

HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION

Chairman: Ogle Marbury, Chief Judge of Court of Appeals

William Preston Lane, Jr., Governor; James J. Lacy, Comptroller; Detlev W. Bronk, President, The Johns Hopkins University; Richard D. Weigle, President, St. John's College; William L. Marbury, President, Board of Peabody Institute; George L. Radcliffe, President, Maryland Historical Society.

Morris L. Radoff, Archivist
Gust Skordas, Assistant Archivist
Roger Thomas, Assistant Archivist

Hall of Records, Annapolis

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The Hall of Records Commission was created by an act of the General Assembly in 1935. The Commission is an ex-officio body composed of the Governor, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Comptroller, the President of The Johns Hopkins University, the President of St. John's College, the President of the Maryland Historical Society, and the President of the Board of Trustees of the Peabody Institute (Code 1939, Art. 41, sec. 123). The Commission supervises and controls the Hall of Records and appoints the Archivist, who is responsible for the functioning of the agency.

All public officials and all agencies of the State, as well as the counties, cities and towns of Maryland are authorized to deposit at the Hall of Records all records and documents not in current use. It is required, however, that all records, which are in the courthouses of the State and which were created prior to April 28, 1788, the date of ratification of the United States Constitution by the State of Maryland, be deposited at the Hall of Records (Code 1947 Supp., Art. 41, sec. 126A). The transfer of these records is now in process. In addition to these records the agency has in its custody the non-current records of many State agencies.

While the Board of Public Works has the power over the disposition of non-current records, all such records must first be offered to the Hall of Records, and then, should the Archivist decline the records, permission to destroy them may be sought from the Board of Public Works. Provision has also been made for the periodic disposition of certain non-current records upon a schedule arranged by the record custodian and the Archivist. All such schedules must be approved by the Board of Public Works. The original of any paper or document, except those excluded by law, which has been microfilmed, photostated, or reproduced by any other photographic method approved by the Hall of Records may also be destroyed. In all instances the record custodian must submit to the Archivist a listing of all records which have been destroyed (Acts 1949, Chs. 518, 755). The Hall of Records is authorized to reproduce upon request the records of any agency of the State government, as well as the land records of any Courts of the State upon the request of the Court (Code 1947, Supp. Art. 41, sec. 127).