

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 539 (Delegate G. Clagett, *et al.*)
Rules and Executive Nominations

General Assembly - Standing Committees - Authority as to Subpoenas, Oaths,
Testimony, and Depositions

This bill repeals the requirement that a legislative standing committee obtain prior approval of the Legislative Policy Committee to issue subpoenas; compel the attendance of witnesses; compel the production of papers, books, accounts, documents, and testimony; administer an oath; or take the depositions of witnesses.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Legislative Policy Committee must approve a standing committee's issuance of subpoenas and other actions compelling the attendance of witnesses and production of documents. If an individual fails to comply with a standing committee's request, a circuit court may compel compliance on the request of a member of the standing committee. The court's order may be enforced by proceedings for contempt.

In general, the Legislative Policy Committee has the following functions:

- to review the work of the standing committees;

- to collect information about the government and general welfare of the State;
- to study the operation of and recommend changes in the constitution, statutes, and common law of the State;
- to study the rules and procedures of the Senate and the House and recommend changes that would improve and expedite the consideration of legislation by the General Assembly;
- to coordinate and supervise generally the work of the General Assembly when it is not in session;
- to prepare or endorse a legislative program that includes the bills, resolutions, or other recommendations of the committee that are to be presented to the General Assembly at its next session; and
- to carry out its powers and duties under the Maryland Program Evaluation Act.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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