



Department of Legislative Services  
**General Assembly of Maryland**  
**Official**  
**Dates of Interest**  
**2005 SESSION**

JANUARY							
							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17 H	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	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 12** GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES (*noon, Wednesday*)
- 19** Final date for Governor to introduce budget bill
- 21** *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
- 25** *14th Day* — **SENATE AND HOUSE BILL REQUEST GUARANTEE DATE**
- 27** Governor delivers the State of the State Address (*noon, Thursday*)
- 31** *20th Day* — Final date for Governor to introduce capital budget bill
- February 4** *24th Day* — **SENATE BILL INTRODUCTION DATE**  
Senate bills introduced after this date referred to the Senate Rules Committee
- 10** Day before House Bill Introduction Date; “Hopper” will close at 5:00 P.M.
- 11** *31st Day* — **HOUSE BILL INTRODUCTION DATE**  
House bills introduced after this date referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
- 20** *40th Day* — “Green Bag” appointments submitted by Governor (*Delivered on Friday, February 18*)
- March 7** *55th Day* — Final date for introduction of bills without suspension of Rules
- 22** *70th Day* — Committee Reporting Courtesy Date  
Each Chamber’s committees to report their own bills by this date
- 28** *76th 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 Rule 32 (c1)]
- April 4** *83rd Day* — Budget bill to be passed by both Chambers
- 11** *90th Day* — **ADJOURNMENT “SINE DIE”** (*Monday*)
- May 11** Final date for an extended session (*Wednesday*)

**POST-SESSION**

- May 1** 20th Day after adjournment — Final date for presentment of bills to Governor
- May 31** 30th Day after presentment — Governor to sign/veto bills by this date
- June 1** Other than emergency bills, earliest date for bills to take effect
- July 1** Budget, tax, and revenue bills to take effect
- October 1** Usual effective date for bills

**HOLIDAYS AND OTHER OBSERVANCES**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>December 31</b> New Year’s Day Observed*</li> <li><b>January 1</b> New Year’s Day</li> <li><b>January 15</b> Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday</li> <li><b>January 17</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*</li> <li><b>February 12</b> Lincoln’s Birthday</li> <li><b>February 21</b> Presidents’ Day*</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>February 22</b> Washington’s Birthday</li> <li><b>March 25</b> Maryland Day</li> <li><b>March 25</b> Good Friday</li> <li><b>March 27</b> Easter</li> <li><b>April 23</b> Passover</li> <li><b>May 30</b> Memorial Day*</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

\*State Holiday



## 2005 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.”

### Budget

Article III, Section 52(3) of the Maryland Constitution requires the Governor to submit the proposed budget for the 2006 fiscal year to the General Assembly by the “third Wednesday in January.”

### Capital Budget

Section 8-114(b) of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland specifies that the Governor shall submit the consolidated loan budget (capital budget) on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> day of each regular session 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 concur 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 budget, 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 race, color, national origin, sex, religion, 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](mailto:libr@mlis.state.md.us)  
Maryland General Assembly Web site: <http://mlis.state.md.us>  
Department of Legislative Services Web site: <http://dls.state.md.us>