

replacing the melange of magistrates' courts, people's courts, and other courts of limited jurisdiction that had previously existed. Also of note has been the extension of the regular sessions of the General Assembly from seventy to ninety days and the creation of the office of Lieutenant Governor.

On the political scene, Maryland was suddenly thrust into national prominence when Governor Spiro T. Agnew was selected by the Republican Party in August 1968 to be the running mate of presidential nominee Richard M. Nixon and subsequently elected. Governor Agnew resigned his office on January 7, 1969 and promptly thereafter the General Assembly elected Marvin Mandel, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, to succeed him.

At the election of November 3, 1970, Governor Mandel was continued in office by the voters. At the same time, Blair Lee III was elected to the newly-created office of Lieutenant Governor. He thus became the first person to have this title since Christopher C. Cox served as an unpopular Lieutenant Governor while the short-lived Constitution of 1864 was in effect.