port completed the most modern cargo terminal on the East Coast.

Among the major laws the Governor sponsored and saw enacted were: the strictest handgun control law in the Nation; a unique insurance law that combines a limited "no fault" feature with the Nation's only State insurance company which provides coverage for Maryland motorists who otherwise would be unable to obtain insurance; a model Power Plant Siting law which the National Governors' Conference has adopted as its own suggested legislation; a State Drug Abuse Authority and a model narcotics law; a State Housing Agency to encourage the development of low-income housing; and a land use law to protect Maryland's critical areas and provide for orderly development and growth across the State.

Maryland's environmental laws, among the strictest in the Nation, were conceived by Governor Mandel to protect now and for the future the quality of the State's land, air and water and the abundance of marine life that flourishes in Maryland's wetlands.

Another achievement of the Mandel Administration was the reorganization and consolidation of Maryland's courts, the strengthening of the State's overall criminal justice system and the establishment of a procedure of selecting judges from among persons nominated by panels of lawyers and laymen. He also established a coordinated system of criminal justice information.

Governor Mandel also acted to solve the problem of soaring medical malpractice insurance rates by creating a system of arbitrating claims over certain amounts. Arbitration panels comprise laymen, lawyers and representatives of the medical and health professions.

Unique in the continental United States is the State School Construction Program which was conceived and sponsored by Governor Mandel to relieve the 23 counties and Baltimore City of the financial burden of building schools.

Under the program, the State assumed full financial obligation for the construction and major renovation of all public schools in Maryland, and full financial responsibility for outstanding bonded indebtedness for schools the counties built prior to inception of the program. Since the program began in 1971, the State has obligated more than $1 billion for school construction in the subdivisions which relieved the taxpayers of the costly burden of increased taxes to support the need for schools. The program has led to the reduction of local property taxes in many subdivisions and a stabilization of taxes in others.

Under Governor Mandel, Maryland also became the first State in the Nation to provide State operating funds for private colleges and universities. And the Governor also greatly increased the amount of State aid for education to the subdivisions.

Acting on the recommendations of a study commission which he appointed, Governor Mandel sponsored and saw enacted a broad program reorganizing and restructuring the entire system of education in Maryland. Moreover, he replaced the Council on Higher Education with a stronger coordinating body and signed laws granting university status to two State colleges. The Governor also devised an equitable formula for funding special education programs throughout Maryland.

During Governor Mandel's years in office, the State has expanded its network of day care centers and the number of children receiving free school lunches. Recently the Governor created by Executive Order a Division of the Aging to deal with the special problems of the elderly and has set aside a portion of the State's lottery proceeds for programs for the aging. While welfare grants have been increased, there has been a steady decline in caseloads because of safeguards taken at Governor Mandel's direction to weed out abuses and ineligibles.

Through this steady and progressive expansion of State aid and services in virtually every area of State government, Governor Mandel has been able to achieve a record of financial stability through prudent management of Maryland's fiscal resources. Maryland has consistently maintained the highest bond rating of any state in the Nation.