

# B75A01

## General Assembly of Maryland

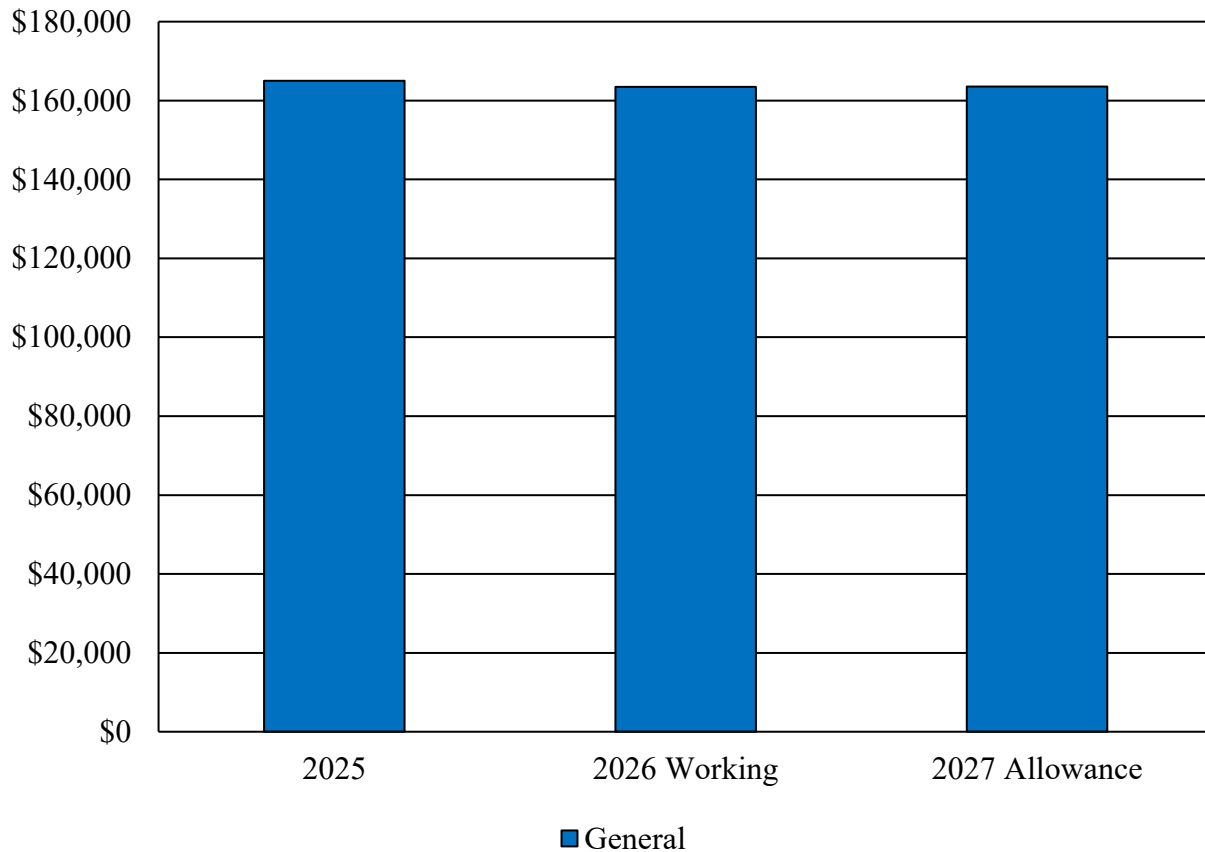
### Program Description

The Maryland General Assembly (MGA) is the Legislative Branch of State government. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) provides nonpartisan staff support to MGA. Separate budgets are provided for the Senate; the House of Delegates; leadership, committee, and member staff support; and general expenses shared by both chambers.

### *Operating Budget Summary*

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**Fiscal 2027 Budget Increases \$112,044, or 0.1%, to \$163.6 Million**  
(\$ in Thousands)



Note: The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency's budget.

