Maryland Legislative History Checklist

Updated by Library Staff, July 2019

Maryland Code Section:
At the end of each statute, the publishers of the Code provide a history of the statute's amendments, displayed in parentheses in chronological order separated by semi-colons. Note your Code section's history trail here.

Session Law/Chapter Number: ___________________________ Year ________
Law of Maryland available in the Library's conference room and online from the Maryland State Archives and the HeinOnline database.

Senate/House Bill Number: ___________________ Year ________
Note here the bill number provided in the header of the chapter in the Laws of Maryland. It is important to note whether the bill number provided is for the House or the Senate.

☐ Research Maryland courts' usage of legislative history (cases)
☐ Secondary Sources (Law review articles, texts and treatises)

Bill Drafting Information
☐ General Assembly website, 1996 to the present
☐ Bill Files at the State Law Library, 1976 to 2004 (Available in microfilm)
☐ Bill Files and related material at the Department of Legislative Services Library, 1965 to present
  ○ 1965-1972: Limited early materials from session interims from are available in microfilm, arranged by Legislative Council Report “item number.”
  ○ 1967-1974: A limited number of original Files from regular sessions —consult “Pre-1975 Legislative History Files List” to determine holdings.
  ○ 1975: Files from 1975 are available in microfilm.
  ○ 1976-1999: A limited number of original Files from regular sessions between 1976 to 1999 are available—consult “Files Kept in Stacks List” to determine holdings.
  ○ 2000-2015: Original Files are available.
  ○ 2016-2017: Original Files are retained by the legislative committee to which the bill was referred; consult the Library to determine access.

Legislative Policy Committee
☐ Summary Reports, 1983-present (Call Number: LE 3(a).2 :SRO in the MD State Documents Collection)

Legislative Council

The Commission to Revise the Annotated Code (Call Number: LE 5.2 :CR in the MD State Documents Collection)

Maryland House and Senate Journals (In Library Storage, Basement Room C; ask a librarian for availability.)

Reports from Legislative and Executive Task Forces and Study Commissions (Available in the Library’s Digital Collections at http://mdlaw.ptfs.com/portal/index.html)

Department of Legislative Services Session Review (Various titles, Call Numbers LE 4.2: SRO/981 to present and LE6.2: SRO/987-997, in the MD State Documents Collection)

Governor’s Messages and Vetoes

Annual Reports and Publications of Executive Agencies and the Judicial Branch

Reports of Professional and Trade Associations and Stakeholders

Legislative Study Group Publications (Call Number: LE 9.2 :IR in the MD State Documents Collection)

Documentation from National Legislative Organizations
☐ National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (Call Number: KF165 .A2 in the Legal Texts Collection)
☐ American Law Institute’s model codes (Search the Library catalog with “American Law Institute” as author and “model code” as title.)

Newspapers
☐ Baltimore Sun (1837 – present, online at the Library and on the Judiciary network)
☐ Annapolis Capital (1887 – present, online at the Library and on the Judiciary network)
☐ Daily Record (online at the Library and on the Judiciary network, from 1888 – 1923 and from 2001 – present)
☐ Maryland Clipper (Call Number: LE4.2: MC in the MD State Documents Collection)

Journal Articles
☐ Hein Online Periodicals (online at the Library and on the Judiciary network)
☐ Index to Legal Periodicals (online at the Library and on the Judiciary network)