

**LEGISLATURE**  
**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Senate Officers**

George W. Della, President of the Senate  
J. Waters Parrish, Secretary  
J. Roy Hill, Assistant Secretary  
Oden Bowie, Journal Clerk  
Upshur C. Stevenson, Assistant Journal Clerk  
Donald S. Hurwitz, Reading Clerk

**House of Delegates Officers**

Perry O. Wilkinson, Speaker  
James P. Mause, Chief Clerk  
Elizabeth M. Reese, Assistant Chief Clerk  
Charles H. Cox, Journal Clerk  
William T. Schmitz, Assistant Journal Clerk  
James E. Jones, Reading Clerk  
J. Frederick Kemper, Sergeant of Arms  
L. Edwin Carr, Chief Page

The legislative powers of the State of Maryland are vested in the General Assembly, which consists of two distinct branches, the Senate and the House of Delegates (Const. 1867, Art. III, sec. 1). The General Assembly at the present time consists of 152 members: 29 Senators and 123 members of the House of Delegates, all elected by the counties and the six Legislative Districts of Baltimore City. Each county and each of the Legislative Districts of the city of Baltimore is entitled to one Senator. The number of Delegates for each county varies from two to six, and each Legislative District is entitled to six Delegates. This membership formerly was determined by a formula based upon population (set forth in the Constitution); but, by the terms of a Constitutional amendment adopted in 1950, the membership of the House of Delegates was frozen at its then current number (III, 5).

Every Senator or Delegate must be a citizen of the State and a resident of it for at least three years preceding the date of his election; and the last year thereof, he must have resided in the county or the Legislative District of Baltimore City which he represents. A Senator must be at least twenty-five years of age at the time of his election, and a Delegate at least twenty-one. No member of Congress or any person holding a civil or military office under the United States Government nor any clergyman or minister is eligible for election to the General Assembly (III, 9, 10, 11). The term of each Senator and Delegate shall be for four years from the date of his election (XVII). The Governor is required to appoint to any vacancy that occurs in either House through death, resignation, or disqualification, a person whose name is submitted to him in writing by the State Central Committee of the County or Legislative District which the person holding the vacated seat represented and of the party to which he belonged. The person so appointed must be affiliated with that party. All persons so appointed serve for the unexpired portion of the term (III, 13, amended November, 1936). Each House elects its own officers, is judge of its own members, and establishes rules for the conduct of its business.

The General Assembly meets annually. Sessions in odd-numbered years begin the first Wednesday in January and are limited to