

SENATE BILL 524

P5, P1

4lr1202

By: **Senator M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Assembly – Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs – Gender-Neutral**
3 **Language**

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

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – State Government

9 Section 2-403(a), 2-404, 2-405(b), 2-406(b)(1), 2-504, 2-604, 2-704(a), 2-804,
10 2-805(b), 2-904, 2-1003(a)(2) and (b), 2-10A-01(d), 2-10A-06(f),
11 2-1224(d)(2), 2-1258(a)(2), 2-1505(c)(2) and (f), 2-1605, and 2-1609(h)(2)(v)

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – State Government**

17 2-403.

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

19 (1) from the Senate:

20 (i) the President;

21 (ii) the President Pro Tem;

22 (iii) the Majority Leader;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

7 (viii) the Minority Leader; and

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

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

13 (2) from the House:

14 (i) the Speaker;

15 (ii) the Speaker Pro Tem;

16 (iii) the Majority Leader;

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (x) the Minority Leader; and

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

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

4 2–404.

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

6 2–405.

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

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

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

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

17 2–406.

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

20 2–504.

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

27 2–604.

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

30 2–704.

1 (a) The President and the Speaker:

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

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

5 2–804.

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

8 2–805.

9 (b) The Committee shall meet:

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

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

13 2–904.

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

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

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

20 2–1003.

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

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

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

28 2–10A–01.

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

3 2-10A-06.

4 (f) (1) From among the membership of the Committee, the President shall
5 appoint a Senator to serve as the Senate [chairman] **CHAIR** of the Committee and the
6 Speaker shall appoint a Delegate to serve as the House [chairman] **CHAIR** of the
7 Committee.

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

11 2-1224.

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

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

15 2-1258.

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

18 (i) presiding officer;

19 (ii) pro tempore officer;

20 (iii) [chairman] **CHAIR** of a standing committee;

21 (iv) majority leader; and

22 (v) minority leader.

23 2-1505.

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

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

1 (1) prepare a revised fiscal note for the bill; and

2 (2) send the revised note:

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

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

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

9 (iv) to the primary sponsor of the bill.

10 2–1605.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (2) At a hearing, the presiding officer:

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

1 witnesses; and

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

4 2-1609.

5 (h) (2) The record shall include:

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

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
9 1, 2024.