

Among the more important measures were those permitting a right turn on red traffic light signals, increasing the retail sales tax, requiring open meetings, requiring hospitals to offer females cancer examinations, including in the bribery prohibitions multicounty officers and employees, adding an additional judge to the Court of Special Appeals, rewriting the rape and sexual offences statutes, encouraging the use of school buses to aid the elderly, limiting property tax assessment increases, raising the ceiling on residential mortgage rates, creating an Agricultural Land Preservation Program, specifying the judicial authority for wiretapping, permitting maternity disability benefits, permitting the dispensation of generic drugs, creating a registry for abused children and a home for battered spouses and their children, permitting private citizens to file conflicts-of-interest charges against certain State employees, and revising the Annotated Code to enact a Transportation Article.

Three proposals were made to amend the Constitution of Maryland. Among these were a proposal requiring that when a proposed amendment only effects one subdivision it must receive local as well as statewide approval before becoming effective, another proposal providing a new article in which all provisions of limited duration that implement a constitutional amendment would be found, and a proposal correcting constitutional provisions that are obsolete, unconstitutional, or duplicative and also making a technical revision.

A HISTORY OF THE 1978 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly met in regular session on January 11, 1978, and adjourned on April 10, 1978.

A total of 3,484 bills was introduced of which 1,305 were Senate bills and 2,179 were House bills. Of the 1,305 Senate bills, 494 were passed by both Houses; of this latter number, 432 were signed by the Acting Governor and 62 were vetoed. Of the 2,179 House bills introduced, 683 were passed by both Houses, and of this latter number 585 were signed by the Acting Governor and 98 were vetoed.

Joint Resolutions introduced totaled 202 with 81 in the Senate and 121 in the House. Of these, 27 Senate and 36 House Joint Resolutions were passed by both Houses. Twenty-two Senate and 30 House Joint Resolutions were signed by the Acting Governor.

One bill vetoed by the Governor following the 1977 Session was passed by both Houses over his veto in this Session.

The budget bill enacted at this Session for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1979, amounted to \$4,313,089,519. The General Construction Loan bill passed was for a total of \$56,790,000.

Among the more important measures were those creating the Environmental Standing Act, requiring establishment of certain emission standards, establishing statewide Building Energy Utilization Guidelines, providing funds for the Agricultural Land Preservation Fund, regulating real property assessments, creating the Homeowners' Tax Credit Program, extending property tax assessments, authorizing the itemizing of deductions on tax returns, allowing tax deductions for household and dependent care services, imposing a sales tax on carry-out food and thus exempting fuel rate adjustment charges from taxation, providing standards for evaluation of fuel adjustment rate justification, requiring that State departments attempt to purchase a certain percentage of their goods and services from minority businesses, regulating layaway sales, prohibiting price discrimination by distributors of gasoline products, providing a system for recycling used oil, providing for regulation of electric metering and ignition devices, requiring the purchase of American steel for public use, instituting a study of eliminating mandatory retirement, prohibiting the use of telephone dialing systems for solicitation, providing for operation of medical assistance programs, granting to certain courts authority in disposition of property in divorce and annulment cases, permitting the use of amygdalin as a cancer treatment, requiring health insurance to cover the cost of midwives, creating the Maryland Office for Children and Youth, creating boards of review of foster care for children, providing protection for neglected children, prohibiting the abduction of a child from its lawful custodian by a relative, creating child pornography statutes, amending the Capital Punishment statutes, providing issuance of provisional driver's licenses, funding the planning and construction of the Maryland Concert Center in Baltimore, providing for legislative evaluation of certain State offices and entities ("Sunset" Act), and revising the Annotated Code to enact an Education Article.

Several proposals were made to amend the Constitution of Maryland. Among them were proposals authorizing the General Assembly to enact laws that mandate the Governor in the preparation of the annual budget to provide for the funding of specific programs at specified