

and action is complete. The bill is reprinted, or enrolled, to include the added amendments before it is submitted to the Governor.

If the chamber of origin votes to reject the amendments, the amending chamber may be asked to withdraw its amendments. If it refuses, either chamber may request that a conference committee be appointed to resolve the differences between the two chambers.

Conference Committee: Appointed by the Senate President and the House Speaker, a conference committee consists of three members of each house. The committee reports back to both chambers where its recommendations are adopted or rejected without amendment. If the report is adopted, the bill is voted upon for final passage in each house. If the report is rejected by either house, the bill fails.

Presentation of Bills to the Governor: All bills, except the budget bill and constitutional amendments, must be presented to the Governor within twenty days following adjournment of a session. The Governor may veto such bills within thirty days after presentation to him. If the Governor does not veto a bill, it becomes law. The budget bill, however, becomes law upon its final passage and cannot be vetoed. Constitutional amendments become law only upon their ratification by the voters at the next general election.

Vetoed Bills: The power to override a veto rests with the General Assembly. If the Governor vetoes a bill during a regular session, the General Assembly immediately considers the Governor's veto message. If the Governor vetoes a bill presented after the session, the veto message must be considered immediately at the next regular or special session of the Legislature. The General Assembly may not override a veto during the first year of a new term. A three-fifths vote of the elected membership of both chambers is necessary to override a veto.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF BILLS

Elected Officials. The most effective source of information on the status of a bill is often a constituent's State Senator or Delegate, who usually has information resources not available to the general public.

Department of Legislative Reference. The Library and Information Services Division of the Department of Legislative Reference answers any request for information about the status of a bill.

Library Baltimore area: 841-3810
 D.C. area: 858-3810
 Other areas: 1-800-492-7122, ext. 3810
 TDD for Deaf: 841/858-3814

Information Desk, State House ground floor
 Baltimore area: 841-3886
 D.C. area: 858-3886
 Other areas: 1-800-492-7122, ext. 3886
 TDD for Deaf: 841/858-3814

The Department of Legislative Reference offers a subscription service known as the *Bin Service* to persons or organizations with a broad continuing need for bill information. Subscriptions are filed in Room G-17 of the Legislative Services Building (Phone: Baltimore area 841-3883; D.C. area 858-3883; other areas 1-800-492-7122).

Bin Service Subscription Rates: *Picked up in Annapolis* —\$100 for bills (first reader, third reader, enrolled); \$25 for synopses, proceedings, hearing schedules. *Mailed Out* —\$500 for bills; \$275 for first reader copies only; \$225 for third reader copies only; \$200 for synopses; \$100 for proceedings; \$50 for hearing schedules.

Newspapers. Newspapers often publish public hearing schedules of General Assembly committees and sometimes publish articles about bills introduced.

Bibliography: *Legislator's Handbook*, Department of Fiscal Services, Annapolis, 1986, 176 pp. *Student Legislative Handbook*, Cornelia Connelly, Maryland General Assembly, Annapolis, n.d., 31 pp. *Your Voice in Annapolis*, Maryland General Assembly, Annapolis, n.d., 16 pp. *Rules of the House of Delegates of Maryland*, Maryland General Assembly, 1986, 123 pp. *Rules of the Senate of Maryland*, Maryland General Assembly, 1987, 106 pp.

1985 SESSION

The General Assembly convened on January 9, 1985, for the 389th session of the legislative branch of Maryland Government. The Legislature adjourned 90 days later on April 8.

In all, 2,601 bills were introduced (878 in the Senate and 1,723 in the House). Of the Senate bills, 325 were passed by both houses, 281 signed into law, and 44 vetoed. Of the House bills, 557 were passed by both houses, 508 signed by the Governor, and 49 vetoed.