life and limb of every person, but Medicaid remains an ever-expanding and unsustainable Federal-State program that is not authorized under Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution.

3. "Hate Crime" Commission

HB1066 establishes the Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention.

"Hate crimes" legislation is a farce being promoted by those who falsely believe it is the duty of government to right every wrong. This concept is not only impossible, but dangerous. The legitimate powers of government extend only to acts that are injurious to others, regardless of the perpetrator's motivations or the victim's identity. The power to arrest, prosecute, or retry a person based on allegations of "hate" is not one that should be granted. The Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment require an "impartial jury," prevent double jeopardy, and guarantee "equal protection of the laws."

4. 'Right to Abortion' in the Maryland Constitution

SB798 proposes to amend the Maryland Constitution to declare a "fundamental right" to "reproductive freedom," including but not limited to the ability to "prevent, continue, or end one's own pregnancy."

The care of human life—not its destruction—is the greatest responsibility of government. Maryland ought to forbid all methods of abortion and other grotesque methods of population control entirely and uphold the sanctity of life for every person, especially preborn children. The right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and unalienable right asserted in the Declaration of Independence and protected by the Fifth and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

5. Dashain Day

HB967 proclaims October 5 annually as Dashain Day, codifying into law a Hindu religious festival.

This bill is antithetical to Maryland's distinct Christian heritage—treating with disdain the life and character upon which its civil institutions were founded. The 1776 Constitution of Maryland required a "declaration of a belief in the Christian religion" to hold public office in the *State* (Article XXXV). Moreover, the 1623 Great Seal of Maryland is encircled with Psalm 5:12 and still used to authenticate acts of the General Assembly. Rather than defend Christian principles, and be "grateful to Almighty God," as expressed in Maryland's Declaration of Rights, legislators in Annapolis have decided to patronize multicultural polytheism. "We, the People," were warned by this nation's forefathers that apart from a firm reliance on God, not to mention the removal of His commandments from capitols, courthouses, and elsewhere, our efforts shall succeed "no better than the Builders of Babel."

6. Warrantless Arrest for Firearms Purchases

HB159 would allow a warrantless arrest if a police officer has probable cause to believe that a person is a knowing participant in a "straw purchase" of a "regulated firearm."

This bill attempts to force universal background checks for firearms purchases under the threat of warrantless arrest. Neither the bill's classification of "regulated firearms" (e.g., handguns) nor its provisions related to the circumstances in which a person is "prohibited by law" from possessing them (e.g., under 21 years of age) is constitutional. The Second Amendment guarantees the right to "keep and bear Arms," without exception to a type of firearm or on account of age. Also, the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment, in conjunction with the 26th Amendment, prevent "any State" from depriving or denying "any person," such as citizens "who are eighteen years of age or older," of their "life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."