

subheading "Joint Budget and Audit Committee," revising a portion of the law which created the Joint Budget and Audit Committee, making general provision for the members of the committee and their appointments and compensation and relating generally to the Joint Budget and Audit Committee.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 55 of Article 40 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Supplement), title "General Assembly," subtitle "Department of Fiscal Services," subheading "Joint Budget and Audit Committee," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

55.

(a) There shall be ~~fourteen~~ *eighteen* members of the committee, ~~seven~~ *nine* of whom are members of the Senate finance committee, and ~~seven~~ *nine* of whom are members of the House ways and means committee *or of the House appropriations committee.*

(b) The two sets of members shall be appointed respectively by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates. Appointments shall be made ~~not later than April 1 at the end of~~ *following organization of the two Houses and their committees during* each regular session of the General Assembly. Vacancies on the committee shall be filled promptly by the President or the Speaker, as the case may be.

(c) Members of the committee shall be appointed on the basis of demonstrated ability and interest in the functions described and covered in this subtitle. The President and the Speaker, in making appointments from time to time, shall take into account, and provide for representation thereon for, persons residing in the several major areas in the State.

(d) ~~The chairman of the Senate finance committee and the chairman of the House ways and means committee shall be among those appointed to membership on the joint budget and audit committee. By agreement between the president and the Speaker, one of these persons shall be the chairman, and the other shall be the vice-chairman, of the joint budget and audit committee during any four-year elective period of a General Assembly. During successive four-year periods, the chairmanship and the vice-chairmanship shall alternate between the Senate and House members; except that by agreement between the President and the Speaker, the alternation may be postponed. By agreement with the President or the Speaker, the chairman of the Senate finance committee or the chairman of the House ways and means committee may designate another member of his respective committee to serve in his stead on the joint budget and audit committee.~~ *From time to time, the President and the Speaker by joint action shall name the chairman and the vice-chairman of the committee.*

(e) The minority floor leader in the Senate, or his designee, and the minority floor leader in the House, or his designee, shall be among those appointed to membership on the joint budget and audit committee.