

BILLS INTRODUCED IN SENATE

State Legislation

Passed both Houses		
Review Index "0"	174	
Review Index "1"	3	
Review Index "2"	9	
Review Index "3"	7 ⁴⁶	
Conference Committee	3 ⁴⁷	
Total Passed Both Houses		196

Died in House	40	
Died in Committee	129	
Total State Legislation		365

Local Legislation 313

TOTAL LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN SENATE 678

TOTAL LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN 1965 SESSION 1890

Now the *amount* of second review has been calculated, and the *quality* of second review has been established. A third parameter is the *time* which is given to second review. The normal session is seventy days in duration. During that period, legislators are expected to examine with care, some 1,093 state bills. Many of these are introduced late in the session.⁴⁸ In the last seven days of the 1965 session the House and the Senate each considered more than 100 state bills. It is unlikely that most legislators are able to devote the long hours required for a full understanding of the many complicated measures.

⁴⁶ Cf. Appendix III.

⁴⁷ Cf. Appendix IV.

⁴⁸ In the 2134-page House of Delegates Journal, the last two weeks of the session occupy 959 pages.

In the 1683-page Senate Journal, the last two weeks of the session occupy 959 pages.

CONCLUSION

This project was undertaken to provide contemporary research material on the question:

To what degree, and with what effectiveness is second review present in the Maryland General Assembly?

The results cast a serious doubt upon the validity of any checks and balances arising from a bicameral legislature. The very small percentage of bills which did receive a worthwhile review does not seem to justify the tremendous cost of a bicameral system.⁴⁹ The issue, however, is not whether this system has worked, but whether a more effective system is possible.

⁴⁹ For the current costs of maintaining the Maryland General Assembly see THE CITIZENS' COMMISSION ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORTS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND 49 (1967).