
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

The Senate, having fewer members than the House of Delegates, often met as a whole body, rather than in committee, to review proposed laws. Nonetheless, although Senate committees functioned earlier, by the nineteenth century, standing (or continuing) committees were formed, beginning in December 1823. At that time, the Senate President appointed standing committees on Ways and Means; Internal Improvements; and Pensions and Revolutionary [War] Claims. While names of standing committees have changed over the years, their purpose remains the same—to review proposed legislation.

Presently, the Senate has four standing committees to review bills: Budget and Taxation; Economic and Environmental Affairs; Finance; and Judicial Proceedings. Two additional standing committees are Executive Nominations, and Rules.

BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE

Laurence Levitan, *Chairperson*
Barbara A. Hoffman, *Vice-Chairperson*

James Senate Office Building, Room 100
110 College Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-3690

Functions of the Budget and Taxation Committee originated with the Finance Committee, which was created in 1831. Responsibility for reviewing bills concerned with the budget of State government and tax matters were reassigned to the Budget and Taxation Committee when it was established in 1975.

The Committee considers legislation relating to State operating and capital budgets, including revenues, expenditures, and supplementary appropriations; State and county bond authorizations; legislative budgetary procedures; taxation and property assessments; and proposals requiring significant expenditures. The Committee consists of thirteen members.

Under the Budget and Taxation Committee are five subcommittees: Capital Budget; Health, Education, and Human Resources; Pensions; Public Safety, Transportation, Economic Development, and Natural Resources; and Revenue and Taxes.

ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Clarence W. Blount, *Chairperson*
Arthur Dorman, *Vice-Chairperson*

James Senate Office Building, Room 200
110 College Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-3661

The Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee traces to the Economic Affairs Committee, which was formed in 1967. From that committee came the present standing committee in 1984.

The Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee considers legislation relating to administrative law; agriculture and land preservation; alcoholic beverages; business and occupational licensing and regulation (including health occupations); education; elections; environmental health; fire prevention and safety; housing and economic development; local government; natural resources; procurement; State government reorganization and procedures; and veterans and defense. Eleven senators serve on this committee.

Under the Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee are five subcommittees: Education; Environmental; Ethics and Elections; Health; and Licensing and Regulations.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thomas Patrick O'Reilly, *Chairperson*
James C. Simpson, *Vice-Chairperson*

James Senate Office Building, Presidential Wing
110 College Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-3677

The Finance Committee was formed in December 1831. Originally, it bore the responsibility of reviewing all bills concerned with fiscal matters. In 1975, the review of budgetary and tax matters was assigned to a separate committee—the Budget and Taxation Committee.

The Finance Committee considers legislation relating to banks and financial institutions; commercial law; credit regulation and consumer financing; economic and community development; health; horse racing; insurance; labor and employment; lottery and gambling; pensions and retirement; State personnel; social services; transportation; unemployment insurance; utility regulation; and worker's compensation. The Committee consists of eleven members.

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

Walter M. Baker, *Chairperson*
Norman R. Stone, Jr., *Vice-Chairperson*

James Senate Office Building, Room 300
110 College Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-3623

The Judicial Proceedings Committee was established by the Senate in December 1831 as a five-member body first appointed in January 1832.

The Committee considers legislation relating to legal aspects of alcoholic beverages; commercial law; constitutional amendments; consumer protection; corporations and associations; crimes and punishments; criminal and civil procedures; equal