

The Montgomery County House Delegation Procedures and The Local and Bi-County Bill Process

INTRODUCTION:

The Montgomery County Delegation has not adopted any formal rules on the local and bi-county bill process. However, the delegation does regularly follow a number of guidelines, which are outlined in the following text. The final decision on all practices and/or procedures related to the local or bi-county bill process remains with the House and Senate Delegation Chairs.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR:

The election of the Montgomery County House and Senate Delegation Chair and Vice-Chairmen is the first step in the local bill process. The House typically elects these positions at an organizational meeting within 60 days of Sine Die. In a gubernatorial / General Assembly election year, this meeting is held within 30 days of the general election. The Senate Delegation typically elects their leadership in the fall preceding the bill hearings. One of the most important functions of the Chair is to oversee the local and bi-county bill process in their respective delegations.

LOCAL AND BI-COUNTY BILLS:

Local bills are bills that affect Montgomery County only, but must be enacted by the General Assembly. Typical local bills include such things as regulation of the sale of alcoholic beverages, charter revisions for municipalities, bills related to the Board of Education, bills affecting the local road/highway system, etc.

Bi-County bills affect both Prince George's County and Montgomery County, or an agency that serves both counties. Although there are exceptions, most of the bi-county legislation consists of bills regulating the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), or the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

Montgomery County and Prince George's County House Delegations alternate taking responsibility for the filing and processing of the Bi-County bills. Montgomery County takes the administrative role in Sessions of odd numbered years; Prince George's County assumes the role in the Sessions of even numbered years.

In order to expedite the voting process, the two delegations also alternate the years in which they deal with WSSC and M-NCPPC bills first. In even numbered years, Montgomery County Delegation works and votes on WSSC bills first; in odd

numbered years, Montgomery County Delegation works and votes on M-NCPPC bills first. This is explained in further detail in the discussion of the bi-county process.

BILL REQUEST AND BILL FILING DEADLINES:

LOCAL DEADLINES:

Each year, the office of the Montgomery County House Delegation Chairman sets the local bill request and filing dates after consultation with the Senate Delegation Chairman's office.

BI-COUNTY DEADLINES:

The bi-county bill request and filing deadlines are set by the delegation office responsible for the administration of the bi-county bills that year--Prince George's County House Delegation in even numbered years, and Montgomery County House Delegation in odd numbered years. The dates are established after consultation with the chairmen of both house delegations and the Montgomery County Senate Delegation. These deadline calendars are normally worked out by delegation staff members in consultation with their respective chairmen.

When set by the Montgomery County Delegation, these dates are typically:
Bill Request Deadline - a Thursday or Friday from early to mid September
Bill Filing (Sponsor Approval) Deadline - a Thursday or Friday from mid to late October. The dates for the 2002 Session are September 14 for requests and October 26 for filing.

During a gubernatorial / General Assembly election year, two sets of dates are used: an earlier set (like above) for incumbents and government agencies, and a later set for newly elected legislators. The request and filing deadlines for newly elected legislators are after the November election.

The bill request and filing deadlines are announced by early June in a memorandum to all Montgomery County Delegation legislators and via a media news release. These dates are also posted for the general public on the delegation's website at www.montgomerycountydelegation.com.

LATE-FILED BILL PROCESS:

Deadlines are strictly enforced in the Montgomery County House Delegation. Any bill requested after the request deadline cannot be guaranteed by bill drafting to be prepared in time for the bill filing deadline or public hearing. Any bill not sponsor-approved by the bill filing deadline is considered to be a late-filed bill and must go through the late-filed bill process. This process requires that a sponsor must justify to the delegation why the bill was late, and the bill must then receive a two-thirds majority vote in the House Delegation to be accepted as a late-filed bill. Following a favorable vote, the bill is scheduled for a public hearing in

Annapolis at the start of Session. If the delegation fails to accept the bill for late-file, no public hearing is scheduled, and the bill receives no further consideration during that Session. This process is necessary to deter carelessness in complying with deadlines.

NOTE: A late-filed bi-county bill that has been heard and voted favorable by the Prince George's House Delegation prior to coming to the Montgomery County Delegation will still be required to go through the late-filed bill process in the Montgomery County House Delegation.

