



VIRGINIA YMCA

MGA ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

Bill Patron:

Bill patrons are delegates and senators who introduce specific pieces of legislation. Additionally, bill patrons usually do not serve as committee chairpersons.

Delegate:

Delegates are members of the House of Delegates. They represent their delegations by presenting bills and speaking in House committees and on the floor of the House of Delegates. Delegates are not allowed to enter the floor of the Senate.

Executive Branch Representative:

The Executive Branch Representative role focuses on an issue of current interest in state government. Each will have the opportunity to simulate policy planning, conduct public hearings, participate in group work sessions, and hear from state agency personnel and members of the executive branch. Towards the end of the conference, they will be asked to take on the role of a policymaker and submit recommendations to the entire Model General Assembly.

Lobbyist:

Lobbyists are responsible for influencing the opinions of legislators at MGA. Each is assigned to a committee and should develop statements about each of the bills in his/her committee. There is a specified time during each committee bill debate for lobbyists to speak. He/she may also go to committees other than the one assigned to speak on other bills. Lobbyists are not allowed on the floor of chambers, but may continue to attempt to influence legislators through written messages and outside conferences.

Page:

Pages are the messengers of MGA. Each is assigned to both a committee and a chamber and carries messages between legislators, lobbyists, and officers about legislative matters.

Reporter:

Reporters work together with an adult advisor to cover the events of MGA. They publish a comprehensive wrap-up of the weekend, known as the *MGA Times*.

Senator:

Senators are members of the Senate. They represent their delegations by presenting bills and speaking in Senate committees and on the floor of the Senate. Senators are not allowed to enter the floor of the House of Delegates.

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Clerk (House/Senate):

Chamber clerks are appointed by the YMCA. The Clerk serves as the "secretary" of his/her chamber, reading the calendar, keeping track of bills and amendments, and reading amendments as they are submitted. They work under the direction of the House Speaker or Lieutenant Governor.

Committee Chairperson:

Committee chairs are nominated by advisors and appointed by the YMCA. Committee chairs run the committee and see that all bills get a fair hearing. They maintain order in committee. Committee chairs usually do not act as bill patrons nor do they usually engage in debate.

Committee Clerk:

Certain pages, as selected by the Virginia YMCA, double as committee clerks. They assist the chairman during the committee meeting, taking roll, keeping track of bills and amendments, and reading amendments as they are submitted.

Deputy Clerk:

Deputy clerks are appointed by the Virginia YMCA. Each serves as an assistant to the chamber clerk, helping particularly to keep bills organized and amendments straight.

Doorkeeper:

Doorkeepers are chosen from among the pages. Each is responsible for allowing people in and out of his/her chamber and assisting the Sergeant-At-Arms in maintaining order.

Floor Leader (House/Senate):

Floor leaders are appointed by the Virginia YMCA. Each works in tandem with the presiding officer of his/her chamber to monitor the flow of debate. He/she is responsible for making most of the motions on the floor of the chamber and should be an experienced MGA participant.

Sergeant-At-Arms:

Sergeants-At-Arms are appointed by the Virginia YMCA. Each is assigned to a chamber and is responsible for monitoring the flow of people and messages in and out of his/her chamber. He is in charge of the pages in his chamber. He also officially declares each chamber session open. The Commonwealth House Sergeant-At-Arms has additional responsibilities during joint sessions.

ELECTED OFFICERS

Attorney General:

The AG is elected at the previous year's MGA, and serves as chief counsel to the Youth Governor. He/she is responsible for investigating the legality of bills and advising the Governor. During MGA, he/she works in the Governor's office. The A.G. usually chooses one person to serve on his/her staff. This person may track bills, talk to resource people, and lobbies senators and delegates. During MGA, he/she works with the AG in the Governor's office.

House Speaker:

The House Speaker is elected at the previous year's MGA, and serves as the presiding officer of the Commonwealth House of Delegates. He/she controls debate in the House and maintains order & decorum. The House Speaker also presides over all joint assemblies of MGA legislators.

House Speaker pro tempore:

The House Speaker pro tempore is elected at the previous year's MGA, and serves as the presiding officer of the Old Dominion House of Delegates. He/she controls debate in the House and maintains order & decorum.

Lieutenant Governor:

The Lieutenant Governor is elected at the previous year's MGA, and serves as the presiding officer of the Commonwealth Senate. He/she controls debate in the Senate and maintains order & decorum.

Senate President pro tempore:

The Senate President pro tempore is elected at the previous year's MGA, and serves as the presiding officer of the Old Dominion Senate. He/she controls debate in the Senate and maintains order & decorum.

Youth Governor:

The Youth Governor is elected at the previous year's MGA. This is the highest elected office at MGA, and he/she serves as both Head of State and Chief Executive. The Youth Governor makes an official address at the opening ceremonies of MGA and closing statements at the final session. He/she is responsible for setting up meetings with bill patrons and other legislators during MGA sessions to gain knowledge about proposed bills. The Youth Governor makes the final decision on all legislation which has passed through both chambers. He/she must announce decisions on legislation at the closing session. At other times during the year between the election and the next MGA, the Youth Governor may be called upon to perform other duties inherent to the office. The Youth Governor usually picks several people to serve as his/her staff. They perform any number of tasks, from contacting bill patrons to scheduling meetings with lobbyists to offering their opinions and questions on bills. During MGA, they work in the Governor's office.