

**JOINT COMMITTEE TO STUDY
MANDATES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Brian E. Frosh, *Senate Chair*
Donald C. Fry, *House Chair*

Staff: Karen D. Morgan (410) 841-3736

In December 1995, the Joint Committee to Study Mandates on Local Government began. The Committee considers the effect of unfunded State mandates on local government.

**TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE
MARYLAND LAWS ON RIGHTS OF CRIME VICTIMS**

Norman R. Stone, Jr., *Senate Co-Chair*
Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., *House Co-Chair*

Staff: Michael A. Sallustio (410) 841-3870

In 1995, the Task Force to Examine Maryland Laws on Rights of Crime Victims was formed by the Legislative Policy Committee.

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS

William H. Amoss, *Senate Chair*
James E. Proctor, Jr., *House Chair*

Staff: Paul O. Ballou III (410) 841-3710

The Special Joint Committee on Pensions has functioned since 1985. The Committee reviews issues affecting State pension systems.

**JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON PROGRAM OPEN SPACE
& AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION**

Thomas M. Middleton, *Senate Chair*
George C. Edwards, *House Chair*

Staff: Teresa M. Milio (410) 841-3417
N. Lynn Raymond (410) 841-3690

The Joint Subcommittee on Program Open Space and Agricultural Land Preservation was started by the Legislative Policy Committee in 1991. The Subcommittee oversees Program Open Space and the Agricultural Land Preservation Program, monitors their progress, and evaluates legislation affecting them.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON
ADMINISTRATIVE, EXECUTIVE
& LEGISLATIVE REVIEW**

John A. Pica, Jr., *Senate Chair*
John S. Arnick, *House Chair*
Mary Louise Preis, *House Vice-Chair*

Staff: David M. Sale; Shauna G. Mitchell
(410) 841-3870

*Annual Report to Legislative Policy Committee &
General Assembly.*

In 1964, the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review (AELR) was formed as the Committee on Legislative Review

(Chapter 96, Acts of 1964). It received its present name in 1972 (Chapters 400, 699, Acts of 1972).

The Committee reviews State agency regulations with regard to the legislative prerogative and procedural due process. The Committee also may inquire into any failure of a State government officer or employee to comply with Maryland statutory or constitutional law. Further, the Committee sits as a legislative advisory board for the *Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)*.

Copies of all regulations of each State agency are received by the Committee. Unless submitted to the Committee, certain regulations or standards may be invalid (Code State Government Article, secs. 10-101 through 10-139). The Committee also is required to receive emergency energy executive orders promulgated by the Governor (Chapter 1, Acts of 2nd Special Session of 1973). This legislative authority has been updated annually.

The Committee is composed of ten senators and ten delegates who are appointed by the Senate President and the House Speaker at the beginning of each regular session. Members serve for one year. The chair and vice-chair alternate each year between the two houses. Representation of each political party is approximately in the same proportion as its membership in each house (Code State Government Article, secs. 2-501 through 2-507).

**JOINT BUDGET & AUDIT
COMMITTEE**

William H. Amoss, *Senate Chair*
John F. Slade III, *House Chair*
Richard A. Palumbo, *House Vice-Chair*

Staff: Dana A. Thompson (410) 841-3761

Annual Report to General Assembly.

The Joint Budget and Audit Committee was established in 1968 (Chapter 456, Acts of 1968). The Committee studies and reviews State fiscal policies and post audits, and other matters relating to fiscal affairs. From the Executive Department and the Department of Fiscal Services it receives annual reports on how long-term State debt affects the State's financial condition.

Annually, the Committee reviews federally funded projects requiring future State funds and nonbudgeted funds used for capital programs. It also reviews rules and regulations that require increased expenditures and establishes policies and directives for the Department of Fiscal Services.

The Committee's twenty members include the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the majority and minority floor leaders or designees. Other members are divided equally between legislators from the fiscal committees of the Senate and House of Delegates. The presiding officers name the chair and vice-chair (Code State Government Article, secs. 2-601 through 2-606).