



Legislative Process Overview 2022 Session

DECEMBER 2021



Legislative Process: Background and Fun Facts

- ▶ Legislative Session begins January 12, 2021
- ▶ The Legislative Session lasts for 90 days ending on April 11, 2022
- ▶ There is a total of 148 members of the legislature
 - 47 members of the Senate
 - 141 members of the House of Delegates
- ▶ From 2016 through 2020, the number of bills introduced per session has averaged 1,153 in the Senate and 1,642 in the House of Delegates



Key Committees

Senate

- Finance (FIN) – Chair, Senator Delores Kelley
- Budget and Taxation (B&T) - Chair, Senator Guy Guzzone

House of Delegates

- Health and Government Operations (HGO) – Chair, Delegate Shane Pendergrass
- Appropriations (APP) – Chair, Delegate Maggie McIntosh

Delegates Pendergrass and McIntosh have announced plans to retire.



Dates of Interest

▶ **January 12 - General Assembly convenes**

- **Late January**
- Budget bill introduced by Governor
- Bill request guarantee date- last day legislators can request bill drafting
- Final day for introduction of Administration bills (i.e., bills from the executive branch) without Senate Rules Committee Referral
- Governor's State of the State Address (noon)

▶ February 7 - Final day for introduction of bills without Rules Committee Referral

▶ March 7 - Final date for introduction of bills without suspension of Rules

▶ March 21 - Opposite Chamber Cross-over Date

▶ April 4 - Budget bill to be passed by both chambers

▶ April 11 - Sine Die



MHCC Dates of Interest

- ▶ **January:** Briefings for legislative Committees on selected topics are usually scheduled in January. This year briefings started early in the fall.
- ▶ **January-February:** Committee hearings on Departmental legislation are usually held in the bill's house of origin in late January or in February.
- ▶ **February:** MHCC budget hearings before the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Budget and Taxation Subcommittee are usually held in February.



