

Work Session

Agenda Item #	3
Meeting Date	November 17, 2014
Prepared By	Suzanne Ludlow Deputy City Manager
Approved By	Brian T. Kenner, City Manager

Discussion Item	Legislative Priorities
<p>Background</p>	<p>The 2015 Session of the Maryland General Assembly begins January 14, 2015. The make-up of the legislature has changed significantly due to the recent elections and the legislative environment will also be different due to the election of a Republican Governor. At the very least, things will be unsettled while the new Governor establishes his Cabinet and issues his budget and there will be a large learning curve for the third of the General Assembly that is new.</p> <p>The City’s legislative advocate, Michele Douglas of Public Policy Partners, will give an overview of the Legislative Session, including the changes due to the elections, the State budget outlook, and major issues likely to be addressed.</p> <p>The Council is requested to have a discussion of its priorities and give direction to staff. Staff can pursue activities related to established positions of the Council. If the Council wishes to take a new position, a Council Resolution is needed. Action can be taken in early January on those items.</p> <p>Previously, the Council approved the submission of three Maryland Municipal League Legislative Action Requests for consideration of their Legislative Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Highway User Revenue for municipalities on an ongoing basis • Create an innovation fund for municipalities to advance State goals • Advance municipal interests regarding tax duplication laws. <p>Other topics that have been raised that the Council may consider taking a position on and/or prioritizing for the upcoming Session are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to alcoholic beverage licenses available in Takoma Park, including allowing licenses to permit the sale of beer and wine to carry out and to permit the on-site brewing and selling of beer to carry out; one option that has been proposed is to remove the special provisions in the State Code relating to Takoma Park except for the “-TP” licenses that were grandfathered in during Unification • A proposal to reduce the default speed limit in communities such as Takoma Park from 30 mph to 25 mph • Legislation or assistance that could help improve the campus of Washington Adventist Hospital such as permitting a free-standing emergency center, permitting a two-site hospital license, and/or providing funds for site improvements • Establishment of a bi-county commission on the Takoma-Langley Crossroads

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased funding from the State to provide assistance to businesses or for infrastructure improvements • Improving the ability of municipalities to purchase streetlights at fair prices <p>In addition to these topics, some legislation that we have worked to protect in recent years may be challenged more seriously in the upcoming Session. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority to assess fees for stormwater facility improvements • Authority to collect speed camera fines
Policy	The City Council advocates for legislation in the interest of the City of Takoma Park.
Fiscal Impact	n/a
Attachments	General Assembly of Maryland Dates of Interest, 2015 Session
Recommendation	Discuss information and give direction to staff
Special Consideration	



Department of Legislative Services
General Assembly of Maryland
Dates of Interest
2015 SESSION (Preliminary)
435th Session

JANUARY						
				1	2	3
				H		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	H					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	H					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- January 14** **GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES** (noon, Wednesday)
Swearing in of Members
- 21** Inauguration of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor (Wednesday)
- 23** 10th Day — Final date for Governor to introduce budget bill
- 23** 10th Day — Final date for submission of Executive Orders reorganizing the Executive Branch of State Government; either Chamber may disapprove by resolution within 50 days
- Administration bills introduced in the Senate after this date referred to Senate Rules Committee
- 27** 14th Day — **SENATE AND HOUSE BILL REQUEST GUARANTEE DATE**
- TBA** Election of the State Treasurer
- TBA** Governor delivers the State of the State Address (noon)
- February 2** 20th Day — Final date for Governor to introduce capital budget bill
- 6** 24th Day — **SENATE BILL INTRODUCTION DATE**
Senate bills introduced after this date referred to the Senate Rules Committee
- 12** Day before House Bill Introduction Date; “Hopper” will close at 5:00 P.M.
- 13** 31st Day — **HOUSE BILL INTRODUCTION DATE**
House bills introduced after this date referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
- 22** 40th Day — “Green Bag” appointments submitted by Governor (Delivered on Friday, February 20)
- March 9** 55th Day — Final date for introduction of bills without suspension of Rules
- 17** 63rd Day — Committee Reporting Courtesy Date
- 23** Each Chamber’s committees to report their own bills by this date
- 69th Day — Opposite Chamber Bill Crossover Date
Each Chamber to send to other Chamber those bills it intends to pass favorably
- Opposite Chamber bills received after this date subject to referral to Rules Committees (Senate Rule 32(c), House Courtesy Date)
- April 6** 83rd Day — Budget bill to be passed by both Chambers
- 13** 90th Day — **ADJOURNMENT “SINE DIE”** (Monday)
- May 13** Final date for an extended session (Wednesday)

POST-SESSION

- May 3** 20th Day after adjournment — Final date for presentment of bills to Governor
- June 2** 30th Day after presentment — Governor to sign/veto bills by this date
- June 1** Other than emergency bills and as otherwise provided, earliest date for bills to take effect.
- July 1** Budgetary, tax, and revenue bills to take effect
- October 1** Usual effective date for bills

HOLIDAYS AND OTHER OBSERVANCES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>January 1 New Year’s Day</p> <p>January 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*</p> <p>February 12 Lincoln’s Birthday</p> <p>February 16 Presidents’ Day*</p> <p>February 22 Washington’s Birthday</p> | <p>March 25 Maryland Day</p> <p>April 3 Good Friday</p> <p>April 4 Passover</p> <p>April 5 Easter</p> <p>May 25 Memorial Day*</p> |
|--|--|

*State Holiday

2015 SESSION DATES

Session dates are established by the Maryland Constitution, statute, rule, and custom as follows:

Convening

Article III, Section 14 of the Maryland Constitution requires the General Assembly to convene on the “second Wednesday of January.”

