

improvement of the judicial structure, was that it was the first in a series of judicial reforms undertaken and achieved during the Tawes Administration — reforms ranging from the reorganization of lower courts in many of the counties to a restructuring of the appellate court system.

Governor Tawes undertook the reorganization of many of the departments of State government as a means of developing new or expanded programs of governmental service. Notable among these was the State Roads Commission, reconstituted in a manner to give representation to all regions of the State and in general to streamline the activities of this important agency. *It was evident that the completion of the State's primary road network had bogged down in obsolete laws and regulations, and the Governor and his new Commission took steps to accelerate the planning and construction of new highways, particularly those in the primary system.*

As an Eastern Shoreman, Governor Tawes had an exceptionable knowledge and understanding of Maryland's famed tidewater areas, and one of the first of the reforms he initiated was in revamping the Tidewater Fisheries Department (now the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs). Maryland, once first among the states in the production of oysters, had experienced a steady decline in oyster yield over many years. New conservation practices were initiated, with the result the steady downward trend was halted and eventually the State regained its national leadership.

Other departments and agencies were reshaped and improved, including the State Planning Department. The old Tax Commission, with its dual administrative and quasi-judicial functions, was divided into two parts — the Tax Court and the Department of Assessments and Taxation. The governing bodies of the closely allied Department of Health and Department of Mental Hygiene were consolidated into a single board.

In addition to these changes in organization, the State government broadened its field of endeavor to encompass some new functions and new services, necessitating the establishment of new agencies.

For the first time in its history, the State assumed a responsibility for strengthening the economy by stimulating the growth and development of business and industry. With this as its main purpose, the Department of Economic Development was established. The already established agency for the promotion of tourism was incorporated into the department.