



MARYLAND  
HOUSE  

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RULES

Regular Session 2021

vice-chairman for each committee appointed pursuant to this Rule. The vice-chairman shall act in the place of the chairman during the latter's absence.

**18. Standing Committees.**

(a) The following standing committees shall be established and the members thereof appointed by the Speaker at the beginning of each session of the General Assembly:

- (1) Appropriations;
- (2) Economic Matters;
- (3) Environment and Transportation;
- (4) Health and Government Operations;
- (5) Judiciary;
- (6) Ways and Means;

(7) Investigation, consisting of five Delegates and five Senators to serve as provided by Article III, Section 24, of the Constitution;

(8) Protocol;

(9) Rules and Executive Nominations;

and

(10) Consent calendars, consisting of the Speaker, the Majority Leader, and the Minority

Leader.

(b) A member may not be appointed to more than one of the committees referred to in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(6) of this Rule.

(c) The minority representation on each committee, except the Rules Committee, shall be computed by determining the ratio of minority members in the House to the total membership of the House, applying the same ratio to the total membership of the committee, and resolving any fraction to the nearest whole number.

(d) There shall be such standing subcommittees as the House from time to time establishes.

### 19. Select Committees.

(a) As bills and resolutions are referred to a county delegation, or to the Baltimore City Delegation, that body shall be a select committee. If the county delegation consists of one or two members only, the Speaker shall name the second and third members or a third member from some other county or Baltimore City, making a select committee of three.

(b) Other select committees may be established as the need arises.

### 19A. Select Committees - Voting.

(a) (1) In this Rule the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) This subsection does not apply to the annual budget bill, a budget reconciliation bill, or to any bills authorizing creation of State general obligation debt or those amending prior State authorizations.

### **33. Referral.**

(a) Upon introduction, a bill or resolution shall be referred to its appropriate committee. Unless otherwise ordered by the House, the Speaker shall make the referral.

(b) All bills and resolutions shall be referred to a standing committee, except that those of a strictly local nature or amending a particular Code of Public Local Laws, and not having statewide implications, shall be referred to the appropriate select committee provided for in Rule 19(a).

(c) A proposed constitutional amendment shall always be referred to a standing committee.

(d) If there has been an incorrect reference to a committee of a bill, resolution, or other matter, the Speaker, within seven calendar days on which the full House met after the original reference to a committee, may direct the chairman of the committee to return the bill, resolution, or other matter to the House in order that it may be referred to another committee. A committee without such a directive may return a bill, resolution, or other matter to the House with the recommendation that it be referred to another committee if, upon consideration thereof, the

committee determines that the bill, resolution, or other matter should properly be referred to another committee.

(e) A suspension of the Rules is required in order to consider a bill or resolution without referring it to a committee. A copy of each bill or resolution proposed for consideration without being referred to committee shall be distributed to the desk of each member.

### **34. Debate.**

There may be no debate or discussion on any bill or resolution during the time it is before the House on first reading, but the sponsor may make an explanatory statement, not to exceed five minutes in length, as to its purpose.

## **COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS**

### **35. Scheduling of Committee Meetings.**

(a) No committee may meet while the House is in session without special leave of the Speaker.

(b) The Speaker may designate days or periods of hours during which special and select committees may meet, and during these times the standing committees may not meet.

(c) The Department of Legislative Services shall compile a list of the meetings scheduled by the committees and, from time to time, arrange for its distribution.



SENATE OF  
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(2) After the President appoints Members under paragraph (1) of this subsection and after consultation with the President, the minority leader shall appoint minority party Members to each standing committee in a manner that reflects the diversity of the Senate.

(d) The membership of all standing committees shall be appointed at the beginning of each regular session and shall continue until the immediately following regular session unless:

(1) there is a vacancy in the Senate; or

(2) the change in appointments is made during the interim.

(e) The President may appoint a ranking Member of the majority party and the Minority Leader may appoint a ranking Member of the minority party to each standing committee.

(f) The vice-chairman shall act in the place of the chairman during the latter's absence.

## **18. Standing Committees.**

(a) There are the following standing committees, the Members of which shall be appointed by the President and the minority leader at the beginning of each session of the General Assembly, each to have a membership as follows:

(1) Legislative Committees:

- (i) Budget and Taxation, 13;
- (ii) Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, 11;
- (iii) Finance, 11;
- (iv) Judicial Proceedings, 11;
- (v) Rules, 11.

(2) Continuing Committees:

- (i) Executive Nominations, 19;
- (ii) Joint Committee on Investigation, 5 Senators and 5 Members of the House of Delegates, to serve as provided by Article III, § 24 of the Maryland Constitution; and at the first meeting of this committee, the Members shall organize by electing their own chairman and vice-chairman.

(b) A Member may not be appointed to more than one legislative standing committee referred to in subparagraph (a)(1)(i) through (iv) of this Rule.

(c) There shall be such standing subcommittees as the Senate from time to time establishes.

**19. Select Committees.**

There shall be select committees as designated



votes of at least two-thirds of all the Members elected; and

(iii) May not be petitioned from the Committee.

(2) The provisions of this subsection do not apply to the Annual Budget Bill and its supplements.

(e) Notwithstanding other provisions of these Rules, a Senate or House bill or joint resolution introduced on behalf of an executive department or other unit of the Executive Branch of State Government that has not been prefiled:

(1) Shall be referred by the President to the Committee on Rules upon introduction in the Senate or after it is received from the House;

(2) May not be required to be returned to the floor except upon the affirmative votes of at least two-thirds of all the Members elected; and

(3) May not be petitioned from the Committee.

### **33. Referral.**

(a) Upon introduction, a bill or resolution shall be referred by the President to its appropriate committee, unless otherwise ordered by the Senate.

(b) All bills and resolutions shall be referred

to a standing committee, except that those of a strictly local nature or amending a particular Code of Public Local Laws, and not having statewide implications, shall be referred to the appropriate select committee provided for in Rule 19.

(c) A proposed constitutional amendment always shall be referred to a standing committee.

(d) If there has been an incorrect reference to a committee of a bill, resolution, or other matter, the President, within 2 days of the original reference to a committee, may direct the chairman of the committee to return the bill, resolution, or other matter to the Senate in order that it may be referred to another committee. A committee without such a directive may return a bill, resolution, or other matter to the Senate with the recommendation that it be referred to another committee if, upon consideration of it, the committee determines that the bill, resolution, or other matter properly should be referred to another committee.

(e) A Senate Resolution shall be considered by the Senate without being referred to a committee.

(f) A suspension of the Rules is required in order to consider a bill or resolution without referring it to a committee. A copy of each bill or resolution proposed for consideration without being referred to committee shall be distributed to the desk of each Member.