Role of Maryland Health Care Commission

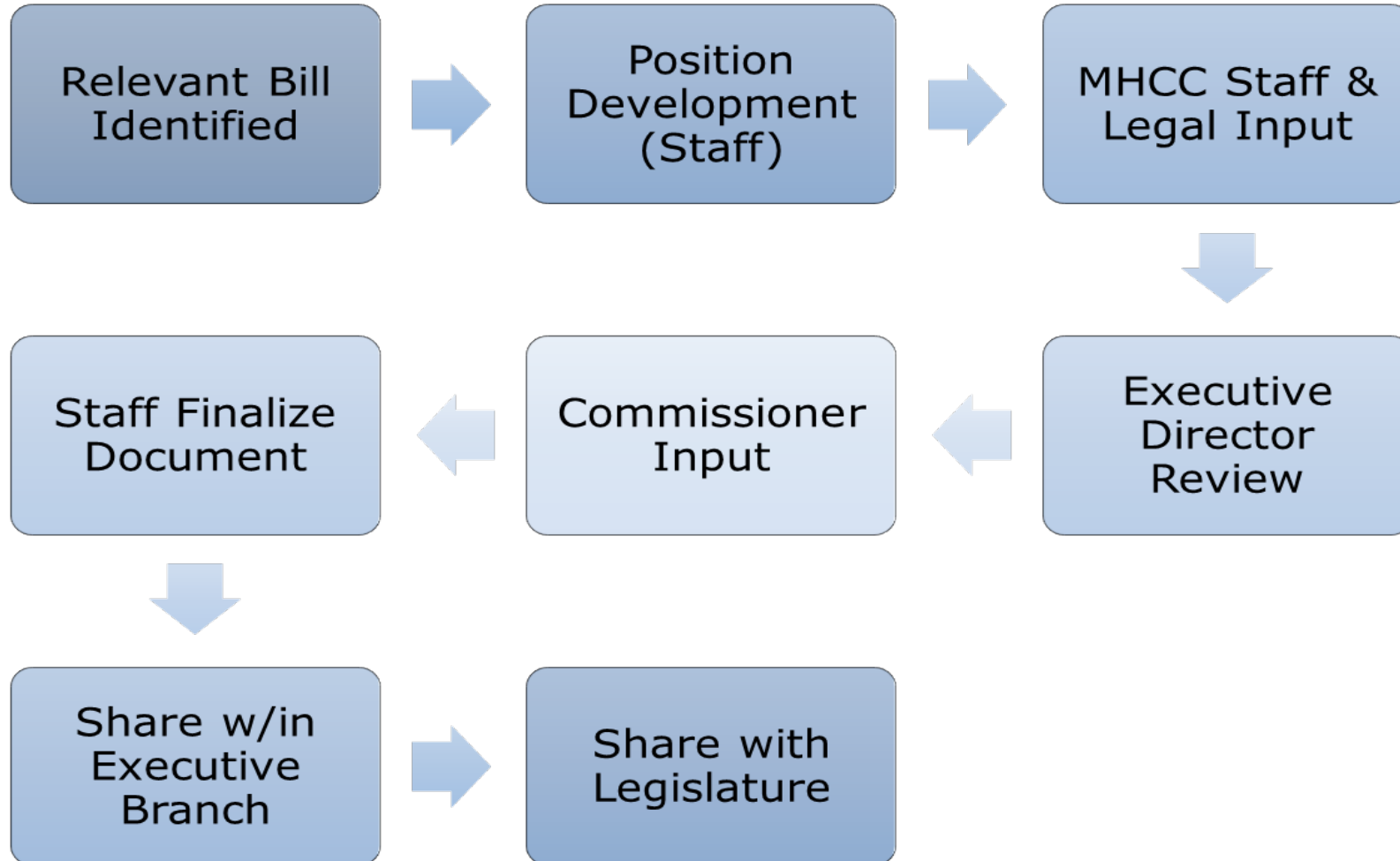
- ▶ Educate legislators on MHCC roles and responsibilities & build relationships for the future
- ▶ Suggest legislation (e.g. statutory changes related to HIE)
- ▶ Explain MHCC budget requests
- ▶ Review relevant bills and share MHCC position
- ▶ Provide information in MHCC areas of expertise in response to requests from legislators.



Role of Commissioners

- ▶ Provide input on MHCC's legislative proposals (Spring/Summer)
- ▶ MHCC Policy Phone Call w/ Commissioners (January - March)
 - Calendar holds begin in late January on Thursdays at 8 a.m., calls held as needed
 - Calls focus on bills related to MHCC mission, stated priorities or statutory responsibility.
 - Staff recommends positions and Commissioners discuss possible MHCC positions.
- ▶ Provide support to MHCC staff on legislative relations, if needed

Position Development





2022 General Assembly Priorities

- ▶ Budget – Maryland ended FY 2022 with a \$2.5 billion budget surplus, the Governor and General Assembly differ on how to use the funds
- ▶ Education Funding
- ▶ Governor’s Emergency Crime Bills
- ▶ Abortion Rights
- ▶ Tax Relief
- ▶ Coronavirus Response



How will this session be different?

House Of Delegates – COVID 19 Protocols:

- ▶ House of Delegates building will be open to the public
- ▶ All committee and subcommittee briefings and hearings will be virtual
- ▶ Livestreaming of floor sessions; Gallery above Speaker will be open to the public (masks required)
- ▶ Floor sessions are limited to 2 hours (?)
- ▶ Members are strongly encouraged to limit the number of bills introduced
- ▶ Bill hearings will begin on January 13, 2022, on pre-filed bills
- ▶ Witness sign-up will be opened online through the Maryland General Assembly website 48 hours before the bill hearing beginning at 10am until 3pm

All plans are subject to change based on public health trends.

Senate has not announced protocols for session.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

