

## JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEES

Joint statutory committees are created by act of the General Assembly. Their duties, membership, and tenure are specified either in the *Annotated Code of Maryland* or the *Laws of Maryland*. Most commonly, these committees are composed of an equal number of members from the Senate and House of Delegates.

Presently, the General Assembly has twelve joint statutory committees: Legislative Policy; Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review; Budget and Audit; Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas; Federal Relations; Health Care Delivery and Financing; Legislative Ethics; Management of Public Funds; Spending Affordability; Vehicle Emissions Inspection; Welfare Reform; and Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight.

### **LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE**

*Co-Chairs:*

Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., *Senate President*  
Casper R. Taylor, Jr., *House Speaker*

Staff: Michael I. Volk

90 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-3848

*Report to General Assembly on bills, resolutions, & recommendations intended for submission at next session.*

*Report to General Assembly updating matters before Committee due periodically.*

The Legislative Policy Committee originated in 1939 as the Legislative Council (Chapter 62, Acts of 1939). The Council was reorganized under its current name in 1976 (Chapter 362, Acts of 1976).

The Legislative Policy Committee coordinates and supervises the work of the standing committees of the General Assembly. The Committee studies the rules and procedures of the Senate and House of Delegates, and appoints special committees and subcommittees to study legislative matters. During the interim between sessions of the General Assembly, the Committee refers any recommended subject matter it receives to interim committees, holds hearings on any subject matter, and subpoenas witnesses and records as required. The Committee may prepare its own legislative recommendations and may endorse a legislative program in the form of bills, resolutions, or other proposals to be submitted to the General Assembly.

The Committee consists of twenty-six members: thirteen from the Senate, thirteen from the House of Delegates. Representing the Senate are the Senate President; President Pro Tem; Majority Leader; Minority Leader; and the chairs of the standing committees on Budget and Taxation, Economic and Environmental Affairs, Finance, and Judicial Proceedings. The Senate President appoints five additional senators as members. Representing the House of Delegates are the House Speaker; Speaker Pro Tem; Majority Leader; Minority Leader; and the chairs of the standing committees on Appropriations, Commerce and Government Matters, Economic Matters,

Environmental Matters, Judiciary, and Ways and Means. The House Speaker appoints four additional delegates as members. The Senate President and House Speaker serve as co-chairs (Code State Government Article, secs. 2-401 through 2-410).

#### MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The Management Subcommittee of the Legislative Policy Committee was initiated informally in 1979 to consider certain in-house legislative issues, such as legislative agency budgets and staff, and expense guidelines for district offices and travel.

The Senate President and House Speaker appoint the Subcommittee's members.

#### SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEES & TASK FORCES

Staff: Michael I. Volk (410) 841-3848

The Legislative Policy Committee establishes special joint committees and task forces for particular purposes. These committees meet during the interim between sessions of the General Assembly. Staff is provided by the Department of Fiscal Services and the Department of Legislative Reference.

#### SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON GROUP HOMES

Arthur Dorman, *Senate Chair*  
Tony E. Fulton, *House Chair*

Staff: Jolie H. Matthews; Marjorie Shofer  
(410) 841-3875  
Susan Cacceamise (410) 841-3710

The Special Joint Committee on Group Homes was formed in 1995 to examine operating, financial and regulatory issues for group homes.

#### JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE DATA SYSTEMS

John A. Cade, *Senate Chair*  
Thomas E. Dewberry, *House Chair*

Staff: Melanie L. Wenger (410) 841-3761  
Robert M. Edwards (410) 841-3900

The Joint Advisory Committee on Legislative Data Systems was created by the Legislative Policy Committee in 1988. The Committee reviews and evaluates legislative data systems and data processing goals for the General Assembly and its staff agencies. Committee recommendations are reported to the Legislative Policy Committee.