

## Understanding Maryland's Legislative Structure

### Standing Committees

During the session each introduced piece of legislation is referred to a standing committee by the Presiding Officer of the house in which the legislation is introduced. The standing committee holds a public hearing on the legislation and may recommend that the full house pass the bill, not pass it, or pass it with amendments. Between sessions, standing committees consider topics of concern in the State and may propose legislation for consideration during the next following session. Legislators are appointed by their Presiding Officer to serve on the principal standing committees. In accordance with the Senate and House rules, a member may be appointed to only one standing committee (Senate Rule 18(b) and House Rule 18(b)).

**The Senate has four principal standing committees that generally consider issues in the following areas:**

### **Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

- State operating and capital budgets, including revenues and expenditures
- Supplementary appropriations bills
- State and county bond authorizations
- Legislative budgetary procedures
- Taxation and property assessment matters
- Education financing
- Public pension and retirement matters

### **Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

- Licensing and regulation of businesses in general, including business, health, and related occupations and professions
- Alcoholic beverages
- Natural resources
- Environment
- Energy
- Ethics and election laws
- Veterans affairs
- Fire prevention
- Primary, secondary, and higher education policy
- Procurement
- Agriculture and land preservation
- Local government affairs
- State government organization and procedures

### **Senate Finance Committee**

- Banks and other financial institutions
- Behavioral health, including mental health and substance abuse matters
- Business regulation and occupations

- Credit regulation and consumer financing
- Commercial law, including consumer protection
- Developmental disabilities
- Economic development
- Health care facilities
- Insurance, including property and casualty, life, and health
- Horse racing
- Public health, Medicaid, and long term care
- Social programs, including welfare
- State personnel
- Transportation
- Labor and industry, including prevailing wage
- Unemployment insurance
- Utility regulation, including energy and telecommunications
- Workers' compensation

#### **Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

- Criminal and civil laws, penalties, and procedures
- Correctional facilities and services
- Family law
- Judicial administration and court structure
- Juvenile justice
- Law enforcement organizations
- Legal profession
- Legal rights and immunities
- Public safety
- Real property, including landlord-tenant laws
- Trusts and estates
- Corporations and associations
- Constitutional amendments
- Human relations
- Vehicle laws, including drunk driving

**The House has six principal standing committees that generally consider issues in the following areas:**

**House Appropriations Committee**

- State operating and capital budgets
- Supplementary appropriations bills
- State and county bond authorizations
- Higher education institutions
- State and local agency procedures and programs
- Collective bargaining
- Social services
- State personnel and pension matters

**House Economic Matters Committee**

- Banks and other financial institutions
- Commercial law, including consumer protection
- Corporations and associations
- Business regulation
- Business occupations and professions
- Economic development
- Electronic commerce
- Insurance regulation, except health insurance
- Labor and employment
- Unemployment insurance
- Utility regulation
- Workers' compensation
- Alcoholic beverages

**House Environment and Transportation Committee**

- Agriculture, natural resources, and environmental issues, including agricultural land preservation, program open space, and vehicle emissions
- Ethics
- Housing, landlord and tenant, and real property, including lead paint
- Local government, including land use
- Transportation, including highways, bridges, mass transit, and vehicle laws

**House Health and Government Operations Committee**

- Health facilities, equipment, and products
- Long-term care
- Public health, including Medicaid
- Health insurance
- Health occupations and professions
- State government organization, procedures, and operations
- Administrative law

- Procurement
- Human relations
- Trusts and estates

#### **House Judiciary Committee**

- Judicial administration and court structure
- Legal profession
- Correctional facilities and services
- Criminal and civil laws, penalties, immunities, and procedures
- Juvenile justice
- Public safety
- Family law
- Drunk and drugged driving and incarcerable motor vehicle offenses

#### **House Ways and Means Committee**

- State and local taxation matters, including assessments and tax credit programs
- Education financing
- Primary and secondary education programs
- Elections
- Funding of transportation programs
- Lottery and horse racing
- Issues relating to children, youth, and families

# Legislative Branch of Maryland

