

THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER, JR.
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



R. CLAYTON MITCHELL
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE HOUSE

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

November 12, 1991

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A recent issue brought to our attention is the effective date of legislation. As you may be aware, June 1 served as the usual effective date for legislation for many years because of provisions of the State Constitution. More recently, that date has been supplanted by the use of July 1. The problem with either of these dates is that the supplements to the Maryland Annotated Code are not available until late September of each year.

The consequence of this timing is that while the new laws take effect in July, no hard copy is available for almost 3 months. This puts judges, prosecutors, public defenders, attorneys, law enforcement personnel, and the general public at quite a disadvantage. Despite the availability of enrolled copies of legislation from the Department of Legislative Reference, it seems to be compelling that the new laws not take effect until the community of people most affected can view the changes in the context of the rest of the Annotated Code.

With the exceptions noted in this paragraph, we are asking that all 1992 Session bills be assigned October 1 as the usual effective date. Bond bills should continue to have an effective date of June 1. Additionally, bills relating to budgetary initiatives or tax and revenue measures should continue to use an effective date no later than July 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year.

We believe the October 1 effective date will promote greater notice of changes in the law and allow those who administer or enforce the statutes the ability to do their jobs consistent with the new laws.

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated. If you should have any questions, please contact F. Carvel Payne, Director of Legislative Reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom Miller".

Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Clayton Mitchell".

R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr.