

# Delegate Rawlings begins chemotherapy treatments

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Howard P. Rawlings, one of the General Assembly's busiest and most powerful members, says he has begun undergoing chemotherapy for a 3-year-old cancer.

The Baltimore Democrat, 64, began the treatments a month ago. He said the therapy won't curtail his efforts on behalf of his signature issues, including legalizing slot machines to generate money for schools and libraries, and preserving black incumbents in the redistricting process.

"I am paring my schedule somewhat, but I am functioning," Rawlings said yesterday. "I expect to be fully engaged during the [legislative] session. Let me point out that I've had this for three years and have had five operations and haven't missed a beat."

This week, he'll attend a planning meeting for the legislative session, which begins in January.

His 27-member committee oversees bills relating to operating and capital budgets, playing a key role in such areas as economic development and transportation.

Rawlings wouldn't specify the nature of the cancer. "I've probably said too much already," he said.

He said the chemotherapy "shouldn't take that long." The follow-ups are going well, he said.