GOVERNMENT AGENCY BILLS:

Government agencies submit their local bill proposals to the Delegation Chairman, and the Chairman requests their bills on behalf of the governmental unit. (Bills requested by the Chairman as an individual delegate or senator are requested under his or her own name.) The bill would be sponsored by Montgomery County Delegation. The request line, in parentheses below the sponsor line on the bill, would read "Chairman on behalf of Montgomery County Government", for example. Local bills are printed on 8 ½ x 11 blue paper. This larger size bill is called a sprint--the draft form of a bill.

Governmental agencies submit their bi-county bill proposals to the Montgomery County and Prince George's County Delegation chairmen, who in turn request the legislation jointly on behalf of the governmental unit. The request should be made to the delegation office responsible for the administration of bi-county legislation for that Session. The bill would be sponsored by Montgomery County and Prince George's County Delegations. The request line, in parentheses below the sponsor line, would read "Delegation Chairs on behalf of WSSC", for example.

The "requested by" notation will only be on the sprint copies of the bill--it will not appear once the sprint is filed as a House Bill.

MAKING A BILL REQUEST:

All Montgomery County legislators (Senators and Delegates) should submit all local and bi-county bill requests through the Montgomery County House Delegation Office. In the even numbered years that Prince George's County is responsible for the filing and processing of bi-county legislative requests, Montgomery County legislators' requests will be forwarded from our delegation office to bill drafting through the Prince George's County Delegation Office--where the local number will be assigned. Likewise, in odd numbered years, the bi-county bill requests of Prince George's County legislators should be made via the Montgomery County House Delegation Office. **All local and bi-county bills must start as House Bills submitted in the manner described above and complete the process in the prescribed course.**

Any local or bi-county bills filed outside the guidelines set forth above will be delayed in the process, and may not receive a public hearing or a vote from the delegation(s) involved. Letters are written to Standing Committee Chairmen asking them to refrain from voting on any local or bi-county bills until the local delegations have had an opportunity to consider and vote on these bills. The Standing Committees generally comply with these requests.

When making a local or bi-county bill requests to the Delegation Office, the following information is necessary:

- the name of the requesting legislator
- a brief description of the general intent of the bill
- the name of the person(s) the bill drafter should contact for further information

This information is held STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. No information about any bill is disclosed from either the Delegation Office or Bill Drafting until after the requesting legislator has signed a sponsor approval form, agreeing to a final version of the bill. In the case of bi-county bills, the information is made available to both delegation offices, with the same confidentiality requirements for both.

THE LOCAL AND BI-COUNTY BILL PROCESS

SENDING THE REQUEST TO BILL DRAFTING:

1. Upon receiving a bill request, the Delegation Administrator, who is responsible for administering the bill process, will assign either a local MC number, or a bi-county MC/PG number. (MC is listed first in odd numbered years, indicating that Montgomery County is responsible for the bi-county bill process in that year. In even numbered years the bi-county bills have PG/MC numbers.) A sample of how bills are numbered follows:

For the 2000 Session:

MC 1-00, 2-00, 3-00, etc.

PG/MC 101-00, 102-00, 103-00,
etc.

For the 2001 Session:

MC 101-01, 102-01, etc.
etc.

MC/PG 101-01, 102-01, 103-01,

For the 2002 Session:

MC 201-02, 202-02, etc.

PG/MC 101-02, 102-02, 103-02,
etc.

For the 2003 Session:

MC 301-03, 302-03, etc.

MC/PG 101-03, 102-03, 103-03,
etc.

Once the number is assigned, the bill is forwarded to Bill Drafting.

***NOTE:** If a request is made directly to Bill Drafting, and the bill is recognized as a local bill, Bill Drafting will contact the delegation office responsible for administering the local bills to obtain a number, give the sponsor's name, and the subject matter of the bill. The danger in doing this is that the bill may not be recognized as local, may miss being assigned a local hearing date, and may end up as a late-filed bill. **All local and bi-county bills should be requested through the responsible delegation office. All bills are treated as CONFIDENTIAL by both the delegation offices and Bill Drafting until the sponsor has signed the approval form.**

IN BILL DRAFTING:

2. In Bill Drafting, the bill request is assigned an LR #, which they use to identify that particular piece of legislation. When calling Bill Drafting about a bill, the LR# is used to identify the bill. At that time, the bill is also assigned

a drafter. Bill Drafting then contacts the Delegation Office with the LR# and the name of the drafter, confirming receipt of the request. The Delegation Office will then inform the requesting legislator of the LR# and the name of the bill drafter.

