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graph TD; A[GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Met for first time in 1619] --- B[Governor and council]; A --- C[House of Burgesses]
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**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
Met for first time in 1619

Governor and council

House of Burgesses

The current Virginia Assembly dates back to 1619 with the establishment of the General Assembly and burgesses in Jamestown. It was first elected legislative body in English North America giving some settlers the opportunity to take part in controlling their own government.

**governor**

**governor's  
council**

**burgesses**

## **The General Assembly 1619**

### **General Assembly -1619**

#### **Governor**

- Appointed by the Virginia Company officials in London.
- Wealthy person of power from England. Usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> son of a rich landowner.

#### **Council**

- Appointed by the king
- Six prominent , wealthy citizens

#### **Burgesses**

- 2 Representatives each from various settlements called "particular plantations" or "hundreds"
- Chosen by the colonists who could vote
- these Burgesses were elected
- had to be white men over age 17 that owned property