

General Assembly of Maryland Website Search Help

This document contains tips and information which may help you effectively search the General Assembly of Maryland Website.

What is available for search through the General Assembly Website?

- Publications and documents in PDF format related to Maryland's budget, General Assembly committees, commissions, task forces, legislation, schedules, statutes, and work groups.
- All Web pages from the General Assembly of Maryland website at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/>, the Department of Legislative Services at <http://dls.state.md.us/>, and certain Legislative Library publications.

General Search Tips

- Every query will search all available documents and Web pages if no sessions or document types are selected under “**Advanced Search**”.
- Search results can be narrowed to specific sessions, document types, and keyword combinations under “**Advanced Search**”.
- Search results can be narrowed by using shorthand operators (AND, OR, -) in your query.

Example Query	Results
House AND Bill	Contain the words “House” and “Bill”.
House OR Bill	Contain either the word “House” or the word “Bill”.
House -Bill	Contain the word “House”, but not “Bill”.

- Place terms inside quotes to match an exact phrase. Searching for “**house bill 1**” inside quotes will match a document containing the sentence “**This is house bill 1**”, but will not match a document containing the sentence “**The house has a bill numbered 1**”.

Advanced Search

Advanced search provides you with a way to further narrow your search results by session, document type, and keyword combination. This section describes how you can use these tools.

- To navigate to the advanced search web page, click “**Advanced**” next to the search textbox in the top-right corner of the website. If you are already on a search results page, click the “**Advanced Search**” link under the search textbox above the results.

- After selecting your desired categories and keywords, click the search button to the right of the search textbox above the “**Sessions**” category, or click the “**Search**” button at the lower-right of the “**Advanced Search**” form. Either button performs your search.
- Not all document types exist for every session, so some combinations of sessions and document types may not return results. Items in the list of document types may be followed by text indicating the session range for which they are available.
- To search the entire site, uncheck all boxes in both “Sessions” and “Document Types” selection lists.

Sessions Details

You can select any number sessions from the “**Sessions**” list on advanced search to narrow your results to these specific sessions.

Note: if you choose any of the **Publications** types, all sessions in the selected session’s year will be searched. For example, searching in session “**2012 Regular Session**” will also return results for “**2012 Special Session 1**” and “**2012 Special Session 2**”.

Document Types Details

You can select any number of document types from the “**Document Types**” list on advanced search to narrow your search results. The table below describes what information is contained in each of these document types.

Document Type	Included Results
AELR	PDF documents with AELR committee information such as Analyses, Regulations and Synopses. Do not select items from “ Sessions ” when searching this collection.
Budget	PDF documents of budget-related publications. Do not select items from “ Sessions ” when searching this collection, or else expected results may be missing.
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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “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	<p>Web pages containing information about subjects.</p> <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	Web pages containing legislative vote records.
Publications	<p>PDF documents related to many legislative functions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Department of Legislative Services” subcategory contains documents from the Legislative Services website, http://dls.state.md.us. • “General Assembly of Maryland” subcategory contains documents from http://mgaleg.maryland.gov. • “Library” subcategory contains documents from the Department of Legislative Services Library collection. <p>If you choose any of the Publications types, all sessions in the selected session’s year will be searched. For example, searching in session “2012 Regular Session” will also return results for “2012 Special Session 1” and “2012 Special Session 2”.</p>
Schedules	<p>Web pages and PDF documents 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. Do not select items from “Sessions” when

	<p>searching this collection, or else expected results may be missing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “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	PDF document versions of Maryland statutes for the current year including both full articles and individual sections.

Keyword Combination Details

The textboxes to the right of the **“Document Types”** list provide you with more options for searching by keyword. Alternatively, you can use the shorthand operators listed in this document under **“General Search Tips”**.

Textbox	Result
With all words	All results will contains all words anywhere in document. For example, searching for “house bill 1” will return any document which contains the words “house” , “bill” , and “1” . This is equivalent to a query using shorthand operators “house AND bill AND 1” .
With exact phrase	All results will contain the exact phrase in the document. For example, searching for “house bill 1” will return a document containing “This is house bill 1” , but will not return a document containing “The house has a bill which is 1” . This is equivalent to the short-hand method of surrounding your query with double-quotes.
With at least one of the words	All results will contain at least one of the words. For example, searching for “house bill” will return documents containing the word either “house” or “bill” . This is equivalent to a query using shorthand operators “house OR bill” .
Without the words	All results will not contain any of the words. For example, searching for “house bill” will return documents which do not contain

“house” or **“bill”**. This is equivalent to the shorthand method of **“-house -bill”**. This option will not return correct results unless:

- A session has been selected from the **“Sessions”** dropdown, or
- other keywords have been supplied in at least one of the **default**, **“With all words”**, **“With exact phrase”**, or **“With at least one of the words”** search textboxes.

Order Details

You may choose to order your results by relevance or date. Ordering by date will only apply to PDF documents, web pages will not be ordered by date.