

LEGISLATURE

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senate Officers

William S. James, President of the Senate
George E. Snyder, Majority Floor Leader
Edward T. Hall, Minority Floor Leader
J. Waters Parrish, Assistant to the President
and Parliamentarian
Oden Bowie, Secretary
Henry L. Harrison, Assistant Secretary
W. Gary Gray, Journal Clerk
Myron A. Cronhardt, Assistant Journal Clerk
James E. Jones, Reading Clerk
Mary C. Johnson, Chief Page
Robert Pearce, Sergeant-at-Arms

House of Delegates Officers

Thomas Hunter Lowe, Speaker
John S. Arnick, Majority Floor Leader
C. A. Porter Hopkins, Minority Floor Leader
James P. Mause, Chief Clerk
Jacqueline M. Spell, Assistant Chief Clerk
Charles H. Cox, Journal Clerk
Janet Y. Mutscheller, Assistant Journal Clerk
Lawrence Goldstein, Reading Clerk
John F. Nixon, Sergeant-at-Arms
Kay Mullikin, Chief Page

The legislative powers of the State of Maryland are vested in the General Assembly, which consists of two distinct branches, the Senate and the House of Delegates (Const. 1867, Art. III, sec. 1). The General Assembly at the present time consists of 185 members: 43 Senators and 142 members of the House of Delegates, all elected by the counties and the six Legislative Districts of Baltimore City. Senators are apportioned among the several senatorial districts on an approximate population ratio. The number of Delegates for each county and each Legislative District varies from one to twenty-two (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 40).

Every Senator or Delegate must be a citizen of the State and a resident of it for at least three years preceding the date of his election; and the last year thereof, he must have resided in the county or the Legislative District of Baltimore City which he represents. A Senator must be at least twenty-five years of age at the time of his election, and a Delegate at least twenty-one. No member of Congress or any person holding a civil or military office under the United States Government nor any clergyman or minister is eligible for election to the General Assembly (III, 9, 10, 11). The term of each Senator and Delegate shall be for four years from the date of his election (XVII). The Governor is required to appoint to any vacancy that occurs in either House through death, resignation, or disqualification, a person whose name is submitted to him in writing by the State Central Committee of the County or Legislative District which the person holding the vacated seat represented and of the party to which he belonged. The person so appointed must be affiliated with that party. All persons so appointed serve for the unexpired portion of the term (III, 13). Each House elects its own officers, is judge of its own members, and establishes rules for the conduct of its business.