

Significant Issues

Aid to education (Action Plan for Educational Excellence); auto emissions; blue laws (Sunday sales); boating safety; child abuse and neglect; Children's Trust Fund; collateral source rule in awards of damages; condominiums, cooperatives, and homeowners associations; corporal punishment for schoolchildren; covered loads on trucks; death penalty for minors and incompetents; creation of Dept. of the Environment; Distinguished Scholar Program; Driver License Compact; drug testing for State employees; drunk driving; elderly social services; election campaign reform; family-oriented personnel policies; food establishment regulation; gambling in Baltimore County; gas tax (5 cents per gallon increase); health care delivery systems; independent status for Juvenile Services Agency; live animal experiments; medical malpractice (tort reform); out-of-State banks (Citicorp); motorcyclists' protective headgear; rape trials—jury charge (Lord Hale); regional savings and loans; reorganization of State government—Dept. of Economic & Employment Development and Dept. of Housing & Community Development; slot machines on the Eastern Shore; smoking in public places; stadiums and creation of Stadium Authority; State income tax reform; steep slope mining; surrogate parenting; tax amnesty; tort liability of local governments; truck safety; Vietnam veterans recognition; windfall tax; workers' compensation.

1988 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

394th session of General Assembly
 Convened: January 13, 1988
 Adjourned: April 11, 1988

Bills

	Introduced	Passed
Senate.....	883	342
House.....	1,490	530
Total	2,373	872
	Signed	Vetoed
Senate.....	295	47
House.....	497	33
Total	792	80

Joint Resolutions

	Introduced	Passed
Senate.....	38	9
House.....	58	6
Total	96	15

Constitutional Amendments

Proposed:

Senate.....	16
House.....	19
Total	35

Submitted to referendum:.....2

Vetoes

Overridden:.....1

Budget

Operating Budget	\$9,782,046,826
(8.7% increase)	
State Debt	\$269,178,000
General Construction Loan	\$110,691,000
School Construction Loan.....	\$ 53,000,000
Bonds	\$ 90,509,000

Significant Issues

Abortion funding; AIDS; appointment of judges; aquaculture; auto emissions; budget; Chesapeake Bay; child abuse victims—testimony; child care regulation; child support guidelines; corporate directors and officers liability; corporate takeovers; covered loads on trucks; drunk driving; dangerous dogs; economic development funds and programs; handguns; higher education reorganization; higher education scholarships; ignition interlock systems; inheritance tax law revision; homestead tax credit; light rail; national banking acquisitions; Port Commission to enhance Port of Baltimore; racing—intertrack wagering; recycling; regulation of plumbers, electricians, and real estate brokers; savings and loan associations—conversion; surrogate motherhood; smoking in retail stores; unemployment insurance trust funds.

THE LEGISLATIVE YEAR

The legislative rhythm repeats itself from year to year. Its cycle is governed by certain dates established by the Maryland Constitution, statute, rule, and custom. For example, the Constitution requires the General Assembly to convene on the second Wednesday in January and limits the session to ninety days and an extension to thirty days (Const., Art. III, secs. 6, 14, & 15). Dates established by statute include the prefilig deadlines (Code State Government Article, sec. 2-1502) and the due dates for reports which are usually included in their enabling legislation. Dates pertaining to the introduction of legislation are mandated both by the Constitution and the Rules of each house. Custom has created the post-prefile procedures and established July 1 and October 1 as the customary effective dates for bills.