

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 554 (The Speaker)
Government, Labor, and Elections

**General Assembly - Legislative Committees - Renaming and Legislative Policy
Committee Membership**

This bill alters terminology throughout the Maryland Annotated Code to reflect (1) the renaming of the House Health and Government Operations Committee to be the House Health Committee, and (2) the renaming of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs (EHE) Committee to be the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment. The bill also (1) adds the chair of the new House Government, Labor, and Elections (GLE) Committee to the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC); (2) alters the membership of LPC to include three additional members of the House of Delegates, rather than four; and (3) makes other conforming changes, including reflecting changes in subject matter jurisdiction for affected committees. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is technical in nature and has no effect on governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Standing Committees of the General Assembly

Both the House of Delegates and the Senate of the Maryland General Assembly may

establish standing committees under the rules of their respective chambers. Generally, each standing committee oversees potential legislation and issue areas based on specified subject matter. In addition, each chamber may reorganize their respective standing committees and the issue areas each standing committee oversees.

In December 2022, EHE was reorganized and renamed as the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment. As part of this reorganization, all health matters previously overseen by EHE were transferred to the Senate Finance Committee.

During the 2025 Special Session, the House of Delegates created GLE and reconstituted the House Health and Government Operations Committee as the House Health Committee. As part of that reorganization, all labor and election matters previously overseen by the House Health Committee, labor matters previously overseen by the House Economic Matters Committee, and all election matters from the House Ways and Means Committee were transferred to the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee.

Legislative Policy Committee

LPC was created by legislation enacted in 1976. It replaced the Maryland Legislative Council, which had guided the interim activities of the General Assembly since 1939. LPC consists of 28 members, with the Senate and House equally represented and the Presiding Officers serving as co-chairs. Among other responsibilities, LPC reviews the work of the standing committees of the General Assembly, collects information about the government and general welfare of the State, and coordinates and supervises the work of the General Assembly when it is not in session.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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sj/mcr

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