

fosters and maintains contacts and liaison with agencies and representatives of the federal government concerning federal programs and activities, and circulates information and data thus obtained among the several agencies of the State and its political subdivisions. It endeavors to advance cooperation between the State and other units of government when it seems advisable by formulating proposals for the adoption of compacts, the enactment of uniform or reciprocal statutes, the adoption of uniform or reciprocal administrative rules, the informal cooperation of governmental offices with one another, and whatever else is required to ensure that Maryland does its part in bringing the various governments in the United States into close contact (Code 1957, Art. 40, secs. 16-20).

#### **JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON METROPOLITAN MASS TRANSIT**

*Co-Chairperson:* Julian L. Lapidés

*Co-Chairperson:* William H. Cox, Jr.

Members from the Senate: John J. Bishop, Jr., Victor Cushwa, Robert L. Douglass, John J. Garrity.

Members from the House of Delegates: Thomas W. Chamberlain, Sr., Gerald J. Curran, Hattie N. Harrison, George T. Schmincke.

The Joint Legislative Committee on Metropolitan Mass Transit was established by Chapter 630, Acts of 1976, to review, evaluate, and make recommendations to the General Assembly with respect to the rapid mass transit system in the Baltimore Metropolitan Mass Transit District. The Committee is composed of ten members, five from the Senate appointed by the president and five from the House of Delegates appointed by the speaker. The chairperson is appointed jointly by the president and the speaker.

The committee's review, evaluation, and recommendations with respect to the Baltimore Rapid Transit System include, but are not limited to, items such as safety and security factors, environmental standards, fiscal implications, total cost of building and maintaining the system, cost/benefit ratio for expenditures, and availability of federal funds.

The Secretary of Transportation of Maryland is required to submit to the Committee for its review and evaluation any final plans for the future development or extension of the rapid transit sys-

tem in Baltimore. The Committee is required to submit its recommendations on any proposed final plan to the General Assembly.

#### **SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES**

The Legislative Policy Committee periodically establishes special joint committees and task forces for particular purposes. The staff for these special joint committees and task forces are coordinated by the Department of Legislative Reference. A list of the committees and their membership is published each summer by the Department of Legislative Reference and is available on request. Further information may be obtained from the staff contact at the Department of Legislative Reference.

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#### **LEGISLATIVE AGENCIES**

##### **STATE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE**

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The State Department of Legislative Reference was originally created by Chapter 565, Acts of 1906, to serve the City of Baltimore. The scope of the Department was enlarged so that it would also serve the State by Chapter 474, Acts of 1916. By Chapter 453, Acts of 1965, the State's portion of the Department was transferred to the Legislative Branch. The present Department dates its current organization from Chapter 571, Acts of 1966, which separated this Department from the department of the same name in Baltimore City.

The Department collects, compiles, and indexes information on all questions of proposed legislation. It investigates and reports on the laws of Maryland and other states at the request of the Governor, any committee or member of the General Assembly, or any State agency. At the request of a member of the General Assembly, the Department prepares or aids in the drafting of any law or resolution. Each department of the State government must transmit to the Depart-