

DIVISION OF STATE DOCUMENTS

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The Division of State Documents was created within the Office of the Secretary of State in 1974 (Chapter 600, Acts of 1974). Appointed by the Governor, the Administrator is responsible for publication of the *Maryland Register* and the *Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)*. The Administrator also oversees the Maryland Information Retrieval System (MIRS), a computerized information retrieval service for State statutes, regulations, proposed regulations, and Executive Orders (Code State Government Article, secs. 7-201 through 7-222).

The primary duties of the Division are to print and distribute two official State publications: (1) the *Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)*, the permanent compilation of the Governor's executive orders, all State agency regulations, and all opinions issued by the State Ethics Commission; and (2) the *Maryland Register*, a bi-weekly publication that serves as a temporary supplement to *COMAR*.

The *Register* prints all proposed, adopted and emergency regulations of the State's administrative agencies; notices of public hearings and meetings; the full text of all opinions of the Attorney General; proposed and adopted rules of court; hearing calendars of the Courts of Appeal; synopses of all legislation proposed, enacted, and vetoed each legislative session of the General Assembly; all Executive Orders; all gubernatorial appointments; notices of bids requested and awards announced on all State contracts valued above \$25,000; and any other document the General Assembly requires or the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review (AELR) permits to be published. An index to the *Register* is published quarterly and is cumulative throughout the year. All adopted regulations and Executive Orders that are generally permanent in nature are periodically taken from the pages of the *Register* and integrated into *COMAR* by means of published supplements.

With the exception of emergency regulations, administrative regulations are not effective until notice of their adoption is published in the *Maryland Register*. The text of any document appearing in the *Maryland Register* and *COMAR* is the only official, valid and enforceable text of that document. Any document appearing in the *Maryland Register* and *COMAR* is accorded judicial notice in all court proceedings.