

LEGISLATURE

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senate Officers

STENY H. HOYER, *President of the Senate*
ROY N. STATEN, *Majority Floor Leader*
EDWARD J. MASON, *Minority Floor Leader*
BRUCE C. BEREANO, *Administrative
Assistant to the President*
ODEN BOWIE, *Secretary*
HENRY L. HARRISON, *Assistant Secretary*
W. GARY GRAY, *Journal Clerk*
MYRON A. CRONHARDT, *Assistant
Journal Clerk*
FREDERICK L. KELLY, *Reading Clerk*
MARY C. JOHNSON, *Chief Page*
MILLARD K. DAUGHERTY, *Sergeant-at-Arms*

House of Delegates Officers

JOHN HANSON BRISCOE, *Speaker*
JOHN S. ARNICK, *Majority Floor Leader*
WILLIAM M. LINTON, *Minority Floor
Leader*
JAMES P. MAUSE, *Chief Clerk*
JACQUELINE M. SPELL, *Assistant
Chief Clerk*
CHARLES H. COX, *Journal Clerk*
MARY M. PERRYCLEAR, *Assistant
Journal Clerk*
WILLIAM L. CORBIN, *Reading Clerk*
CORNELIA CONNELLY, *Page Supervisor*

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 consists of 188 members with 47 Senators and 141 members of the House of Delegates. They are elected from 47 legislative districts.

Every Senator or Delegate must be a citizen of the State and a resident of it for at least one year preceding the date of his election; and the six months thereof, he must have resided in his Legislative District. 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 (III, 6). 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 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 the qualifications and election of its own members, and establishes rules for the conduct of its business.

The General Assembly meets annually. Sessions begin the second Wednesday in January and are for a period not longer than ninety days. The General Assembly may extend its sessions beyond ninety days, but not to exceed an additional thirty days by resolution concurred in by three-fifths vote of the membership in each House. The Governor may call special sessions at any time he deems it necessary (III, 14), but no single special session may last longer than thirty days.

The General Assembly must pass at each regular session a budget bill which contains the budget for the State government for the next fiscal year. Upon the passage of the bill by both Houses, it becomes law without further action (III, 52).

Under the provisions of a Constitutional Amendment ratified by the voters in 1972 (Chapter 369, Acts of 1972), the Senate and the House of Delegates may adopt a "consent calendar" procedure permitting bills to be read and voted upon as a single group on both second and third readings, affording members of each House reasonable notice of the bills so placed on each consent calendar (III, 27, 28).

The General Assembly has power to pass such laws as are necessary for the welfare