

The Executive

THE GOVERNOR

Theodore R. McKeldin, Governor, 1959

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The Governor is the chief executive officer of the State and the Commander-in-Chief of its military forces. He is elected by popular vote for a term of four years, his term of office beginning on the second Wednesday of January following his election. No person may serve as Governor for more than two consecutive terms. To be eligible for the office of Governor, a person must be at least thirty years of age and must have been for ten years a citizen of the State, and for five years preceding the date of his election a resident of the State. At the time of his election, he must also be a qualified voter of the State (Const. 1867, Art. II, secs. 1, 3, 5).

The Governor must submit to each annual session of the General Assembly a budget for the next ensuing fiscal year. He also makes recommendations for the raising of the principal and interest of the State's indebtedness. The Governor may also inform the General Assembly at any time of the condition of the State (II, 19; III, 52(3)).

Before a bill may become law the Governor must sign it, with the single exception of the General Appropriation Act. However, any bill which he vetoes may be passed without his signature by three-fifths of the total number of members of each house of the General Assembly, either at the current session or at the session next following. Or should the Governor, while the Legislature is in session, fail to return any bill with his objections within six days, the Act becomes law automatically unless the adjournment of the General Assembly prevents the return of the bill; then the bill fails. The Governor has the power to veto any part of an appropriation bill, in the same manner as other bills, without vetoing all (II, 17 as amended by Acts 1949, chap. 714).

The Governor is Commander-in-Chief of the military forces of the State, except when such forces shall be called in the national service. He may establish a State Guard when the National Guard has been called into Federal service.

The Governor appoints all military and civil officers of the State subject to the advice and consent of the Senate, except when the election or appointment of such officer is otherwise provided for. In addition to appointing the heads of major departments, boards, and commissions of the State Government, the Governor appoints certain boards and commissions in each county and the City of Baltimore as is provided by law. The Governor also commissions Trial Magistrates, Justices of the Peace, and Notaries Public. The Governor appoints persons to unexpired terms of the offices of Attorney General, Comptroller, Treasurer, and members of the General Assembly. Any officer appointed by the Governor, excepting members of the General Assembly, shall be removable by him for cause.