



The Legislative Wrap-Up

Library and Information Services, Department of Legislative Services

[Issue 03-2](#)

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BILL INTRODUCTIONS

To date 57 Senate bills and 41 House bills have been introduced. Upcoming deadlines related to the bill introduction step in the legislative process begin January 21, the Senate and House Bill Request Guarantee Date. Bills must be requested by this date to guarantee that the bills will be drafted by the Senate and House Bill Introduction Dates, January 31 and February 7 respectively. Senate bills introduced after January 31 will be referred to the Rules Committee. House bills introduced after February 7 will be referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee.

GUBERNATORIAL INAUGURATION

On January 15 in the Senate Chamber, Chief Judge Robert M. Bell of the Maryland Court of Appeals administered the oath of office to Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. who became the 60th Governor of Maryland. Michael S. Steele was sworn in as Lieutenant Governor, the first African American to hold that office. The Governor and Lt. Governor then made their way to the foot of the State House steps where they repeated their oaths before a large crowd of Marylanders assembled on Lawyers Mall. Others watched the ceremony on large screens located in the Miller Senate Building.

Soon after the oaths were administered, Governor Ehrlich delivered a short inaugural address. He stressed the significance of the support provided by his family, friends, and colleagues throughout his life and of the lessons he had learned from them. After enumerating several key points he would pursue during his term, such as enhancing public safety, preparing Maryland's children to meet the challenges of the future, and making government live within its means, the Governor closed with a call for everyone to work together to "overcome their differences in the best interest of all." The festivities continued with a parade in Annapolis and two inaugural balls in Baltimore that evening.

CABINET APPOINTMENTS

Gubernatorial cabinet appointments are nearing completion and include several former and current members of the General Assembly. The appointees will appear before the Senate Executive Nominations Committee, which examines all nominations for appointments made by the Governor that require Senate confirmation. The committee then reports its recommendations for full Senate confirmation. Former legislators named to date are:

- Christopher J. McCabe, Secretary, Department of Human Resources (Senator, D-Montgomery and Howard Counties, 1991-2002);
- Kenneth C. Montague, Jr., Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services (Delegate, D-Baltimore City, 1986-2003); and
- Jean W. Roesser, Secretary, Department of Aging (Senator, R-Montgomery, 1995-2003, and Delegate, 1987-1995).

Currently serving legislators tapped for appointment are:

- Robert L. Flanagan, Secretary, Department of Transportation (Delegate since 1987, R-Howard County); and
- Thomas E. Hutchins, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs (Delegate since 1995, R-Charles County).

INTRODUCTION OF THE BUDGET BILL

Governor Ehrlich's first Budget Bill ([HB 40/SB 55](#)) was delivered to the General Assembly today, January 17. Budget briefings will begin next week in the House Appropriations Committee. In odd numbered years the House of Delegates moves the Budget Bill first. Next year in 2004 the Senate will handle the Budget Bill first.

COMMITTEE BRIEFINGS

Committees have been very busy this week with briefings on a number of subjects aimed at preparing members for the complicated issues they will face this session. Among next week's numerous presentations will be briefings on Maryland's fiscal status from the Office of Policy Analysis, Department of Legislative Services, possible tuition increases and cost estimates from the University System of Maryland, and the counties' fiscal perspective from the Maryland Association of Counties.

STATE-OF-THE-STATE ADDRESS

Governor Ehrlich is slated to address the General Assembly in joint session in the House chamber on January 29.

