

The Department operates through the Office of the Director and five Divisions: Legislative; Library and Information Services; Research; Computer Services; and Administrative Services.

#### LEGISLATIVE DIVISION

Michael I. Volk, *Director*  
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The Legislative Division provides legal and related staff services to the General Assembly. The Division drafts and reviews nearly all bills and amendments introduced or considered by the General Assembly. The Division is organized under two main units: Committee Staffing and Legal Review; and Legislative Drafting and Statutory Revision.

#### COMMITTEE STAFFING & LEGAL REVIEW

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*Committee Staffing.* The Legislative Division provides professional legal staff to five of the ten major standing committees of the General Assembly (two Senate committees and three House committees), several joint statutory and special committees, several county delegations in the House of Delegates, and during the interim, several task forces and commissions. These staff members work under the specific direction of committee chairmen and under the general direction of the Division during and between the sessions of the General Assembly. The legislative analysts assigned by the Division provide advisory, legal, research and administrative support in an objective, nonpartisan manner to the committees.

*Legal Review.* In 1990, the Legislative Division established Legal Review as a separate component within the Division. Legal Review responds to requests for legal opinions and advice pertinent to legislation. This service is provided directly to members of the General Assembly and to Legislative Division staff. Legal Review 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.

Legal Review 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

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*Legislative Drafting.* As part of its role in the enactment of Maryland's laws, the Legislative 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 and over 2,000 amendments 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 alter significantly the content of a bill.

*Statutory Revision.* 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 develops and prepares the 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 Commission 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, this 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: Article 27; Ethics Law; and Insurance.

The General Assembly has enacted into law the following twenty-two articles: Agriculture; Business Occupations and Professions; Business Regu-