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## SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

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Having fewer members than the House of Delegates, the Senate in the eighteenth century often met as a whole body, rather than in committee, to review proposed laws. Nonetheless, although Senate committees functioned earlier, by the nineteenth century, standing (or continuing) committees were formed, beginning in December 1823. At that time, the Senate President appointed standing committees on Ways and Means; Internal Improvements; and Pensions and Revolutionary [War] Claims. While names of standing committees have changed over the years, their purpose remains the same—to review proposed legislation.

Presently, the Senate has four standing committees to review bills: Budget and Taxation; Economic and Environmental Affairs; Finance; and Judicial Proceedings. Two additional standing committees are Executive Nominations, and Rules.

### BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE

Barbara A. Hoffman, *Chair*  
William H. Amoss, *Vice-Chair*

James Senate Office Building, Room 100  
110 College Ave.  
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-3690

Functions of the Budget and Taxation Committee began when the Finance Committee was created in 1831. Responsibility for reviewing bills concerned with the budget of State government and tax matters was reassigned to the Budget and Taxation Committee when it was established in 1975.

The Committee considers legislation relating to State operating and capital budgets, including revenues, expenditures, and supplementary appropriations; legislative budgetary procedures; State and county bond authorizations; taxation and assessments; education financing; and pension and retirement matters. The Committee consists of thirteen members.

Under the Budget and Taxation Committee are five subcommittees: Capital Budget; Health, Education, and Human Resources; Pensions; Public Safety, Transportation, Economic Development, and Natural Resources; and Revenue and Taxes.

### ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Clarence W. Blount, *Chair*  
Paula C. Hollinger, *Vice-Chair*

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110 College Ave.  
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Because the concerns of the Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee cover a broad range of legislation, the Committee's origins trace to

many earlier committees. Among these were standing committees concerned with agriculture, education, natural resources, and economic affairs.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture and Manufactures was created in March of 1839 and by December of that year renamed the Standing Committee on Agriculture. In 1880, it was reorganized as the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Labor. The Committee was renamed the Standing Committee on Agriculture in 1945. Its responsibilities later would devolve on the Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee.

In 1900, the Standing Committee on Fish and Game was formed and continued until 1943. Concerns of that committee were assumed in 1945 by the Standing Committee on Natural Resources. In 1951, the Standing Committee on Agriculture and the Standing Committee on Natural Resources merged to become the Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee. Responsibilities of the Committee were reassigned in 1967 to the newly formed Economic Affairs Committee from which the Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee was created in 1984.

Duties of other earlier committees were assumed by the Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee. Among these were the Standing Committee on Education (1856-1966) and the Standing Committee on Chesapeake Bay and its Tributaries (1860-1966). Responsibilities of both Committees fell to the Economic Affairs Committee in 1967 and were assigned to the Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee in 1984.

The Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee reviews legislation relating to agriculture and land preservation; alcoholic beverages; licensing and regulation of businesses and labor, including business, health and related occupations and professions; education; elections; energy; environment; fire prevention; local government; natural resources; procurement; State government organization, procedures, and administrative law; and veterans affairs. Eleven senators serve on this committee.

Under the Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee are three subcommittees: Education; Environment; and Health.

### EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Larry Young, *Chair*  
Philip C. Jimeno, *Vice-Chair*

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The Executive Nominations Committee was formed in January 1845. The Committee reviews and interviews gubernatorial appointees whose appointment requires Senate advice and consent. The Committee then reports its recommendations on