

Chapter 441

(Senate Bill 524)

AN ACT concerning

General Assembly – Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs – Gender–Neutral Language

FOR the purpose of altering certain terminology that refers to chairs and vice chairs of committees of the General Assembly to be gender–neutral; and generally relating to chairs and vice chairs of committees of the General Assembly.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Government

Section 2–403(a), 2–404, 2–405(b), 2–406(b)(1), 2–504, 2–604, 2–704(a), 2–804, 2–805(b), 2–904, 2–1003(a)(2) and (b), 2–10A–01(d), 2–10A–06(f), 2–1224(d)(2), 2–1258(a)(2), 2–1505(c)(2) and (f), 2–1605, and 2–1609(h)(2)(v)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – State Government

2–403.

(a) The Legislative Policy Committee consists of the following 28 members:

(1) from the Senate:

(i) the President;

(ii) the President Pro Tem;

(iii) the Majority Leader;

(iv) the [Chairman] **CHAIR** of the Budget and Taxation Committee;

(v) the [Chairman] **CHAIR** of the [Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee] **COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT**;

(vi) the [Chairman] **CHAIR** of the Finance Committee;

(vii) the [Chairman] **CHAIR** of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

(viii) the Minority Leader; and

(ix) 1. 6 other Senators, appointed by the President and approved by majority vote of the Senate; or

2. if a Senator simultaneously serves in 2 of the positions set forth in items (ii) through (vii), inclusive, of this [paragraph] **ITEM**, 7 other Senators, appointed by the President and approved by majority vote of the Senate; and

(2) from the House:

(i) the Speaker;

(ii) the Speaker Pro Tem;

(iii) the Majority Leader;

(iv) the [Chairman] **CHAIR** of the Appropriations Committee;

(v) the [Chairman] **CHAIR** of the Health and Government Operations Committee;

(vi) the [Chairman] **CHAIR** of the Economic Matters Committee;

(vii) the [Chairman] **CHAIR** of the Environment and Transportation Committee;

(viii) the [Chairman] **CHAIR** of the Judiciary Committee;

(ix) the [Chairman] **CHAIR** of the Ways and Means Committee;

(x) the Minority Leader; and

(xi) 1. 4 other Delegates, appointed by the Speaker and approved by majority vote of the House; or

2. if a Delegate simultaneously serves in 2 of the positions set forth in items (ii) through (ix), inclusive, of this [paragraph] **ITEM**, 5 other Delegates, appointed by the Speaker and approved by majority vote of the House.

2-404.

The President and the Speaker are [cochairmen] **COCHAIRS** of the Committee.

2-405.

(b) (1) If a vacancy occurs in one of the offices of [cochairmen] **COCHAIRS** of the Committee, a successor shall be elected:

(i) for the Senate [cochairman] **COCHAIR**, by the Senators on the Committee; and

(ii) for the House [cochairman] **COCHAIR**, by the Delegates on the Committee.

(2) If vacancies occur in both offices of the [cochairmen] **COCHAIRS** of the Committee, the successors shall be elected from among the remaining members of the Committee by those members. One of the [cochairmen] **COCHAIRS** shall be a Senator, and one shall be a Delegate.

2-406.

(b) (1) The Committee shall meet as often as necessary, at the times and places that its [cochairmen] **COCHAIRS** determine.

2-504.

The Senate [Chairman] **CHAIR** and the House [Chairman] **CHAIR** of the Committee shall be appointed by the President and the Speaker, respectively, from the membership of the Committee. One shall be a Senator appointed by the President, and the other shall be a Delegate appointed by the Speaker. The presiding [chairmanship] **CHAIRSHIP** and [cochairmanship] **COCHAIRSHIP** shall be alternated annually between the Senate and the House.

2-604.

The President and the Speaker jointly shall appoint the [chairman] **CHAIR** and the vice [chairman] **CHAIR** of the Committee.

2-704.

(a) The President and the Speaker:

(1) jointly shall appoint a [chairman] **CHAIR** and a vice [chairman] **CHAIR** of the Committee; or

(2) each shall appoint a [cochairman] **COCHAIR** of the Committee.

2-804.