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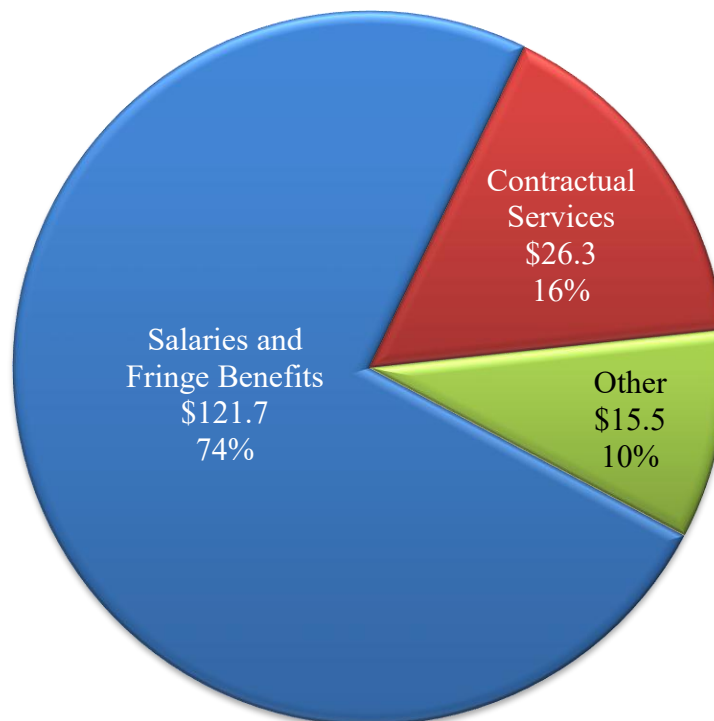
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## Fiscal 2027 Overview of Agency Spending

As shown in **Exhibit 1**, nearly three-quarters of spending for MGA covers salaries and fringe benefits for legislators and employees. A further 16% is used for contractual services to support departmental operations.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Overview of Agency Spending**  
**Fiscal 2027 Allowance**  
**(\$ in Millions)**



Note: The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency's budget.

Source: Governor's Fiscal 2027 Budget Books

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## Proposed Budget Change

As shown in **Exhibit 2**, the MGA budget increases by \$112,044, or 0.1%, and is funded entirely through general funds.

**Exhibit 2**  
**Proposed Budget**  
**General Assembly of Maryland**  
**(\$ in Thousands)**

<b>How Much It Grows:</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>
Fiscal 2025 Actual	\$164,983	\$164,983
Fiscal 2026 Working	163,475	163,475
Fiscal 2027 Allowance	163,587	163,587
Fiscal 2026-2027 \$ Change	\$112	\$112
Fiscal 2026-2027 % Change	0.1%	0.1%
<b>Where It Goes:</b>		<b><u>Change</u></b>
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>		
Employee and retiree health insurance .....		\$560
Workers’ compensation premium assessment .....		1
Salary and associated fringe benefits.....		-789
<b>Other Changes</b>		
Annapolis Data Center computer usage fees .....		471
Management studies and consultants and other contractual services .....		510
Contractual office assistance .....		90
Office and other supplies and materials.....		55
Subscriptions and dues .....		16
Rent.....		12
Travel.....		11
Building maintenance .....		-100
Retirement administration fee.....		-130
Duplicating equipment purchases.....		-273
Department of Information Technology services allocation.....		-358
Other .....		36
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$112</b>

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding. The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency’s budget.

## ***Personnel Data***

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	<b>FY 25</b>	<b>FY 26</b>	<b>FY 27</b>	<b>FY 26-27</b>
	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Working</u></b>	<b><u>Allowance</u></b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
Regular Positions	813.00	814.00	819.00	5.00
Contractual FTEs	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>813.00</b>	<b>814.00</b>	<b>819.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>

### ***Vacancy Data: Regular Positions***

Turnover and Necessary Vacancies, Excluding New Positions	8.82	1.08%
Positions and Percentage Vacant as of 12/31/2025	27.00	3.32%
Vacancies Above Turnover	18.18	

- The fiscal 2027 allowance includes 5 new positions across MGA. These positions include 2 new staff positions in the Senate, 2 new staff positions in the House of Delegates, and 1 new position in DLS for a program examiner in the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability.

## ***Key Observations***

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### **1. General Assembly Compensation Commission**

Prior to 1971, the Maryland constitution established legislative salaries. Related allowances, including expense reimbursements and retirement benefits, were specified in statute. The salaries could be changed only through a constitutional amendment ratified by voters in a general election.

