

## RESEARCH DIVISION

A Research Division was established to make legal and factual studies of legislation or proposed legislation referred to the Division by the Council. The Division also prepares studies on any matters which may be referred to it by any committee or commission appointed by the Council, or by either or both Houses of the General Assembly, or, with the consent of the Council, by any commission or committee appointed by the Governor (Code 1957, as amended, Art. 40, secs. 27-39).

|                     |          |          |
|---------------------|----------|----------|
| Appropriations      | 1961     | 1962     |
| General Funds ..... | \$40,000 | \$40,000 |
| Staff: 23.          |          |          |

## A HISTORY OF

## THE 1960 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly of Maryland met in approximately its 326th session on February 3, 1960. It adjourned on the evening of the 30th day, being March 3.

A total of 298 bills was introduced, of which 127 were Senate bills and 171 were House bills. Fifty-two Senate bills passed both Houses and the Governor signed all of them. Seventy House bills passed both Houses, and of these, the Governor signed 66 and vetoed 4.

Since the Governor made these 4 vetoes after the General Assembly had adjourned, these bills were returned to the House at the 1961 Session, and the vetoes were sustained.

Thirty-one joint resolutions were introduced, 11 in the Senate and 20 in the House. Five Senate Joint Resolutions and 13 House Joint Resolutions passed both Houses.

The General Assembly of 1960 revised the Interstate Compact on the Potomac River Basin in order to broaden the powers of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. This Compact of 1958 was passed by the 1959 Legislature to supersede the Compact of 1785 in controlling relationships between Maryland and Virginia concerning fisheries in the Potomac River. It was subsequently ratified by the voters of Maryland at the November 1960 election.

An important piece of legislation enacted at the 1960 Session was the State Boat Act. It provides for the numbering and regulation of boats jointly by the Department of Tidewater Fisheries and the Department of Game and Inland Fish. Under this Act, boating accidents must be reported to the Department of Tidewater Fisheries. The Act also regulates operators of boats towing water skiers.

Another Act dealing with the out-of-doors was the "Open Spaces" bill. The Legislature enacted this bill in order to conserve Maryland's natural and scenic resources which are in danger of obliteration by urban development.

The Maryland Commission on Alcoholism was established by the 1960 General Assembly in recognition of the public health problem created by alcoholism. The Commission's purpose is to prescribe laws and programs to control and treat the illness.

Two uniform acts were adopted. One was designed to govern the transfer of securities by fiduciaries. The other uniform law regulates the use of facsimile signatures and seals of public officials on certificates of indebtedness.