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The Attorney General is elected by the people for a term of four years (Const. 1867, Art. V, sec. 1). He heads the State Law Department, which was established by Chapter 560, Acts of 1916. The Attorney General serves as legal counsel to the Governor, the General Assembly, and to all departments, boards, or commissions of the State, except the Public Service Commission, whose counsel is appointed by the Governor. The Attorney General and his assistants represent the State in all matters in which the interests of the State are involved. This includes litigation in the Court of Appeals, the District Court of the United States, the United States Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States. The Law Department also acts as counsel to the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City. He represents the Clerks of Court, the Registers of Wills, the Sheriffs, State's Attorneys and the Trial Magistrates of the several counties and of the City of Baltimore. The Department does not represent the Boards of County Commissioners, the County Boards of Education, the County Boards of Supervisors of Elections, or such other boards or officials of the counties which employ their own counsel. The Attorney General may render an opinion on any legal subject or matter upon the request of the Governor, of the General Assembly, or either House thereof, or of any department or agency of the State (Code 1957, 1967 Repl. Vol., Art. 32A).

The administrative rules and regulations promulgated by any State officer or agency must be submitted to the Attorney General for review before they may become effective (Code 1957, 1965 Repl. Vol., Art. 41, sec. 9). The Department is responsible for the enforcement of the Subversive Activities Act (Code 1957, 1964 Repl. Vol., Art. 85A, secs. 1-19), as well as the State Securities Act (Code 1957, 1967 Repl. Vol., Art. 32A, secs. 13-44), and the Division of Consumer Protection.