

General Assembly of Maryland Website Search Help

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In General

This document contains tips for using the “Advanced” search function on the General Assembly of Maryland Website.

Accessing the Advanced Search Web Page

Navigate to the advanced search web page, clicking “**Advanced**” next to the search textbox in the top-right corner of the website. If search results page is already on display, click the “**Advanced Search**” link under the search textbox.

What is Searched?

Web pages (primarily in html format) and documents (primarily in PDF format) from the General Assembly of Maryland website (<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/>) and the Department of Legislative Services website (<http://dls.maryland.gov/>).

Advanced Search Options

Advanced search provides the following options to filter and sort results:

- Legislative Session
- Document Type
- Order

Legislative Session Details

To search all “**Legislative Sessions**”, click on the “Deselect All” link to uncheck all boxes in the list.

To narrow the search results to specific “**Legislative Sessions**”, only check those boxes.

Note: Some document type collections are unable to be filtered by Legislative Session. Please refer to the document type list below.

Document Type Details

To search all “**Document Types**”, click on the “Deselect All” link to uncheck all boxes in the list.

To narrow the search results to specific “**Document Types**”, only check those boxes. The table below describes what information is contained in each of available document types.

Document Type	Included Results
AELR	PDF documents with AELR committee information such as Analyses, Regulations and Synopses. <i>Unable to be filtered by legislative session</i>
Budget	PDF documents of budget-related publications. <i>Unable to be filtered by legislative session</i>
Legislation > Committees	Web pages with committee information such as members, contact details, and legislation lists.
Legislation > Documents	PDF documents relating to different types of legislation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Amendments” subcategory contains PDF versions of amendments. • “Chapters” subcategory contains PDF versions of chapters, from the 1999 Regular Session to present only. • “Fiscal & Policy Notes” subcategory contains PDF versions of fiscal and policy notes. • “Legislation – Bills & Resolutions” subcategory contains PDF versions of bills and resolutions.
Legislation > Sponsors	Web pages containing lists of sponsors and individual sponsor’s profiles.
Legislation > Statute Affected	Web pages containing statutes and legislation which has affected them.
Legislation > Subjects	Web pages containing information about subjects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Broad” subcategory contains broad subject (file code) information. • “Narrow” subcategory contains information for more specific subject types.
Legislation > Synopsis	Web pages and PDF documents containing House and Senate synopses.
Legislation > Votes	PDF documents containing legislative vote records.

Publications	<p>PDF documents related to many legislative functions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “General Assembly of Maryland” subcategory contains documents from http://mgaleg.maryland.gov. • “Department of Legislative Services” subcategory contains documents from the Legislative Services website, http://dls.maryland.gov. <p><i>Unable to be filtered by legislative session</i></p>	
Schedules	<p>Web pages containing schedule information for major legislative areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Committee Hearing” subcategory contains information for present and past committee schedules. <i>Unable to be filtered by session</i> • “Floor Agenda” subcategory contains information for present and past floor schedules and agendas. • “House Proceedings” subcategory contains information for present and past proceedings in the House. • “Senate Proceedings” subcategory contains information for present and past proceedings in the Senate. 	
Statutes	<p>Annotated Code of Maryland</p> <p>Municipal Charters</p> <p>Municipal Resolutions</p>	<p>Maryland statutes for the current year including both full articles (PDF only) and individual sections (PDF and HTML).</p> <p>PDF documents containing basic laws describing the structure, powers, procedures and services of the municipality. Do not select items from “Sessions” when searching this collection.</p> <p>PDF documents containing basic laws describing the structure, powers, procedures and services of the municipality. Do not select items from “Sessions” when searching this collection.</p>

Order Details

The order in which to display the search results can be selected.

Results can be ordered by relevance, which shows first the results expected to be most relevant for your search terms.

Results can alternatively be ordered by date, which shows first documents created or updated more recently.

Search Tips

Search results can further be narrowed by using one or more of these options on the search phrase:

- Placing terms inside quotes to match an exact phrase.
- Prefixing words to exclude with a dash.
- Using the asterisk (*) wildcard character to search for variations of a word.
- Using search connectors to define relationships between search terms.

Searching by Word or Phrase

Search feature	How to compose this search
Multiple terms: alcohol AND Talbot	Place the word AND between two words or phrases that must be included
One or more terms: ship OR vessel OR boat	Place the word OR between words or phrases if you are looking for pages that include one or more of the specified words or phrases
Omit a term: alcohol –wine	Place a minus (-) before any word that must not be present. For example, alcohol -wine if you are looking for pages on alcohol but don't want to find wine.
Phrase: "drug abuse"	Place a phrase in quotes if all the words need to appear together as a phrase, and not scattered about the page.
Wildcards: green*	The asterisk (*) represents a wildcard, meaning a placeholder for zero or more unknown characters. It is useful when you don't remember an exact name or phrase or when you want to retrieve variants on a word. For example, the search green* might return pages or documents discussing Greenbelt and Greenhouse.
Near: global NEAR greenhouse	Find terms that appear on a page together and are close to each other.