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RG59 State of Maryland Papers Pertaining to Baltimore City
(1812-1904)

History

The municipal government has always had close ties to the state government. Baltimore was officially established by the state in 1729, and during the early years the state controlled practically all aspects of the town's administration. Even after granting Baltimore incorporated status in 1796, the state retained control over municipal taxation, land acquisition, public improvements, and other functions. As the nineteenth century progressed, the municipality slowly gained authority over its own internal administration. Finally, in 1918, the state relinquished most of its remaining power over the city's operation by granting Baltimore a "home rule" charter.

Records Summary

The material comprising this record group relates primarily to the legal authority exercised over the municipality by the state government. Among the topics covered are legislative acts, requests for assistance, opening and closing streets, public improvements, taxation, and militia service. Record types include copies of legislation, correspondence, petitions, reports, and minutes.

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