

under the new subtitle "Pre-Filing of Legislative Bills," to establish a procedure for the filing of legislative bills and joint resolutions in advance of any regular legislative session of the General Assembly and relating to such procedure and the duties of the State Department of Legislative Reference in respect to such pre-filing.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Section 43 be and it is hereby added to Article 40 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "General Assembly," to follow immediately after Section 42 thereof and to be under the new subtitle "Pre-Filing of Legislative Bills," and to read as follows:

43.

(a) *Any member of the General Assembly may request the introduction of any bill or joint resolution in the General Assembly by pre-filing the bill or joint resolution with the State Department of Legislative Reference in advance of any regular session of the General Assembly as provided in this section. The request shall be made by the member in writing to the Department stating the sponsors of the bill and enclosing an outline or summary of the bill or joint resolution to be prefiled. Such a request shall NOT be made only during the period beginning on November 15 of any year prior to any regular session and ending on the last day prior to the opening of a regular session in the following year, except in any year in which an election for members of the General Assembly is held, when the request may be made no earlier than December 1 of such year. After a request has been submitted under this section, and after the bill has been approved by the members, the bill shall not be cancelled or withdrawn by the sponsor. The request shall constitute the authority for the Department to prefile the bill or joint resolution for introduction.*

(b) *The Department shall keep during the pre-filing period authorized herein a list of all bills and joint resolutions filed with it under this section for introduction in the General Assembly. The list shall be kept in serial order with one series of numbers for Senate Bills, one for Senate Joint Resolutions, one for House Bills and one for House Joint Resolutions. The first numbers of bills and joint resolutions for the Senate and House shall be reserved for the legislative proposals prepared by the Legislative Council and thereafter any requests for pre-filing of bills or joint resolutions shall be numbered in the discretion of the Department. No particular number shall be granted or reserved for any bill or joint resolution.*

(c) *On the opening day of any regular session the Department shall transmit its lists of bills and joint resolutions to the office of the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House together with copies of the bills or resolutions prepared in the form required by the Rules of the Senate and House of Delegates for the introduction of bills and joint resolutions. Such transmittal shall be considered as the introduction into the Clerks' Offices of the General Assembly of all bills and joint resolutions so transmitted.*

(d) *The lists of bills maintained by the Department and copies thereof shall be open and available to the public when a bill or resolution number is assigned to the proposal by the Department.*