Inauguration of Governor

Article II, Section 1 of the Maryland Constitution states that the term of the Governor shall “commence on the third Wednesday of January next ensuing his election.”

Election of State Treasurer

Article VI, Section 1 of the Maryland Constitution requires the State Treasurer to be “appointed on joint ballot by the two Houses of the Legislature at each regular session in which begins the term of the Governor.” By custom, the election of the State Treasurer takes place within the first two weeks of opening day.

Budget

Article III, Section 52(3) of the Maryland Constitution requires a newly elected Governor to submit the proposed budget for the next fiscal year to the General Assembly “not later than ten days after the convening of the General Assembly.”

Green Bag Appointments

Article II, Section 13 of the Maryland Constitution requires the Governor to submit nominations of civil officers (“Green Bag” appointments) to the Senate “within forty days” from the beginning of each regular session.

Introduction of Legislation

The introduction of legislation is governed by Constitutional provision, rule, and custom. Article III, Section 27 of the Maryland Constitution prohibits the introduction of legislation “during the last thirty-five calendar days” of a regular session, unless permitted by two-thirds vote of the members. This allows 55 days for the normal introduction of bills.

Senate Rule 32(b) and (d)(1) and House Rule 32(b) materially alter the 55/35 day situation. Senate Rule 32(b) requires Senate bills and joint resolutions introduced “after the twenty-fourth calendar day” of the session to be referred to the Senate Rules Committee. Senate Rule 32(d)(1) provides that Senate bills and joint resolutions introduced “after the 10th calendar day” of session on behalf of the Administration, i.e., the Governor, be referred to the Senate Rules Committee. House Rule 32(b) requires that all House bills and joint resolutions introduced “during the last fifty-nine calendar days” of the session (after the thirty-first day) be referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee. The Senate Rules and House Rules contain further provisions concerning the requirements for forcing legislation out of these committees.

Adoption of Budget Bill

Article III, Section 52(10) of the Maryland Constitution specifies that, if the budget bill has not been acted upon by the legislature at least “seven days before the expiration” of a regular session, the Governor is required to issue a proclamation extending the session for whatever period in the Governor’s judgment is necessary for the passage of the bill. Section 52(10) further stipulates that no matter other than the budget bill is to be considered during the extended session, except a provision for the cost of the extended session.

Reorganization of Executive Branch

Article II, Section 24 of the Maryland Constitution permits the Governor to reorganize the Executive Branch of the State Government through Executive Orders submitted to the General Assembly “within the first ten days” of a regular session. The Executive Orders become effective on the date designated in the Orders, unless the majority of all members of either Chamber specifically concurs in a resolution of disapproval “within fifty days” after the Orders are submitted.

Limitation on Length of Session

Article III, Section 15(1) of the Maryland Constitution permits the General Assembly to continue its session for a period “not longer than ninety days” each year. The General Assembly or the Governor may extend the session for up to thirty days.

Presentment and Signing of Bills

Article III, Section 30 of the Maryland Constitution requires all bills passed during a regular or special session to be presented to the Governor for approval “no later than 20 days after adjournment.” The Governor is required to sign a bill within a maximum of “30 days after presentment” if the Governor approves it.

Effective Date of Bills

Article III, Section 31 of the Maryland Constitution requires, unless otherwise provided, that laws passed by the General Assembly take effect on June 1 after the session during which the laws passed. June 1 is the effective date for bond bills, and July 1 is the effective date for budgetary, tax, and revenue bills. By custom, October 1 is the usual effective date for legislation.

The Department of Legislative Services does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, creed, marital status, national origin, race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability in the admission or access to its programs, services, or activities. The Department’s Information Officer has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in Section 35.107 of the Department of Justice Regulations. Requests for assistance should be directed to the Information Officer at the telephone numbers shown below.

*For general information,
please contact:*

*Library and Information Services
Department of Legislative Services
90 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991*

Baltimore Area: 410-946-5400/5410
Washington Area: 301-970-5400/5410
Other Maryland Areas: 1-800-492-7122, ext. 5400/5410
TTY: 410-946/301-970-5401

TTY users may also use the Maryland Relay Service to contact the General Assembly.

E-Mail: libr@mlis.state.md.us

Maryland General Assembly Web site: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>
Department of Legislative Services Web site: <http://dls.state.md.us>

kp/14