

sources Committee briefly was established. In the following year, the Environmental Matters Committee assumed responsibilities of that committee.

The Environmental Matters Committee is assigned legislation relating to agriculture; Chesapeake Bay matters; energy; environmental matters, including vehicle emissions; health policy and planning, including related occupations and professions; health care facilities; land use planning and zoning; natural resources; and utility regulation. This committee is composed of twenty-two delegates.

In 1995, the Environmental Matters Committee created two subcommittees: Environmental and Natural Resources; and Health and Public Utilities.

#### JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., *Chair*  
Ann Marie Doory, *Vice-Chair*

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Origins of the Judiciary Committee trace first to the Committee on Aggrievances, which began in 1692, and then to the Committee on Aggrievances and Courts of Justice which was functioning by 1722 in the Lower House of the General Assembly. By 1751, the Committee was styled the Committee on Grievances and Courts of Justice. Under that name, the Committee continued until 1852. Some of the Committee's legislative concerns had been assumed in 1828 by the Crimes and Punishments Committee, a standing committee established that year. Responsibilities of both these committees were assigned to the new Judiciary Committee in 1852, when the House of Delegates established the Standing Committee on Judiciary. At its first legislative session following ratification of the Constitution of 1851, the House formed the Committee to consider laws relating to a court system, newly altered by Maryland's second constitution.

Today, the Committee still considers legislation relating to judicial administration and court structure. It also is concerned with administrative law; corrections; criminal and civil laws, penalties, immunities, and procedures; drunk and drugged driving and certain motor vehicle offenses; estates and trusts; family law; juvenile justice; and the legal profession. Twenty-two delegates serve on this committee.

The Judiciary Committee organized into four subcommittees in 1995: Civil Law and Procedure; Criminal Justice; Family and Juvenile Law; and Gaming Law and Regulation.

#### RULES & EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Hattie N. Harrison, *Chair*  
Rose Mary Hatem Bonsack, *Vice-Chair*

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In November 1795, the House of Delegates established a committee "to report such rules as are proper to be observed during this session." The Committee came to be known as the Rules Committee. In 1966, it was renamed the Rules and Organization Committee and, in 1968, reorganized as the Rules, Organization, and Executive Nominations Committee. The Committee received its present name in 1969.

The Rules and Executive Nominations Committee considers proposals concerning the rules, organization, and procedures of the House and the General Assembly. The Committee reviews legislation introduced after the bill deadline, and decides on re-referral of those bills to other standing committees for consideration. In addition, the Committee examines gubernatorial nominations requiring House confirmation and reports its recommendations. Twenty-four delegates serve on this committee.

#### WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

Sheila E. Hixson, *Chair*  
James C. Rosapepe, *Vice-Chair*

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A predecessor of the Ways and Means Committee appeared in the House of Delegates in 1791. Named the Committee on Public Revenues, Debts and Expenditures, and Ways and Means, it apparently was formed as a special committee for that legislative session only. As a standing committee, the Ways and Means Committee began in 1818.

The Ways and Means Committee is responsible for legislation relating to State and local taxation matters, including assessments and tax credit programs; education financing; primary and secondary education; funding of health, welfare and transportation programs; and the lottery and horse racing. The Committee consists of twenty-three delegates.

Under the Committee, five subcommittees were started in 1994: Education; Finance Resources; Housing and Social Issues; Taxes and Revenues; and Transportation. Formed in 1995, the Vice-Chair's Subcommittee consists of the chairs of the subcommittees.