3. The bill drafter then works directly with the legislator and/or the contact people listed on the request to draft the bill to the legislator's specific requirements.

SPRINT:

4. Once a draft is complete, Bill Drafting will send a sprint (draft copy) of the bill to the Delegation Administrator, who will then forward a copy of the sprint and a sponsor approval form to the requesting legislator.

SPONSOR APPROVAL:

5. The legislator should read the sprint carefully to assure that it conforms to his or her exact specifications.

If there are **NO CHANGES** to be made, the legislator should check the appropriate box on the sponsor approval form, sign it and return the form to the Delegation Administrator.

If there are **CHANGES**, they should be noted on the sponsor approval form and/or the sprint should be marked up accordingly and returned to the Delegation Administrator for the changes to be made in bill drafting. A new sprint and sponsor approval form will be sent to the legislator once the requested changes have been made. This process will continue until the legislator is completely satisfied with the final version of his or her bill and has signed the sponsor approval form.

"STORED BY" DATE:

6. The sponsor approval form has a "stored by" date listed, as does the draft of the bill. The date on the sponsor approval form being signed should match the date on the correct draft of the bill. This is particularly vital when a bill draft has been sent back to bill drafting multiple times for changes.

FILING A BILL:

7. Once a legislator has signed the sponsor approval form (which must be done by the filing deadline), the Delegation Administrator will assign a local number and request the bill from Bill Drafting to begin the local process. This is actually a preliminary filing, to get the legislation into sprint form for

the delegation(s) to consider. Local bills will be printed on 8½ by 11 inch blue paper. Bi-county bills will be on the same size green paper. PLEASE NOTE: Once the local or bi-county bills have been printed on the colored paper, all changes must be made by amendment.

At this point, the bills are referred to by their local numbers. They will not be filed as actual House Bills until after they have been approved by the Delegations involved. There is an exception to this rule, however, which will be discussed later in this document. (see p. 10, #23)

FISCAL ESTIMATE (not to be confused with a Fiscal Note):

8. At the same time the bill is requested from Bill Drafting, a request for a fiscal estimate for the bill is requested from Fiscal Services. This fiscal estimate is a statement of the fiscal impact of a bill on State revenues and expenditures if the bill becomes law, and is designed to help legislators assess the cost of the bill during the bill hearings. The fiscal estimate may be revised if an adopted amendment changes the bill's impact. Fiscal estimates for the local bills are printed on white 8½ by 11 paper--the same size as the local and bi-county bills.

Providing fiscal estimates is a courtesy provided to the Montgomery and Prince George's County Delegations during the interim only, and may not be available for late-filed bills. Once a bill is filed as a House Bill, it will automatically receive a **FISCAL NOTE**.

ROCKVILLE MEETINGS:

9. The House Delegation holds a series of meetings in Rockville beginning in October or November. The meetings are held on Monday and/or Thursday evenings beginning at 7:30 in the 3rd Floor Hearing Room of the Stella Werner Council Office Building (100 Maryland Avenue in Rockville) unless special circumstances warrant a change. These meetings include not only public hearings and voting sessions, but also two joint House / Senate meetings--the Transportation Road Show and the Legislative Priorities Hearing. (see #'s 9 & 10 that follow)

TRANSPORTATION ROAD SHOW:

10. The first of the joint meetings, is the Maryland Department of Transportation "Road Show", which the department schedules to explain proposed road projects in the Consolidated Transportation Program. The public is welcome to attend this meeting, but there is no opportunity for public comment. Citizens will have an opportunity to respond to transportation concerns at the Legislative and Priorities Hearing.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES HEARING:

11. The second of the joint meetings is the Legislative Priorities Hearing, which allows an opportunity for the public to voice their opinions on what the delegation's priorities should be in Annapolis during the upcoming Session. This is also the public's opportunity to respond to any issues brought up at the Transportation Road Show. Persons or organizations wishing to speak during this hearing must sign-up to testify by calling the delegation office or registering online at the delegation website. Individual speakers are limited to 2 minutes and those representing organizations are limited to 3 minutes. Only one speaker per organization is permitted, and there is no ceding of time. Speaking order is at the discretion of the Chairman. Generally public and elected officials speak first (time limits not applying), and they are followed by the other individuals and organizations who have signed up to testify in the order in which they registered. If time allows, the Chairman may permit some "walk-in" testimony. Written testimony is not required, but if a speaker chooses to use it, he or she should bring 40 copies, with the bill number clearly indicated in the upper right hand corner.

