

BILL FERGUSON  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



ADRIENNE A. JONES  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
STATE HOUSE  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

To: Members of the General Assembly and the Public  
From: President Ferguson & Speaker Jones  
Re: Updated Policies for the 2020 Session  
Date: March 12, 2020

This afternoon, Governor Hogan announced additional steps that the Administration is taking to curb the spread of COVID-19.

We have been consulting with public health experts, as well as State and local health officials and the Administration over the past two weeks. As many of you know, we are trying to limit the spread of COVID-19 in order to prevent rapid increases of cases in Maryland.

This afternoon, the State House Trust voted to close the State House to public access and only allow those persons with a State issued badge into the building. This includes a cancellation of all scheduled tours and outside visitors.

Effective immediately for the Maryland General Assembly:

1 – Only people with a State-issued credential will be permitted in to the House and Senate Office buildings, as well as Legislative Services.

2 – A mandatory telework policy for all non-essential personnel is in effect. For members, please allow your staff to work remotely.

We will work through the weekend in session – including floor sessions for the House and the Senate on Sunday, March 15, 2020. Amendment requests will be taken by email only.

We have asked House and Senate leadership to prioritize legislation in their committees to the extent possible in order to finish critical bills in an expedited fashion. In order to fulfill our Constitutional duties and protect the health and safety of all Marylanders, we need to be sure that the Governor has the resources necessary to maintain public health during this extraordinary time.

The good news is that this is not permanent. The more proactive measures we take now, the better Maryland will fare over the weeks to come.