A constitutional amendment, approved by voters in 1970, created the nine-member General Assembly Compensation Commission (GACC) and specified that the commission submit salary and allowance recommendations to the legislature every four years. The commission includes members appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

### **Commission Recommended Changes to the Compensation Package**

In its January 2026 report, GACC unanimously recommended that legislator salaries increase by 1.75% in each of calendar 2027 and 2028 and 2.75% in each of calendar 2029 and 2030. The commission noted that MGA is a part-time legislature, but that legislative service

takes a substantial commitment, both in Annapolis and with constituent services. The commission acknowledged the current fiscal constraints impacting the State budget while also seeking to establish compensation levels that would recognize the talent and experience of elected legislators. **Exhibit 3** shows the GACC recommended salaries for MGA members and presiding officers.

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**Exhibit 3  
Legislative Salaries  
Calendar 2027-2030**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Presiding Officers</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
2027	\$57,627	\$74,849	1.75%
2028	58,636	76,159	1.75%
2029	60,248	78,254	2.75%
2030	61,905	80,406	2.75%

Source: Report of the General Assembly Compensation Commission, January 2026

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DLS estimates that the costs of the salary increases and associated fringe benefits are approximately \$198,000 in fiscal 2027, \$387,000 in fiscal 2028, \$634,000 in fiscal 2029, and \$942,000 in fiscal 2030.

Other changes recommended by the commission are:

- the addition of a line-of-duty death benefit in the Legislative Pension Plan, to be consistent with other plans in the State Retirement and Pension System;
- updating the years for which the in-district transportation allowance applies to cover the upcoming term;
- updating the years for which membership in the Legislative Pension Plan is mandatory to cover the upcoming term; and
- requiring purchases of service credit by members who had service prior to January 9, 2019, to be made by December 31, 2027.

Outside of these changes, GACC recommended that all other aspects of the 2022 resolution currently governing legislative compensation be retained.

The General Assembly may reduce or reject but cannot increase any item in the commission's resolution. If no changes are made, the commission's resolution is effective in calendar 2027.

## ***Operating Budget Recommended Actions***

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1. Concur with the budget as approved by the Legislative Policy Committee.

**Appendix 1**  
**Object/Fund Difference Report**  
**General Assembly of Maryland**

<u>Object/Fund</u>	<u>FY 25 Actual</u>	<u>FY 26 Work Approp.</u>	<u>FY 27 Allowance</u>	<u>FY 26 - 27 \$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>Positions</b>					
01 Regular	813.00	814.00	819.00	5.00	0.6%
02 Contractual	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A
<b>Total Positions</b>	<b>813.00</b>	<b>814.00</b>	<b>819.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
<b>Objects</b>					
01 Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits	\$122,342,996	\$121,933,963	\$121,705,615	-\$228,348	-0.2%
02 Technical and Special Fees	1,352,015	1,388,177	1,426,177	38,000	2.7%
03 Communications	650,650	904,950	904,950	0	0.0%
04 Travel	4,205,663	3,979,103	3,990,103	11,000	0.3%
06 Fuel and Utilities	76,000	76,000	76,000	0	0.0%
07 Motor Vehicle Operation and Maintenance	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0.0%
08 Contractual Services	25,551,278	25,780,153	26,363,385	583,232	2.3%
09 Supplies and Materials	3,896,174	3,895,639	3,951,097	55,458	1.4%
10 Equipment – Replacement	1,418,586	1,481,730	1,486,833	5,103	0.3%
11 Equipment – Additional	581,226	581,226	308,000	-273,226	-47.0%
13 Fixed Charges	2,461,956	2,707,888	2,728,713	20,825	0.8%
14 Land and Structures	2,445,000	745,000	645,000	-100,000	-13.4%
<b>Total Objects</b>	<b>\$164,982,644</b>	<b>\$163,474,929</b>	<b>\$163,586,973</b>	<b>\$112,044</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
<b>Funds</b>					
01 General Funds	\$164,982,644	\$163,474,929	\$163,586,973	\$112,044	0.1%
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$164,982,644</b>	<b>\$163,474,929</b>	<b>\$163,586,973</b>	<b>\$112,044</b>	<b>0.1%</b>

Note: The fiscal 2027 allowance does not include statewide salary adjustments budgeted within the Department of Budget and Management.