

Maryland General Assembly

- The General Assembly (MGA) is Maryland's legislative body and directly represents the electorate
- The State has 47 districts represented by 47 Senators and 141 Delegates
- The duties and responsibilities of the MGA include:
 - Enacting laws necessary for the welfare of the State's citizens and certain laws dealing with counties and special tax amendments
 - Proposing amendments to the Maryland Constitution
 - Amendments must then be ratified by the voters during the general election
 - Reviewing the Governor's reapportionment and redistricting plans

MGA Leadership

- Senate
 - Senate President: Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
 - President Pro Tem: Nathaniel J. McFadden
 - Majority Leader: Douglas J. J. Peters
 - Minority Leader: J. B. Jennings
- House of Delegates
 - Speaker: Michael E. Busch
 - Speaker Pro Tem: Adrienne A. Jones
 - Majority Leader: Bill Frick
 - Minority Leader: Nicholaus R. Kipke

Committees

- Much of the work of the MGA is done by committees. This includes standing committees, statutory committees, special committees and select committees (county or regional delegations)
- There are 6 Senate Standing Committees
 - Budget and Taxation
 - Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
 - Executive Nominations
 - Finance
 - Judicial Proceedings
 - Rules
- There are 7 House Standing Committees
 - Appropriations
 - Economic Matters
 - Environment and Transportation
 - Health and Government Operations
 - Rules and Executive Nominations
 - Judiciary
 - Ways and Means
- At the beginning of each session, the Senate President and the House Speaker name the chairs, vice-chairs and members of standing committees
 - A legislator may not be appointed to more than one standing committee whose main function is to consider legislation

Delegations

- Counties and geographic regions also form delegations and elect chairs
- Delegations meet weekly as needed/possible to discuss issues and potential legislation
- Delegations may also introduce bills as a delegation

Maryland's 90 Day Legislative Session

- Introduction of a Bill (1st Reading)
 - A bill may be introduced through the 90 days of a legislative session, but the later it is introduced the more difficult it is to pass
 - Bills introduced after the body's introduction date (24th day in Senate, February 3, 2017 and 31st day in House, February 10, 2017) will be sent to that body's Rules committee
- After a bill is introduced it is assigned to a standing committee for review
 - The standing committee will then hold a public hearing on each bill or joint resolution assigned to them
 - Interested parties may testify for or against the proposed legislation during these hearings
 - The Department of Legislative Services also prepares a fiscal and policy analysis of each bill which is considered during hearings
 - After testimony by the bill's sponsor and other interested parties, amendments may be made to the bill by the committee
 - Finally, the committee will vote either favorable (with or without amendment), unfavorable, or without recommendation
 - If a bill is "voted out of committee" it will return to the floor of its chamber of origin (House or Senate) accompanied by a report of committee action
- Consideration of Committee Report (Second Reading)
 - After consideration of committee amendments, the bill is open to amendment from the floor
 - Committee action can be reversed on the floor, but that happens infrequently
 - Second reading is completed when the presiding officer orders the bill with any adopted amendments to be printed for third reading
- Floor Vote on Bill (Third Reading)
 - No amendments may be presented on third reading
 - In the chamber of origin a recorded vote is taken to pass or reject the bill
 - In order to pass, a bill must receive a majority vote of the elected membership
- Second Chamber
 - After a bill is passed by the chamber of origin, it is sent to the opposite chamber for a first reading
 - After first reading the bill is assigned to a committee for consideration
 - The bill then proceeds through the same process as it did in the chamber of origin except that amendments may be presented on third reading as well
 - If the bill is amended in the second chamber, the bill is returned to the chamber of origin so that chamber may consider the amendments
 - If the amendments are agreed to, the bill is voted on as amended and reprinted or "enrolled" to include those amendments before being submitted to the governor

- If the amendments are rejected, the amending chamber may be asked to withdraw the amendments. If the amending chamber refuses a conference committee may be appointed to resolve the differences
- Conference Committee
 - A Conference Committee is appointed by the Senate President and House Speaker and consists of three members of each body
 - The committee sends a report of its recommendations to each chamber which can then adopt or reject it
 - If the report is adopted, the bill is voted upon for final passage in each house
 - If the report is rejected by either house, the bill fails

Daily Session Activity

- On Mondays session begins at 8:00pm
- Tuesday through Thursday both bodies convene at 10:00am
- On Fridays both chambers convene at 11:00am except in the last week of session when they convene at 10:00am
- The order of business in both the House and the Senate is typically:
 - Call to order
 - Reading of the journal
 - Presentation of petitions, memorials and other papers
 - Presentation of orders
 - Introduction of bills and resolutions
 - Introduction of body (House or Senate) resolutions
 - Introduction of visitors
 - Unfinished business
 - Laid over bills
 - Reports of standing committees
 - Reports of select committees
 - Special orders of the day
 - Third reading calendars
 - Adjournment
- After the morning proceedings, there will typically be Committee or Subcommittee briefings or hearings in the afternoon, usually beginning around 1:00pm
- The weekly MGA schedule is issued each Thursday and includes dates, times, locations and topics for meetings being held by committees and other State government groups
 - Addenda to the weekly hearing schedule are published as needed

Standing Committees Commerce Monitors

- Senate
 - Budget and Taxation
 - 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

- Finance
 - 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
- House of Delegates
 - Economic Matters
 - Banks and other financial institutions
 - Commercial law, including customer 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
 - Ways and Means
 - 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

Agency Budget Hearings

- Link to DBM's posting of responses to DLS Operating Budget Analysis and Testimony: <http://dbm.maryland.gov/budget/Pages/operbudget/HearingTestimony.aspx>

- Commerce
 - Senate Hearing Date: February 24, 2017 at 12:00pm
 - House Hearing Date: March 2, 2017 at 1:00pm

- MEDCO
 - Senate Hearing Date: February 10, 2017 at 1:00pm
 - House Hearing Date: February 13, 2017 at 3:00pm

- TEDCO
 - Senate Hearing Date: February 10, 2017 at 1:00pm
 - House Hearing Date: February 13, 2017 at 3:00pm

- DLLR Business Regulation
 - Senate Hearing Date: February 20, 2017 at 1:00pm
 - House Hearing Date: February 15, 2017 at 1:00pm

- DLLR Workforce Development
 - Senate Hearing Date: February 9, 2017 at 1:00pm
 - House Hearing Date: February 8, 2017 at 1:00pm

- DHCD
 - Senate Hearing Date: February 23, 2017 at 1:00pm
 - House Hearing Date: February 22, 2017 at 1:00pm

- Capital Budget
 - Senate Hearing Date: March 27, 2017 at 1:00pm
 - House Hearing Date: March 20, 2017 at 1:00pm