

COMMITTEE STAFFING & LEGAL ANALYSIS
 (410) 841-3870

**LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES
 DIVISION**
 Lynda C. Davis, *Director* (410) 841-3810

RESEARCH DIVISION
 Myron H. Miller, *Director* (410) 841-3875

The Department of Legislative Reference, as one of the two principal staffing agencies of the General Assembly, serves the legislature and its committees and provides information to the public about the General Assembly and legislative matters.

Originally created in 1906 to serve the Baltimore City Council, the Department also began assisting the General Assembly in 1916 (Chapter 565, Acts of 1906; Chapter 474, Acts of 1916). The State's portion of the Department was transferred in 1965 to the Legislative Branch (Chapter 453, Acts of 1965). In 1966, the Department severed any affiliation with the City of Baltimore and established permanent offices in Annapolis (Chapter 571, Acts of 1966).

Historically, the Department has conducted research and drafted legislation for members of the General Assembly. The Department also has provided legislative bills, enactments, journals, documents, records, and the codifications of State and local laws.

With professional legal and research staff, the Department supports legislative committees, subcommittees, task forces, and commissions. For the General Assembly, the Department provides ongoing statutory revision services; conducts legal and legislative research; and offers specialized information services. The Department also reviews and analyzes regulations proposed by Executive Branch agencies; provides legislative and general library resource materials and information services to the General Assembly and the public; and provides computerized services for legislative purposes, including the preparation of bills, laws, journals, and other documents, as well as automated searches of the law.

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

COMPUTER SERVICES DIVISION
 Michael C. Coffin, *Director*
 (410) 841-3787

The Computer Services Division operates data processing equipment for the preparation of bills, the entry and maintenance of data into the bill status system, and the preparation of several departmental publications. These publications include committee hearing schedules, synopses of laws, and legislative indexes. The work of the Division's proofreading staff complements the Division's data processing.

LEGISLATIVE DIVISION
 Michael I. Volk, *Director*
 William G. Somerville, *Deputy Director*
 & *Revisor of Statutes*
 (410) 841-3870

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 units: Legislative Drafting and Statutory Revision; and Committee Staffing and Legal Review.

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING & STATUTORY REVISION
 (410) 841-3870

Legislative Drafting. 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 prepares, reviews, coordinates, and processes 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. 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 *Annotated 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 began to oversee *Code* revision under a reorganized system of small committees with continuing review by the General Assembly. This committee system includes the Code Revision Committee and individual article review committees for articles in production. Currently under review are further