



House of Delegates Chamber, architectural drawing from Historic American Buildings Survey, Maryland State House Project Collection, MSA SC1773, Maryland State Archives.

Appointed by Chair, Ways & Means Committee:
 Thomas H. Hattery; W. Ray Huff; James F. Ports, Jr.; Robert A. Thornton, Jr.

RULES & EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Hattie N. Harrison, *Chairperson* (410) 841-3325
 Rose Mary Hatem Bonsack, *Vice-Chairperson*

Appointed by House Speaker: Gary R. Alexander; Michael E. Busch; Mary A. Conroy; Gerald J. Curran; Ulysses Currie; Richard N. Dixon; Michael R. Gordon; Ronald A. Guns; Kenneth H. Masters; Pauline H. Menes; Louis P. Morsberger; Howard P. Rawlings; Ellen R. Sauerbrey; Joseph F. Vallario, Jr.

CONSENT CALENDARS COMMITTEE

Casper R. Taylor, Jr., *Speaker* . . . (410) 841-3800
 Kenneth H. Masters, *Majority Leader*
 (410) 841-3464
 Ellen R. Sauerbrey, *Minority Leader*
 (410) 841-3401

HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE

Pauline H. Menes, *Chairperson* . (410) 841-3870

Appointed by House Speaker: Curtis S. Anderson; Frank D. Boston, Jr.; Kenneth C. Montague, Jr.; Carol S. Petzold; Joan B. Pitkin; Jean W. Roesser; J. Anita Stup; Virginia M. Thomas.

HOUSE FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Gary R. Alexander, *Chairperson* (410) 841-3391

Appointed by House Speaker: Kumar P. Barve; John J. Bishop; Ruth M. Kirk; Mary Louise Preis; Victor A. Sulin.

ORIGIN & FUNCTIONS

In Maryland, the House of Delegates originated as the Lower House of the General Assembly in 1650, when the legislature became a bicameral body (Chapter 1, Acts of 1650). To the Lower House freemen in each hundred elected burgesses as their representatives. From 1654, the county replaced the hundred as the local area represented.

The Constitution of 1776 established the House of Delegates whose members represented the voters who elected them from each county and the towns of Annapolis and Baltimore (Const. 1776, secs. 1-6). With four delegates representing each county, two representing Annapolis, and two Baltimore, the House of Delegates originally was based on geographic representation. After 1837, however, population became the basis of legislative apportionment for the House of Delegates. Since the legislative apportionment plan of 1972 took effect in the 1974 elections, the House of Delegates has had 141 members.