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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Jack R. Smith, Ph.D. *JRS/CEA*
DATE: January 15, 2016
RE: 2016 Legislative Session and Departmental and Administration Legislation

With the start of the legislation session quickly approaching, we wanted to review the process for consideration of bills during the 2016 legislative session, how the Department communicates the positions on bills to the Governor's Office, and the role of the State Board in the legislative process.

I. Pre-Session – Proposed Departmental Bills

The Department follows the process established by the Governor's Legislative Office (GLO) for departmental bills or Administration bills. A "departmental bill" is a bill proposed by the department to achieve a policy goal or it can be a more modest bill that clarifies or corrects statutes that are used by the department. Approved departmental bills are sponsored by the chairs of the committee that is assigned to hear the bill. An "Administration bill" is a high profile bill that carries out the Governor's policy priorities. Administration bills are sponsored by the Speaker and the President. Administration bills may also be departmental bills that are elevated to Administration bills when the GLO determines that the bills should be a priority bill included within the Governor's legislative package.

To summarize, in late July – early August, the staff of the Department develops proposed legislation (departmental bills) for submission to the GLO on September 1 for review and approval. MSDE staff presents the proposed legislation to the Board during this time period.

In the fall, the GLO circulates a summary of each proposed departmental bill to each state agency for comment. This circulation period allows state agencies to work out any internal state agency conflicts on these proposals prior to submission to the Governor for his review and approval.

Prior to approval of the proposed departmental or Administration bill by the Governor, departments are prohibited from discussing the bills with anyone outside of executive branch agencies. Thus, MSDE staff seeks input and presents the proposed Departmental bills to the State Board in Executive Session.

The GLO reviews the proposed departmental bills with the Governor. If the Governor approves the proposed bill, it is sent to the General Assembly for introduction during the session. The timing of the Governor's approval or disapproval varies from session to session: it can occur prior to session but can also occur after session has begun. If the Governor disapproves a proposed bill, the Department is prohibited from seeking a member of the General Assembly to introduce the bill independently.

This year the Department submitted one proposed departmental bill to the GLO. That bill has been approved by the GLO and is being prepared for introduction in the Senate.

II. During Session

A. State Board's Role

The State Board will meet three times during the 2016 session of the Maryland General Assembly: January 26, February 23, and March 22. The Board will receive a legislative briefing at those meetings.

Occasionally, an issue concerning a bill or a bill amendment that rises to the level of State Board review occurs in between State Board meetings and the matter cannot wait until the Board meets again. This most likely occurs during the last third of the session when bills are being amended and passed by committees. In this instance, the State Superintendent will contact State Board leadership and determine whether the State Board should take a position on a bill or amendment even if the bill/amendment has not been presented to the State Board.

B. Governor's Legislative Office Role

Every Monday morning during session, the Government Relations Office sends to the GLO the Department's proposed position on bills.

The GLO's reviews proposed bill positions to ensure that the position does not conflict with the Governor's policy and budget priorities and state agencies are not presenting conflicting positions on the same bill. Thus, even if the Department proposes a position on a bill, the GLO can inform the agency that they cannot support or oppose any given bill.

