

In conjunction with the Constitutional amendment increasing the number of signers on referendum petitions, statutory provisions relating to the form and requirements of referendum petitions were revised and tightened.

Two acts passed at the 1960 session, the one creating the State Commission on Alcoholism, and the other enacting the State Boat Act, were extensively revised in 1962.

The Maryland Securities Act was passed as a result of the report of a Gubernatorial Commission appointed in 1961, revising State laws regulating securities.

A State bond issue of \$500,000 was authorized by the General Assembly to assist in financing projects under Public Law 87-27 of Congress, known as the Area Redevelopment Act.

The Maryland Savings-Share Insurance Corporation, a non-profit corporation, was established as another step in the State's scrutiny of the savings and loan business, begun in the 1961 session. The corporation was established for the purpose of guaranteeing and insuring the deposits of savings and loan associations in the State.

The laws applicable to the State Department of Correction were completely revised during the session. Also the State civil defense laws were revised and recodified. A new and comprehensive regulatory and licensing act was passed for the home improvement business in the State.

In the field of crimes, two new offenses were created by the session. One makes a misdemeanor the deliberate sniffing or inhaling of substances toxic to the brain or nervous system, commonly found in glues and nail polishes. The other act makes it a misdemeanor to manufacture or possess amphetamines in the State.

The State racing laws were amended to change the share of betting retained by race track licensees, and to allocate fixed sums to purses and to Maryland-bred races. The Maryland Bred-Racing Fund was established to encourage breeding and racing of horses in the State.

No general increase in State taxes was enacted at this session. Changes were made in selective taxes, such as the tax on passenger motor buses.

A bill to require that all persons, regardless of race or color, be served in places of public accommodation failed to pass and was the subject of a special session which followed the regular session.

A budget totaling \$555,035,241 was proposed by the Governor and passed by the General Assembly. The budget appropriated \$273,502,680 in general funds, \$185,153,761 in special funds, and \$96,378,800 in federal funds. The 1962 Session also authorized the issuance of \$22,365,000 in State bonds to finance construction of buildings for the State.

## A HISTORY OF THE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 1962

By his proclamation the Governor convened the General Assembly in special session for its 330th meeting. The special session met for one day, March 9, 1962.

A total of 42 bills was introduced, of which 12 were Senate bills and 30 were House bills. Ten Senate bills passed both Houses; eight were signed by the Governor and two were vetoed. Twenty-two House bills passed both Houses, and all were signed by the Governor.

Although the bills vetoed following adjournment of the Session were not required to be returned, under constitutional provisions, the