
SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Legislators. A constituent's State Senator or Delegate, or the bill's sponsor often are the most effective source of information on proposed laws.

Department of Legislative Reference. The Library and Information Services Division of the Department provides information about the status of bills, the legislative process, and the General Assembly.

Library & Information Services: (410) 841-3810
DC area: (301) 858-3810

Other areas: 1-800-492-7122, ext. 3810
TTY: (410) 841-3814, or (301) 858-3814

State House Information Desk (410) 841-3886
(ground floor): DC area: (301) 858-3886

During the legislative session, the Department issues daily synopses of bills introduced. Synopses note primary sponsors, committee assignment, and section of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* affected by the proposed law. As with printed bills, Senate synopses are on white paper, House synopses on blue. Issued weekly all year, the Department's *Committee Meetings and Hearing Schedule* shows times and places for legislative committee meetings. It is useful especially during the legislative session, listing what bills will be heard each day.

Synopses and hearing schedules are available at information desks in the State House (ground floor) and Legislative Services Building (basement). Copies of bills and joint resolutions are found at the Bill Room in the Legislative Services Building. A subscription service for bills, synopses, proceedings, and hearing schedules is available from

Legislative Sales, Room G-17
90 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-3885
DC area: (301) 858-3885
other areas: 1-800-492-7122, ext. 3885

Each April, immediately after adjournment of the General Assembly, the Department of Legislative Reference prepares *Session Review*. This volume gives an overview of issues considered, legislation passed, and significant bills that failed. Copies may be purchased. The Department also publishes legislative committee reports, various indexes to bills, *Final Status Report of Proposed Legislation*, *Synopsis of Laws Enacted*, journals of both Senate and House, and *Laws of Maryland*.

Office of Legislative Data Processing. By subscription, the Office offers access to an online bill status system, called the Maryland Legislative Information System (MLIS). For subscription information, call (410) 841-3900, or (301) 858-3900.

Legislative Caucuses. Legislative caucuses track bills of interest to their members and may issue newsletters. The General Assembly has two formally organized caucuses. The Maryland Legislative Black Caucus was created in 1970. The Women Legislators of Maryland began as the Maryland Chapter of the Order of Women Legislators in 1972.

Maryland Legislative Black Caucus
Lowe House Office Building, Room 323
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-3328
(301) 858-3328

Women Legislators of Maryland
Lowe House Office Building, Room 200
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-3013
(301) 858-3013

Newspapers. During a legislative session, newspapers often publish articles about bills introduced and public hearing schedules of General Assembly committees.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES

INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

Vacancy, *Senate Chair*
Richard A. Palumbo, *House Chair*

Staff: Joseph C. Bryce (410) 841-3700

The Investigation Committee inquires into abuses in expenditures of public monies, when referred by resolution of either house of the General Assembly.

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE

John W. Derr, *Senate Chair*
Clarence Davis, *House Chair*

Staff: Edith R. Lehman
Legislative Services Bldg., Room 103
90 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-3457

The Protocol Committee organizes, plans, and schedules social activities of the General Assembly.

ORGANIZATION & PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

The Organization and Procedure Committee meets as required. Membership consists of the members of the Senate Rules Committee and an equal number of members from the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee (Senate Rule 18(a)(2)(iii)).