

zation, and State personnel, and provides recommendations for the use of any anticipated surplus, and other findings or recommendations as the Committee deems appropriate.

The Committee consists of the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Delegates, the chairpersons of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate and House or their designees, and an equal number of other senators and delegates as the president and speaker may designate (Code State Government Article, secs. 2-1001 through 2-1009).

## **SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES**

The Legislative Policy Committee periodically establishes special joint committees and task forces for particular purposes. These special committees and task forces function during the interim between sessions of the General Assembly. Each is reviewed annually at the end of the legislative session by the Legislative Policy Committee, which decides whether the committee or task force shall continue its work or cease to function. Staff for special joint committees and task forces is provided by the Department of Fiscal Services and the Department of Legislative Reference. A committees membership list is published each summer and is available on request.

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### *1983 Interim Special Joint Committees and Task Forces:*

Special Joint Committee on Economic and Community Development Oversight

Election Laws Revision Task Force

Special Joint Committee on Health Care for the Uninsured

Special Joint Committee on Juvenile Facilities

Maryland Legislative Information System (MLIS) Steering Committee

Special Joint Committee on Pensions

Joint Committee on State Government Revision

Special Joint Committee on Transportation

*1984 Interim Special Joint Committees and Task Forces:*

Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas Oversight Committee

Clerks of Court Task Force

Special Joint Committee on Coal Pipeline Resources

Maryland Automobile Insurance Task Force

Maryland Legislative Information System (MLIS) Steering Committee

Special Joint Committee on Pensions

Southern Maryland Agriculture Commission

## **LEGISLATIVE AGENCIES**

### **DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE**

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The Department of Legislative Reference was originally created by Chapter 565, Acts of 1906, to serve the City of Baltimore. The scope of the Department was enlarged so that it would also serve the State by Chapter 474, Acts of 1916. By Chapter 453, Acts of 1965, the State's portion of the Department was transferred to the Legislative Branch. The present Department dates its current organization from Chapter 571, Acts of 1966, which separated this Department from the department of the same name in Baltimore City.

The Department collects, compiles, and indexes information on all questions of proposed legislation. It investigates and reports on the laws of Maryland and other states at the request of the Governor, any committee or member of the General Assembly, or any State agency. At the request of a member of the General Assembly, the Department prepares or aids in the drafting of any law or resolution. Each department of State government must transmit to the Department of Legislative Reference at least two copies of each of its reports, which are used for exchange and reference purposes. The Department keeps a complete index and a complete file on all bills introduced in the General Assembly from 1918 to the present. It also keeps copies of the codes and laws of other states,