

For the next session of the Maryland General Assembly we plan to recruit new members of the Legislative Committee to try to make the committee as representative as possible of the diverse organizations that make up the United Seniors of Maryland. The committee will hold organizational and strategy meetings in November and December and will encourage member organizations to submit their priorities for the session. During the session the committee will meet at least weekly, either face-to-face or by teleconference, to review bills and decide on the legislative agenda. In order to be added to the legislative agenda legislation must be consistent with the Aims and Principles of USM or have been approved for action in a previous session. The committee may add legislation that does not meet these criteria by first polling member organizations electronically.

As soon as the committee elects to actively support or oppose legislation, it will post a summary on the USM Web site under Legislation. The posting will include the bill number(s), sponsor(s), title, and a summary. It will also include a link to the bill's web page, so that members can follow the bill's progress, see the full text, follow committee and floor votes, etc. We will also send a weekly e-mail to all members with progress reports on legislation.

Quotes from the by-laws for carrying out the program are:

“The Vice President Legislation shall chair the Legislative Committee, which shall coordinate all USM legislative activities at the state and federal levels. He/she shall be responsible for recruiting and directing the members of the Legislative Committee.”

“The Vice President Legislation shall chair the Legislative Committee, which shall coordinate all USM legislative activities at the state and federal levels. He/she shall be responsible for recruiting and directing the members of the Legislative Committee.”

“The Vice President Legislation shall chair the Legislative Committee, which shall coordinate all USM legislative activities at the state and federal levels. He/she shall be responsible for recruiting and directing the members of the Legislative Committee.”

**“Section 5. Voting**

- a. Only representatives of organizational members in good standing shall have voting privileges.
- b. A quorum must be present on matters that require a vote. For USM purposes, a quorum is defined as attendance of representatives from at least one-third of the members with voting privileges at the time of the meeting.
- c. Upon request of an organizational member's representative voting shall be conducted by roll call and recorded by the Secretary
- d. No legislative or public policy position shall be taken without first obtaining a general, but not necessarily unanimous, agreement from voting members. Any organization that does not agree with a USM position so arrived at may pursue its own policy.”