

TREASURER

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

In Maryland, the treasurer and the comptroller share responsibility for discharging the duties of the Treasury Department. The office of treasurer is constitutionally created by Article VI, Section 1.

The treasurer is appointed by the two houses of the legislature at the regular session which marks the beginning of a four-year term of the governor. The treasurer receives the money of the State and deposits it in banks with the approval of the governor. He disburses this money upon warrants drawn by the comptroller and on checks countersigned by the comptroller. Every bond certificate or other evidence of state debt must be signed by the treasurer or the chief deputy and countersigned by the comptroller.²⁸ The treasurer renders accounts to the comptroller, publishes an abstract in newspapers, and submits copies to the General Assembly. His accounts are subject to inspection by the comptroller.²⁹ He is subject to removal by the governor after notice and a hearing.³⁰

Constitutional provisions affecting the treasurer have been changed little since 1851 when the present office was created. Under the Constitutions of 1867, 1864, and 1851 the treasurer's term was for only two years. The Constitution of 1776 provided for two state treasurers—one for the Eastern Shore and one for the Western Shore. Both were appointed by the House of Delegates and served during its pleasure. In 1841 a constitutional amendment consolidated the two offices.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

The treasurer is the head of the Division of Deposit and Disbursement.³¹ He

²⁸ MD. CONST. art. VI, § 3.

²⁹ MD. CONST. art. VI, § 4.

³⁰ MD. CONST. art. VI, § 6.

is also a member of the Board of Public Works.³² All bills or vouchers for merchandise and supplies of any kind purchased by any departments or agencies are paid by the treasurer upon the warrant of the comptroller. The treasurer also advances money to any agency on the warrant of the comptroller.³³ All fees and revenues collected by agencies are accounted for to the comptroller and paid to the treasurer.³⁴

The duties of the treasurer are set out in detail in Article 95 of the ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND. The treasurer is required to give bond and to take an oath. He appoints clerks, assistants, and other help who perform duties assigned by him. He may designate one of his clerks or assistants as chief deputy treasurer and a maximum of three may be designated as deputy treasurers. All deputies must take an oath and give bond. Deputies have power to disburse moneys of the State for purposes of the State, including the power to sign or countersign checks, upon warrants drawn by the comptroller. Deputies serve at the treasurer's pleasure and the power to act as deputies may be terminated at any time by the treasurer for any cause which he may deem sufficient. In the event of the sickness or absence of the treasurer, powers of deputies may be terminated by the Board of Public Works for any cause. However, termination of the deputies' power does not of itself operate to terminate their employ-

³¹ MD. CODE ANN. art. 41, § 195 (1957, repl. vol. 1965).

³² MD. CODE ANN. art. 41, § 196 (1957, repl. vol. 1965). See also MD. CONST. art. XII, § 1.

³³ MD. CODE ANN. art. 41, § 197 (1957, repl. vol. 1965).

³⁴ MD. CODE ANN. art. 41, § 198 (1957, repl. vol. 1965).