

The Legislature in 1960 proposed four amendments to the Constitution of Maryland which were ratified by the voters. Two of these amended the Declaration of Rights to the Constitution to keep assessments on farm property at their traditional level even though such property might be more valuable if subdivided and used otherwise. Another amendment increased the membership of the Court of Appeals from five to seven judges, five of whom comprise a quorum. The fourth amendment modified the powers of counties to contract debts. It permits counties to make grants of public funds to industrial development corporations, if they so desire.

A total budget of \$482,285,954 was proposed by the Governor and passed by the General Assembly. It appropriated \$233,146,175 in general funds, \$164,251,006 in special funds, and \$84,888,773 in federal funds. The 1960 session of the Legislature also authorized a State debt of \$20,268,000 for building construction.

### A HISTORY OF THE 1961 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly of Maryland met in approximately its 327th session on January 4, 1961. It adjourned on the evening of the 88th day, being April 1. As in the 1959 and 1960 Sessions, there were only ten minority members in both Houses of the Legislature. The elections of 1958 had returned to the House of Delegates 116 Democrats and 7 Republicans, and to the Senate, 26 Democrats and 3 Republicans.

A total of 1551 bills was introduced, of which 575 were Senate bills and 976 were House bills. Four hundred fourteen Senate bills passed both Houses, and of these, the Governor signed 408 and vetoed 6. Five hundred twelve House bills passed both Houses, and of these, the Governor signed 499 and vetoed 13.

Since the Governor made the 19 vetoes after the General Assembly had adjourned, these bills must be returned to the two Houses at the next session for a vote on sustaining or overriding the vetoes.

Ninety-eight joint resolutions were introduced, 35 in the Senate and 63 in the House. Sixteen Senate Joint Resolutions and 35 House Joint Resolutions passed both Houses.

Among the more important legislation enacted at the 1961 Session were three bills to place the activities and stock issuance of savings and loan associations under State control and regulation. The Legislature established a Department of Building, Savings and Loan Associations operative on June 1, 1961. This Act, however, must be submitted by referendum to the voters in 1962. Another bill required savings and loan associations to obtain approval of the Attorney General for stock sales and transfers in the interim.

The General Assembly of 1961 enacted legislation to implement Section 41C of Article IV of the Constitution of Maryland, which was approved by the voters at the November 1960 elections. This amendment created a Municipal Court in Baltimore City to replace the former system of lower municipal courts. After approval by the voters, the amendment required additional legislation to provide for the appointment of judges and other personnel and to establish the general organization and operation of the Municipal Court.

The Legislature of 1961 proposed only one amendment to the Constitution of Maryland which is to be submitted to the voters in 1962. Its purpose is to change the procedure for the immediate taking of property condemned for public use in Baltimore City.