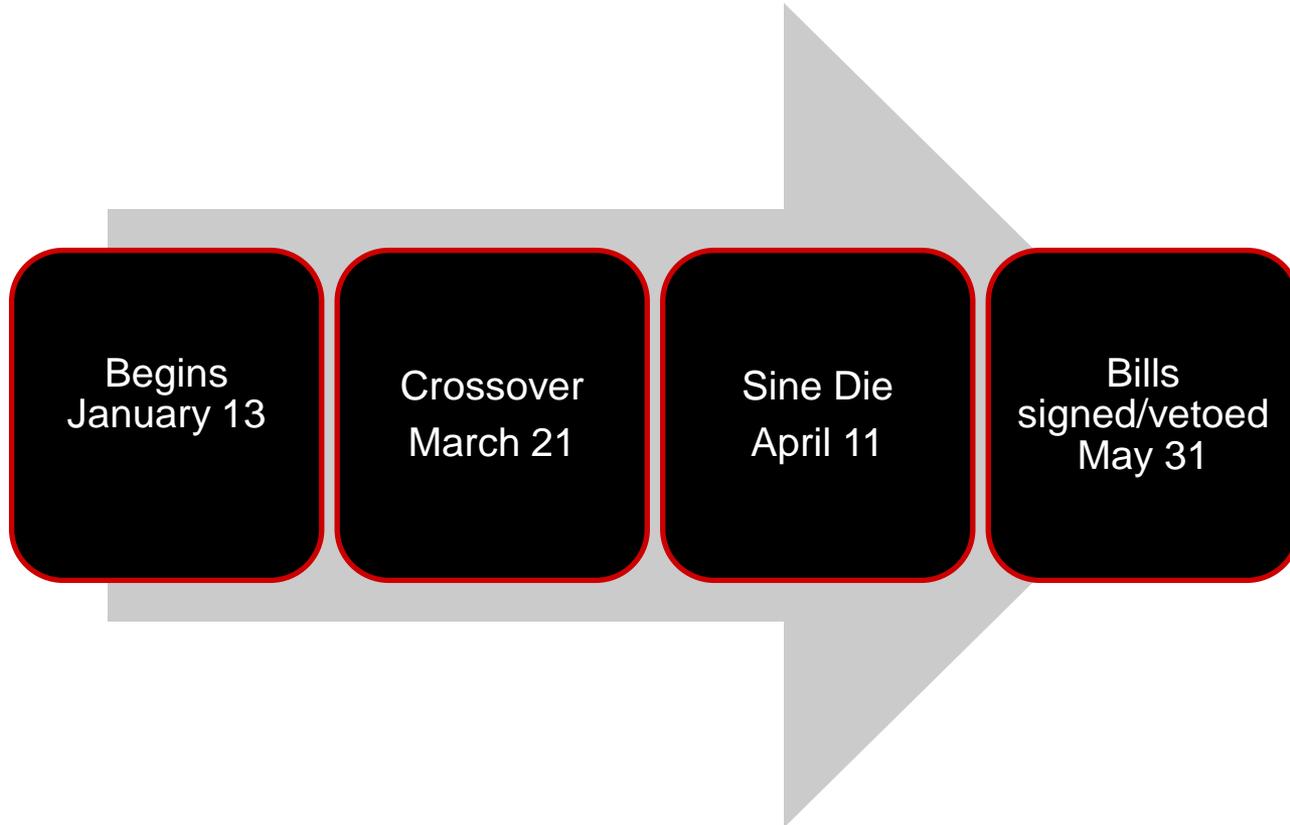
On occasion, state agencies are given broad instructions that they are not authorized to support any bill that has a fiscal impact above a certain amount or are require mandated spending. For example, state agencies may be instructed that they could not support any bills where the fiscal impact of the bill to the State was more than \$100,000.

When the Department is approved to take a position on a bill, that testimony is most often written testimony or on occasion -- written and oral testimony.

Maryland State Department of Education

Legislative Informational Briefing

2016 Legislative Session - Timeline



2016 Legislative Session - Committees



Senate

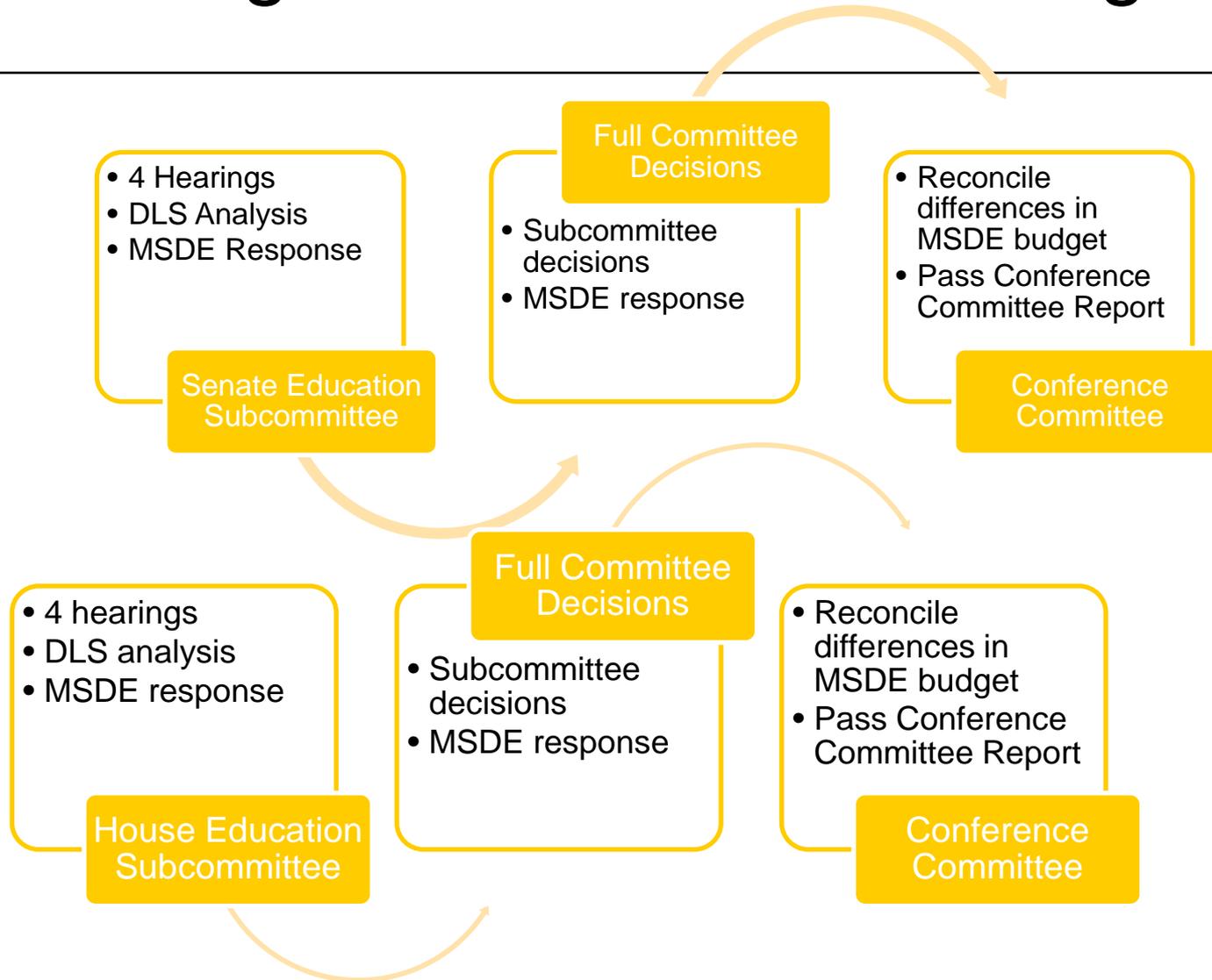
- Budget and Taxation
- Education, Health and Environmental Affairs



