

laws on a given subject. Any bills relating to their assigned subject matter received committee review before any final action on the floor.

To review proposed legislation today, the House of Delegates has six standing committees: Appropriations; Commerce and Government Matters; Economic Matters; Environmental Matters; Judiciary; and Ways and Means. Two additional standing committees, assigned other duties, are Rules and Executive Nominations, and Consent Calendars.

CONSENT CALENDARS COMMITTEE

Casper R. Taylor, Jr., *House Speaker*
 John Adams Hurson, *Majority Leader*
 Robert H. Kittleman, *Minority Leader*

The Consent Calendars Committee determines the bills and joint resolutions proposed for inclusion on the consent calendar (House Rule 18).

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Howard P. Rawlings, *Chair*
 Norman H. Conway, *Vice-Chair*

Low House Office Building, Room 131
 6 Governor Bladen Blvd.
 Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-3407

The Appropriations Committee originated in 1692 as the Committee on Accounts. By the Revolutionary War era, it had become the Committee on Claims (upon the Treasury). The Claims Committee functioned from 1776 to 1968 when its responsibilities were shifted briefly to the Economic Matters Committee. In 1971, budgetary and other duties were assigned to the Appropriations Committee created in that year.

The Appropriations Committee reviews legislation relating to State operating and capital budgets, including supplementary appropriations; State and county bond authorizations; collective bargaining; higher education; State personnel and pension matters; Program Open Space; social services; and State and local government procedures and programs. Twenty-seven delegates serve on this committee.

The Committee has five subcommittees: Capital Budget; Education and Economic Development; Health and Human Services; Public Safety and Administration; and Transportation and the Environment. The Committee also is aided by three oversight committees: Pensions; Personnel; and Program Open Space and Agricultural Land Preservation.

COMMERCE & GOVERNMENT MATTERS COMMITTEE

Gerald J. Curran, *Chair*
 John F. Wood, Jr., *Vice-Chair*

Low House Office Building, Room 141
 6 Governor Bladen Blvd.
 Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-3502

The Commerce and Government Matters Committee was created in January 1994. The Committee is assigned legislation relating to banks, credit unions, and financial institutions; civil rights; elections; ethics; local government; minority business enterprises; procurement; and transportation, including highways, bridges, light rail, and vehicles. Twenty-three delegates serve on this committee.

In 1995, the Committee formed five subcommittees: Ethics and Elections; Financial Institutions; Procurement; State Government and Civil Rights; and Transportation and Motor Vehicles.

ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

Michael E. Busch, *Chair*
 Michael R. Gordon, *Vice-Chair*

Low House Office Building, Room 151
 6 Governor Bladen Blvd.
 Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-3519

Functions of the Economic Matters Committee trace to the Committee on Accounts formed in 1692. That committee was renamed the Committee on Claims (upon the Treasury) in the 1770s and continued as the Claims Committee from 1776 to 1968. In 1968, it was reformed as the Economic Matters Committee. Its budgetary and certain other duties were assigned to the Appropriations Committee in 1971.

The Economic Matters Committee considers legislation relating to alcoholic beverages; commercial law; consumer protection; corporations and associations; economic development; insurance regulation; licensing and regulation of businesses and labor, including related occupations and professions; procurement; real property; and unemployment insurance. Twenty-three delegates serve on this committee.

In 1995, the Committee began four subcommittees: Health Insurance; Real Property; Unemployment Insurance; and Workers' Compensation. A fifth subcommittee—Science and Technology—was added in 1996.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Ronald A. Guns, *Chair*
 Michael H. Weir, *Vice-Chair*

Low House Office Building, Room 161
 6 Governor Bladen Blvd.
 Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-3534

In 1969, the Environmental Matters Committee was established. The House of Delegates, however, had formed earlier standing committees concerned with the environment. The Committee on Chesapeake Bay and its Tributaries, for example, had functioned from 1872 to 1968. Created in 1947, the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee also had continued until 1968, when the Natural Re-