
Part III
Legislation Related to the Legislative Policy
Committee as a Result of the 2018 Session

Department of Legislative Services
Annapolis, Maryland

June 2018

Legislation Relating to the Legislative Policy Committee as a Result of the 2018 Session

Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2018

Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 187/Chapter 10)

This Act repeals the requirement that appropriations from the Dedicated Purpose Account and budget amendments transferring funds from the Catastrophic Event Account be approved by the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) and instead provides LPC with a 45-day and 15-day review and comment period, respectively.

Education, Maryland State Department of

Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 1265/Chapter 30)

This Act requires the Maryland State Department of Education to notify the Governor and LPC of proposed changes to regulations that alter the annual schedule of school safety drills.

General Assembly

General Assembly – Department of Legislative Services – Reorganization and Duties (House Bill 874/Chapter 281)

This Act (1) reorganizes the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) by consolidating support services under a new office; (2) specifies administrative processes related to legislation and audits; and (3) makes various technical and conforming changes. The head of DLS is the Executive Director, who shall be appointed jointly by the President and the Speaker. The Executive Director (1) serves without a fixed term and may be removed by LPC on the recommendation of the President and the Speaker; (2) is entitled to the salary provided in the State budget; (3) shall devote full time to the duties of the Office; and (4) shall serve in a nonpartisan capacity and ensure that the activities of DLS are conducted in a nonpartisan manner. The Executive Director has general administrative control of the operation of DLS and its units, subject to the policies and directives of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House and LPC. LPC shall adopt guidelines that are not inconsistent with law and that, for employees of DLS, govern hiring and probationary periods; tenure, promotion, overtime compensation, discrimination, compensatory work for absences due to religious beliefs, holidays, part-time employment, grievance procedures, and removal; and political activity.

Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs

Procurement – Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise Participation (Senate Bill 1165/Chapter 740)

This Act requires the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs to submit an annual report on the number and amount of contracts awarded to veteran-owned small business enterprises and the effectiveness of the Veteran-owned Small Business Enterprise Program to the LPC on or before December 1 of each year.

Lottery and Gaming Control Commission, State

Video Lottery Terminals – Minority Business Participation Goals – Sunset Extension (Senate Bill 383/Chapter 336 and House Bill 1622/Chapter 335)

This Act requires the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to require video lottery operation applicants and licensees to provide any information necessary to conduct the study. The study must evaluate race-neutral programs or other methods that can be used to address the needs of minority investors and minority businesses. The study must be submitted to LPC by December 14, 2018, so that the General Assembly may review the report before the 2019 session.

Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission Reform Act

Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission Reform Act (House Bill 2/Chapter 598)

This Act repeals language authorizing the commission to issue additional licenses as necessary to meet demand beginning June 1, 2018. Instead, beginning December 1, 2024, the commission may report to the General Assembly on the number of licenses necessary to meet demand. Prior to submitting the report, the commission must provide LPC at least 30 days to submit comments to the commission.

State Government

State Government – Discrimination and Harassment (House Bill 1342/Chapter 525)

By December 15, 2018, LPC must (1) update the antiharassment policy governing Maryland General Assembly members and employees; (2) include provisions prohibiting harassment of credentialed members of the press in the updated policy; and (3) consider including the recommendations of the Women Legislators of Maryland adopted February 7, 2018 in the updated policy. After the required initial update, LPC must review and update the policy and procedures as necessary but at least every two years, to create and maintain an environment in which all members and employees are treated with respect and are free from unlawful discrimination and harassment.