

LEGAL REVIEW UNIT

In 1990, the Division established the Legal Review Unit as a separate component within the Legislative Division. The Legal Review Unit responds to requests for legal opinions and advice pertinent to legislation. This service is provided directly to members of the General Assembly and to other Legislative Division staff. The Legal Review Unit also analyzes decisions of the Court of Special Appeals and the Court of Appeals and opinions of the Attorney General affecting the State's laws in order to keep members of the General Assembly informed of court decisions that may raise issues for the legislature.

The Legal Review Unit also reviews and analyzes regulations proposed by executive branch agencies on behalf of the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review, the statutory committee responsible for legislative oversight of the regulatory process. This review helps ensure agency compliance with statutory authority, legislative intent, and public notice requirements.

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING & STATUTORY REVISION

William G. Somerville, *Deputy Director & Revisor of Statutes*

841-3870

As part of its role in the enactment of Maryland's laws, the Division provides nonpartisan professional staff to research, draft, and prepare legislative bills at the request of members of the State Senate and House of Delegates. Each year, more than 3,500 bills and joint resolutions are drafted by Division staff.

After bills are introduced by members of the General Assembly, the Division continues to play a critical role in the legislative process by preparing, reviewing, coordinating, and processing individually sponsored and committee initiated amendments to bills. Amendments are formal changes that can significantly alter the content and effect of the law that is enacted.

The statutory revision function of the Legislative Division originated as the Division of Statutory Revision, created in 1972 within the Department of Legislative Reference (Chapter 182, Acts of 1972). The Division, also known as the Code Revision Division, was incorporated into the Legislative Division in 1990 as an integral component of the drafting responsibilities of the Division. The statutory revision component is charged with the development and preparation of the ongoing comprehensive revision and restatement of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, i.e., the statutory body of the laws of Maryland (Code State Government Article, secs. 2-1315 through 2-1319).

The first reorganization and recodification of the Code since 1888 was begun in 1970 by the Com-

mission to Revise the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Commission was charged to study and revise the *Annotated Code* in order to improve the organization, accessibility, utility, and clarity of law and to eliminate unconstitutional, obsolete, inconsistent or conflicting statutes. Until 1985, the Division of Statutory Revision worked under Commission supervision.

In 1985, the Legislative Policy Committee voted to continue the work of the Commission under a reorganized system of small committees with oversight from the Legislative Policy Committee and continuing review by the General Assembly. Organized to direct and assist in the revision process, the committee system includes the Code Revision Committee and individual Article review committees for Articles in production. Currently under review or planned are the following Articles: Business Regulations; Insurance; and State Personnel.

The General Assembly has enacted into law the following twenty Articles: Agriculture; Business Occupations and Professions; Commercial Law; Corporations and Associations; Courts and Judicial Proceedings; Education; Environment; Estates and Trusts; Family Law; Financial Institutions; Health—General; Health Occupations; Labor and Employment; Natural Resources; Real Property; State Finance and Procurement; State Government; Tax—General; Tax—Property; and Transportation. Including the Business Regulations, State Personnel, and Insurance Articles, approximately twelve Articles remain to be completed or prepared and enacted into law in order to conclude the recodification process begun in 1970.

CODE REVISION COMMITTEE

Alan M. Wilner, *Chairperson*

Appointed by Governor: Avery Aisenstark; Lowell R. Bowen; Franklin B. Olmsted; Roger D. Redden; Shale D. Stiller.

974-2495

Appointed by the Legislative Policy Committee, the Code Revision Committee provides advice on the selection of proposed Articles and the composition of Article committees. Formerly the Article Selection Committee, the Committee received its present name in 1990.

BUSINESS REGULATIONS ARTICLE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Franklin B. Olmsted, *Chairperson*

Appointed by Senate President & House Speaker: Judith A. Arnold; Perry G. Bowen, Jr.; Judson P. Garrett, Jr.; James J. Hanks, Jr.; H. Thomas Howell; Nathaniel E. Jones, Jr.; Henry F. Leonnig; Patricia A. Logan; Joseph E. Owens; Evelyn W. Pasquier; Abba David Poliakoff; Edward F. Shea, Jr.