WHERE DO BILLS BEGIN THE PROCESS?

12. Local, Montgomery County only, bills start the process in the House Delegation if the lead sponsor is a delegate and in the Senate Delegation if the lead sponsor is a senator.
13. The determination of where bi-county bills begin the legislative process is a bit more complicated.
 - a) If the bill is requested by WSSC, it begins the process in Montgomery County House Delegation in even numbered years and Prince George's County Delegation in odd numbered years.
 - b) If the bill is requested by M-NCPPC, it begins the process in Prince George's County Delegation in even numbered years, and in Montgomery County Delegation in odd numbered years.
 - c) Bi-county bills, including WSSC or M-NCPPC bills not requested by those agencies, are considered first by the county of the lead sponsor.
 - d) When bi-county bills are in the Montgomery County Delegation, they begin in the House Delegation regardless of the sponsor. This is because the bill is filed as a House Bill once both Prince George's and Montgomery House Delegations have passed the legislation in the same form. Sending the bill through the Montgomery Senate first could slow the filing process considerably.

- e) These guidelines are subject to change by the mutual agreement of the Chairmen involved.

The procedures outlined below describe the Montgomery County House Delegation process. Bills being considered by the Senate Delegation have a similar, but slightly different process. The Montgomery County Senate Delegation holds its own public hearings, usually in Annapolis during Session, and does not have the local committee system.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

14. Once a bill has been sponsor approved, printed on blue (local bills) or green (bi-county bills) paper, and given a fiscal estimate, it is scheduled for a public hearing. Most of these hearings take place in Rockville in the fall, but there may be exceptions made for late-filed bills. (See page 2, LATE-FILED BILLS) For the hearings in Rockville, one night is usually set aside for hearing local bills and another night is set aside for hearing bi-county bills. Additional nights may be needed if the number of bills warrants it. The dates for these public hearings are announced in a memorandum to the legislators and via a news release (often the same one as the bill request and bill filing deadlines are announced) to the media. These dates are also posted at our Delegation website at www.montgomerycountydelegation.com.

LOCAL COMMITTEES:

15. After a bill has been heard at a public hearing, it is assigned by subject to a local committee for review and recommendation. There are currently three local committees, described below. Additional committees may be formed at the discretion of the Chairman. The Chairman assigns the committee members and names the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each committee.

Bi-county Committee: This committee works on WSSC and M-NCPPC bills, as well as any other legislation affecting both Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties, with the exception of WMATA bills and those dealing with transportation issues.

County Affairs Committee: This committee works on all other local legislation, with the exception of Transportation related bills.

Transportation Committee: This committee works on all WMATA bills and any other legislation related to transportation issues.

The committees hold work and voting sessions and advise the full House Delegation on the bills before their committee. The basic “nuts and bolts” work on local legislation is done in these committees. Committees may substantially amend a bill or otherwise make recommendations to the full delegation.

16. The local committees are comprised of a representative member from each Montgomery County district, so far as possible. The meeting times, dates and agendas are determined by the committee chairman in consultation with the delegation administrator. The procedures and rules under which each committee operates are determined by that committee's chairman. If a vote is taken with less than a quorum present, and the vote is challenged by any member of the delegation, the bill(s) voted on are returned to the committee for a quorum vote.

COMMITTEE VOTES:

17. The votes taken in the local committees determine what recommendation will be given to the full delegation regarding that piece of legislation. An unfavorable vote indicates that the majority of the committee does not support the bill, but it does not "kill" the bill. Each committee member, regardless of district, has a full vote in the local committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

18. After the committee votes on a bill, the legislative counsel prepares a report for the full delegation. This report summarizes the bill, provides background information including legislative history, outlines the position of witnesses who have testified at the public hearing, describes any amendments adopted, and gives a favorable or unfavorable recommendation. The committee vote count on the bill is also included.

SESSION DELEGATION MEETINGS:

19. House Delegation meetings are normally held on Friday mornings one hour prior to the start of Session (usually 10 A.M.). The Chairman may alter the time or cancel the meeting according to the agenda. The most up-to-date information on meeting times, dates and agendas, as well as bill status, is posted to the delegation website.