House

- Appropriations
- Ways and Means
- Health and Government Operations (childcare)

2016 Legislative Session - Budget



2016 Legislative Session – Digital Resources - <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/>

The screenshot displays the Maryland General Assembly website. At the top right, there are links for the **Executive Branch** and **Judicial Branch**. A search bar is located below these links with the text "--Search--" and an "Advanced" button. The main navigation menu includes: **Home**, **Schedules**, **Legislation by Session**, **Budget**, **Statutes**, **Legislators**, **Committees**, **Publications**, and **Legislative Services**. Below the navigation is a video gallery with four thumbnails: "Senate Committee Hearing Rooms", a legislative session, a legislative session, and a legislative session. A search bar for legislation is present with fields for "Find Legislation:", "By Number:" (with an input box), and "By Broad Subject:" (with a dropdown menu). The page is divided into three main content sections: "About the General Assembly", "Active Topics", and "What's Happening Now".

General Assembly of Maryland

Executive Branch | Judicial Branch

--Search-- [Advanced]

Home | Schedules | Legislation by Session | Budget | Statutes | Legislators | Committees | Publications | Legislative Services

Senate Committee Hearing Rooms

Find Legislation: By Number: By Broad Subject:

About the General Assembly

The General Assembly is Maryland's legislative body and directly represents the electorate. The state has 47 districts represented by 47 Senators and 141 Delegates.

The Legislature:

- Enacts laws necessary for the welfare of the State's citizens and certain laws dealing with counties and special taxing districts.
- Proposes amendments to the Maryland Constitution, which must be ratified by the voters during the general election.
- Reviews the Governor's Reapportionment and Redistricting plans.

Active Topics

Legislation

Prior session information is available under Legislation By Session.

Synopsis of New Legislation:

- Senate [Index]
- House [Index]

Status of All Legislation

- Senate [Index]
- House [Index]

Cross Filed [Index]

Previously Introduced [Index]

What's Happening Now

Notice

To use the 2016 Regular Session Legislation Tracking System you must re-register.

New Video tutorials to help navigate the GAM website.

Senate Session Status

Adjourned
until Thursday, January 14, 2016

2016 Legislative Session – Digital Resources – Floor Proceedings

Senate Session Status

Adjourned

until Thursday, January 14, 2016
at 10:00 A.M.

House Session Status

Adjourned

until Thursday, January 14, 2016
at 10:00 A.M.

In the General Assembly

Proceedings

Senate



House



Agendas

Senate

House

Dates of Interest

Interim

Session



2016 Legislative Session – Digital Resources – Floor Proceedings - Archived

Session Budget Statutes Legislators Committees Publications Legislative Services

Look Up - 2016 Regular Session

Proceedings - House Audio

You must have a media player installed that will play MP4 files. If you do not already have a media player installed, a free version of [Real Player](#) is available.