The President and the Speaker jointly shall appoint the [chairman] **CHAIR** and the vice [chairman] **CHAIR** of the Committee.

2-805.

(b) The Committee shall meet:

(1) at the times and places that it determines; and

(2) at the call of its [chairman] **CHAIR** or, if the [chairman] **CHAIR** is absent, at the call of its vice [chairman] **CHAIR**.

2-904.

(a) The President and the Speaker jointly shall appoint a [chairman] **CHAIR** and a vice [chairman] **CHAIR** of the Committee.

(b) (1) The President shall appoint a [chairman] **CHAIR** of the Senate members of the Committee.

(2) The Speaker shall appoint a [chairman] **CHAIR** of the House members of the Committee.

2-1003.

(a) On or before June 1 of each year, the Legislative Policy Committee shall create a Spending Affordability Committee comprised of an equal number of Senators and Delegates. The Committee membership includes:

(2) the [chairmen] **CHAIRS** of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee;

(b) The [chairman] **CHAIR** of the Committee shall be designated jointly by the President and the Speaker.

2-10A-01.

(d) The President and the Speaker shall jointly appoint a Senator and a Delegate each to serve as [cochairman] **COCHAIRS**.

2-10A-06.

(f) (1) From among the membership of the Committee, the President shall

appoint a Senator to serve as the Senate [chairman] **CHAIR** of the Committee and the Speaker shall appoint a Delegate to serve as the House [chairman] **CHAIR** of the Committee.

(2) The Senate [chairman] **CHAIR** and the House [chairman] **CHAIR** shall alternate annually as presiding [chairman] **CHAIR** and [cochairman] **COCHAIR** of the Committee.

2-1224.

(d) The Legislative Auditor shall send a copy of the report to:

(2) the [Chairmen] **CHAIRS** of the Senate Budget and Taxation and House Appropriations Committees;

2-1258.

(a) (2) On request, the Department shall provide one additional copy of an annotated code of Maryland to each:

- (i) presiding officer;
- (ii) pro tempore officer;
- (iii) [chairman] **CHAIR** of a standing committee;
- (iv) majority leader; and
- (v) minority leader.

2-1505.

(c) (2) If the [chairman] **CHAIR** of the committee to which a bill is referred certifies that prompt committee action on the bill is needed to conduct legislative business and, before the Department prepares the fiscal note for the bill, holds a hearing on the bill, the Department shall prepare the note as soon after the hearing as possible.

(f) As soon as possible after the adoption of an amendment that changes the fiscal impact of a bill, the Department of Legislative Services shall:

- (1) prepare a revised fiscal note for the bill; and
- (2) send the revised note:

(i) to the [chairman] **CHAIR** of the committee to which the bill is referred in the house of origin;

(ii) if the bill has reached the opposite house, to the [chairman] **CHAIR** of the committee to which the bill is referred in that house;

(iii) if the bill is in the custody of either the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House, to that officer; and

(iv) to the primary sponsor of the bill.

2-1605.

(a) An investigating committee shall have the [chairman and vice chairman] **CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR** who:

(1) are appointed by the resolution that establishes the investigating committee; or

(2) if the resolution does not appoint these officers, are elected by affirmative vote of a majority of all of the members of the investigating committee.

(b) The rules of an investigating committee shall provide for the selection of a presiding officer to act if the [chairman and vice chairman] **CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR** are absent or unable to act.

(c) (1) At a hearing of an investigating committee, the presiding officer shall be:

(i) the [chairman] **CHAIR** of the investigating committee;

(ii) if the [chairman] **CHAIR** is absent or otherwise unable to preside, the vice [chairman] **CHAIR**; or

(iii) if the [chairman and vice chairman] **CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR** are absent or otherwise unable to preside, the individual who is selected under the rules of the investigating committee.

(2) At a hearing, the presiding officer:

(i) shall examine the witnesses or supervise the examination by any other member of the investigating committee or by staff who are authorized to examine witnesses; and

(ii) may direct a witness to answer a relevant question or to provide a relevant book, document, or paper.

2-1609.

(h) (2) The record shall include:

(v) any other matter that the investigating committee or its [chairman] CHAIR directs.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.