PURPLE FOLDERS:

20. On Thursday afternoons preceding a Friday delegation meeting, a folder containing materials pertinent to bills on the agenda (and not already distributed) is delivered to the office of each delegate. The folder should be emptied and returned to the .delegation office for reuse the following week.

DELEGATION VOTING SESSION:

Note: For all Committee and Delegation meeting votes – if a member is not present at the time of a vote he/she cannot vote later. If a member votes and would like to change his or her vote, he/she may do so as long as it does not change the outcome of the vote (and can only do so prior to leaving the meeting – cannot change their vote after leaving the meeting).

21. After bills receive a committee recommendation, the committee chair presents the bill and any committee amendments to the full House Delegation at a voting session. Delegates may offer additional amendments at this time. Normally, amendments are voted on separately from the bill, with a final vote on the bill as amended. A bill needs a constitutional majority (more than half of the total votes) to pass or fail in the Montgomery County House Delegation.

QUORUM:

22. All delegation voting sessions must have a quorum (majority) present. In the 1999 - 2002 Sessions, this means at least 12½ votes must be present. (In the Montgomery County House Delegation, those whose districts do not lie wholly within Montgomery County are granted ½ vote.)

LIMBO AND SPECIAL ORDER:

23. A bill receiving a favorable or unfavorable vote, but with less than a constitutional majority is considered to be in limbo, and is special ordered (postponed) until the next delegation voting session. If the bill fails to receive the constitutional majority of votes a second time, the bill will not be reconsidered, except at the request of a delegate and after receiving a 2/3 majority vote to reconsider the bill.
24. A bill may also be special ordered prior to voting. A delegate or senator may request to special order a bill to obtain further information, such as an Attorney General's Opinion, or because the sponsor of the bill realizes that not enough legislators are present to vote for the bill. In this case, the delegation votes on the special order request.
25. A bill receiving a majority of unfavorable votes is "dead", and will not be reconsidered during the rest of that legislative session.

CROSSOVER BETWEEN HOUSE AND SENATE:

26. If a local bill receives a favorable report from the chamber in which it starts, it is then sent to the opposite chamber for action. Any amendments added in the first chamber accompany the bill when it is sent to the second chamber. BOTH CHAMBERS MUST APPROVE THE BILL IN THE SAME FORM. The bill is sent back and forth between the Montgomery County chambers until any differences are resolved. When the bill is ready to be filed in the General Assembly, it is always filed as a House Bill.

CROSSOVER BETWEEN MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S:

27. If a bi-county bill starts in the Montgomery County House and receives a favorable report, it is then sent to the Prince George's County House, along with any added amendments. BOTH DELEGATIONS MUST APPROVE THE BILL IN THE SAME FORM. The bill is sent back and forth between the delegations until all differences are resolved. When the bill is ready to be filed in the General Assembly, it is filed as a House Bill by the delegation responsible for administration of bi-county bills that Session. Once both House delegations have approved a bi-county bill, it is then referred to the Montgomery County Senate for action. This is often after it has been filed as a House Bill. The Prince George's County Senate does not act on bi-county legislation until the filed House Bill crosses over to the Senate. An unfavorable vote in any of the House or Senate delegations from either Montgomery or Prince George's County automatically kills the bill.

BACKS AND TITLES:

28. Once a bill has been approved in the same form by both the House and Senate delegations, or in the case of bi-county legislation, both Montgomery and Prince George's House Delegations, Backs and Titles are requested from Bill Drafting. The sponsor line reads "Montgomery County Delegation" or "Montgomery County and Prince George's County Delegations". (In the case of bi-county bills, the delegation administering the bills is listed first.)
29. **Backs and Titles are also requested at least 5 days prior to the bill filing deadline for any bills which are still before the delegation.** These backs and titles are requested without any amendments included. Should the bills eventually be approved with amendments by the delegations involved, the amendments are added to the House Bill in the standing committee.

FILING A BILL - "DROPPING A BILL IN THE HOPPER":

30. For local bills, once it has been determined that the backs and titles are correct, the House Chairman signs the front of the blue back and then "drops the bill in the hopper" (files as a House Bill) in the Office of the Chief Clerk. The Chief Clerk then assigns a House Bill number to the bill and the sponsor line reads "Montgomery County Delegation". All local bills originate in the House of Delegates. Four copies of the bill, plus the one in the "blue back" are sent to the Chief Clerk for filing.
31. For bi-county bills, once it has been determined that the Backs and Titles are correct, **the Chairman of the Montgomery County House Delegation AND the Chairman of the Prince George's County House Delegation must sign the front of the blue back.** The Chairman of the delegation in charge of administering the bills for that year will then "drop the bills in the hopper". The Chief Clerk will assign a House Bill number to the bill and the

sponsor line reads "Montgomery and Prince George's County Delegations"(the delegation responsible for administration of bi-county legislation that Session is listed first). Four copies of the bill, plus the one in the "blue back" are sent to the Chief Clerk for filing.