Date and Session Number

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 Session # 1

January 13, 2016 1:04 P.M.

Legislation 2016 Regular Session:

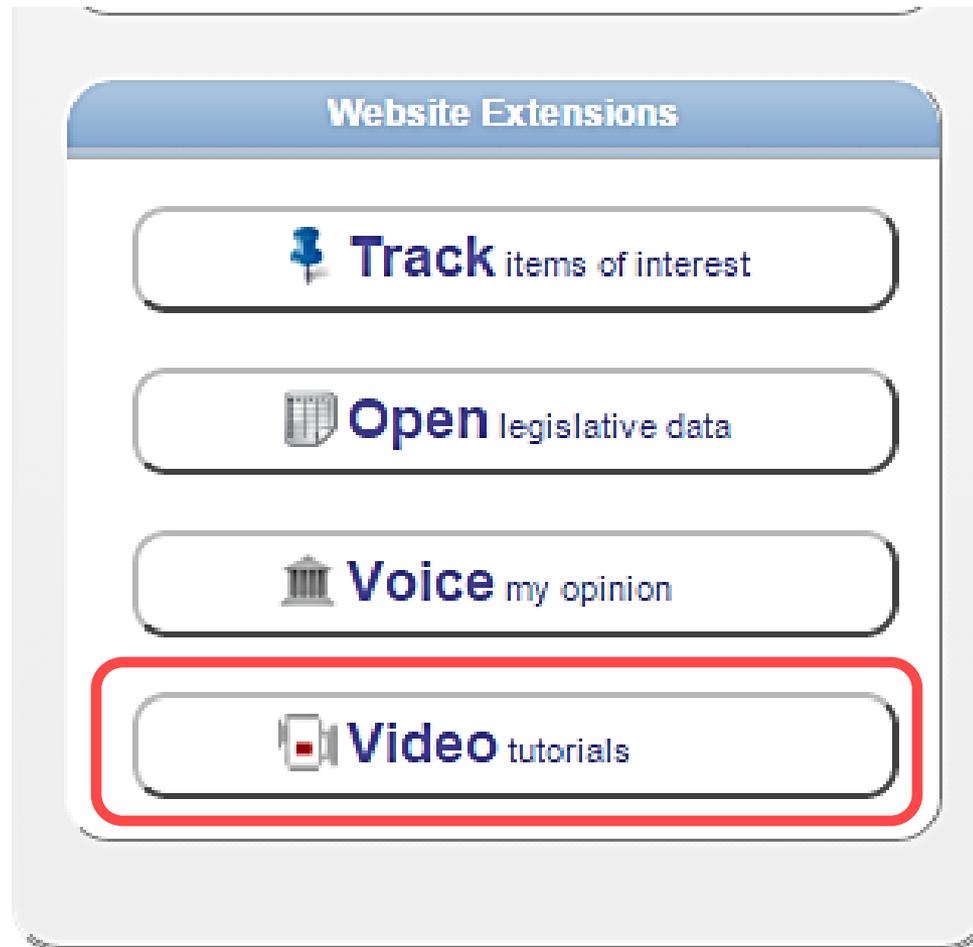
-Search- 



2016 Legislative Session – Digital Resources – Committee Hearings

Live Committee Testimony	
Senate Committees	Live
Budget and Taxation	
Capital Budget	
Education, Business and Administration	
Health and Human Services	
Pension	
Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment	
Education, Health & Environmental Affairs	
Finance	
Judicial Proceedings	
Senate Executive Nominations	
House Committees	Live
Appropriations	
Capital Budget	
Education and Economic Development	
Health and Human Resources	
Public Safety and Administration	
Transportation and the Environment	
Economic Matters	
Environment and Transportation	
Health and Government Operations	
Judiciary	
Ways and Means	
House Rules and Executive Nominations	

2016 Legislative Session – Digital Resources – Tutorials



Website Extensions

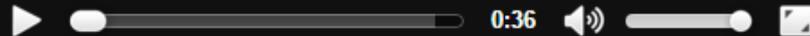
-  **Track** items of interest
-  **Open** legislative data
-  **Voice** my opinion
-  **Video** tutorials

2016 Legislative Session – Digital Resources – Tutorials

How Do I ?



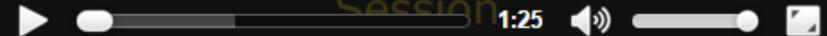
View Floor Agendas



How do I?



View or Listen to Proceedings
for the Current Legislative
Session



How do I ?



Find Legislative Content on
the General Assembly of
Maryland website



How do I?



Find Bill Testimony

