

No proposals made to amend the Constitution of Maryland passed both houses of the General Assembly of Maryland.

A HISTORY OF THE 1980 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly met in regular session on January 9, 1980, and adjourned on April 7, 1980.

A total of 3,139 bills was introduced, of which 1,085 were Senate bills and 2,054 were House bills. Of the 1,085 Senate bills, 358 were passed by both Houses, 312 were signed by the Governor, and 46 were vetoed. Of the 2,054 House bills introduced, 615 were passed by both Houses, 567 were signed by the Governor, and 48 were vetoed.

Joint Resolutions introduced totaled 195 with 66 in the Senate and 129 in the House. Of these, 15 Senate and 18 House Joint Resolutions were passed by both Houses. All of these Joint Resolutions were signed by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Delegates.

Seven bills vetoed by the Governor following the 1979 Session were passed by both Houses over his veto in this Session.

The budget bill enacted at this Session for fiscal year 1981 (ending June 30, 1981) amounted to \$5,269,066,089. The General Construction Loan of 1980 was passed for a total of \$85,515,000.

Among the more important measures were those ratifying a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would give the District of Columbia congressional representation, concerning the Blue Laws in several counties, prohibiting Sunday racing at licensed racetracks in certain counties, providing free and reduced price breakfasts to certain elementary schools, increasing the amount of credit and balances on which 18 percent interest can be assessed, providing the State pay 100 percent of the cost of starting new adult rehabilitation centers, removing prohibitions against the use of games and contests by retail and franchise merchants, requiring certain boards to have consumer representatives, altering the maximum permissible interest rates and finance charges that may be charged by lenders, providing protection from domestic violence, concerning the use, sale and possession of drug paraphernalia, providing that the law making consumer records confidential applies to transactions made by an electronic terminal, including cards used with

electronic fund transfer systems within the definition of credit cards for the purposes of certain criminal offences, defining "continuing care" and regulating the institutions that provide continuing care, strengthening the Maryland Franchise Laws, creating a Hazardous Waste Facility Siting Board, establishing a model shelter home for homeless women, excluding certain interest income from State income tax, concerning pension exclusion from State income tax, providing for the renovation and improvement of Memorial Stadium, providing additional State aid for police protection, creating a new article entitled Procurement, raising the interest rate paid tenants on security deposits, updating the law governing savings and loan associations, providing for construction and improvement of public school buildings, correcting and clarifying certain sections of the Uniform Commercial Code, exempting certain feminine hygiene products from retail sales tax, raising the maximum gross weight limit of certain vehicles, creating the Motion Picture and Television Development Office and Council, increasing the claim period for redeeming winning tickets in the State lottery, concerning the adequacy of emergency response plans when considering sites for nuclear power plants, and creating by revision and recodification a new article on Financial Institutions.

Five proposals were made to amend the Constitution of Maryland, entitled as follows: Anne Arundel County—Election of County Council; The Judiciary Department—Supreme Bench Consolidation; The Judiciary Department—Removal of Causes; City of Baltimore—Residential Rehabilitation and Commercial Financing Loans; and Wicomico County—Condemnation of Property. These issues were referred to the voters at the November election of 1980.

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