LETTERS TO STANDING COMMITTEES:

32. After a local or bi-county bill has been filed, it is assigned to a Standing Committee by the Speaker's Office.
33. For local bills, a letter, signed by the House Delegation Chairman is written to the Chairman of the Standing Committee advising him/her of the final action taken on that bill by both the House and Senate Delegations. In the case of bills still pending before the delegation, a letter is written asking that the bills be held until final action is taken by the delegation. The Standing Committee is subsequently notified of the final action on the bills.
34. For bi-county bills, a letter signed by the House Delegation Chairmen from both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties is sent to the Standing Committee Chairman advising him/her of the final action taken on that bill by both the Montgomery and Prince George's County House Delegations. In the case of bills still pending before the delegations, a letter is written asking that the bills be held until final action is taken by both delegations. The Standing Committees are subsequently notified of the final action on the bills. The letters to Standing Committees regarding bi-county legislation are the responsibility of the delegation in charge of bi-county legislation for that Session.

STANDING COMMITTEE:

35. PUBLIC HEARING:

Once in a Standing Committee, local and bi-county bills, now with HB numbers, are given another public hearing. In the case of local legislation, the Chairman of the County Affairs or Transportation Subcommittee presents the bill in the Standing Committee. In the case of bi-county legislation, the Chairman of the Bi-County Committee from the delegation responsible for administering the bi-county bills presents the bill in Standing Committee. Public Hearings in the committee may take place before the delegations involved have taken a final vote and established a position on the bill.

36. VOTING:

The Standing Committee vote is usually not taken until the delegations involved have given written notice of their position. The Standing Committee is not required to wait for local input, and may take action without it. House Standing Committees routinely give local courtesy to these bills, but are not required to do so. A local bill may be defeated in a

standing committee if the committee believes it establishes an inappropriate precedent.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES:

37. Once a bill is passed (with or without amendments) by the House Standing Committee, it is forwarded to the House of Delegates for passage. Once again, local courtesy usually applies and the bill is generally passed. Following passage by the House of Delegates, the bill moves to the Senate. This movement from the House to the Senate must take place prior to the **Crossover Date**. Any bill that remains in the House after that date will be placed in the Senate Rules Committee when it does cross over to the Senate. The **Rules Committee** determines if the bill proceeds through the Senate or not.

SENATE ACTION ON BI-COUNTY BILLS:

38. Under most circumstances, the Montgomery County senators will vote on bi-county bills before the Prince George's County senators. If a bi-county bill affects only Prince George's County, however, the Prince George's County senators vote first. Any Senate amendments on bi-county bills following their introduction as House Bills will be done in standing committee in the Senate.
39. The Senate Delegations' versions of the bill must agree with each other, but not necessarily with the House version of the bill. If the Senate approves a version of the bill that differs from the House version, the Senate will request the House adopt its version. The Montgomery and Prince George's County House Delegations decide separately whether to approve the Senate changes. If both approve, the House of Delegates will pass the Senate version of the bill.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:

40. If the two House delegations do not approve the Senate version, a **conference committee** is appointed. The conference committee would consist of three members of the House from either Montgomery or Prince George's County Delegation, and three members of the Senate from either of the two counties.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

41. After a bill passes both chambers, it is sent to the Attorney General's Office for review, and a final check for constitutional and other legal deficiencies. The Attorney General's Office routinely approves local and bi-county bills because they raise few constitutional issues and are scrutinized by several staff attorneys as they wind their way through the legislative process.

GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE:

42. The Governor routinely signs into law those bills involving local delegation matters. There have been exceptions, however. (Following the 1994 Session, then Gov. Schaefer vetoed HB1088, M-NCPPC - Montgomery County - Zoning Regulations), otherwise known as the "supermajority" bill. An amended version of the bill passed the General Assembly in 1996 and was signed into law by Gov. Glendening.)