

Among the important measures enacted were: Congressional and Legislative redistricting; several bills aimed at further reducing drunken driving violations, including the return of the drinking age for beer and wine to 21 years; decriminalization of certain other alcoholic beverage offenses; a package of bills from the Joint Oversight Committee on Transportation, including one which raises motor vehicle fuel tax to provide for road maintenance; designation of the Maryland State Retirement System as an independent agency; several bills designed to enhance services for the elderly to be administered statewide by the Interagency Committee on Aging; completion of the health laws recodification; a major revision of the State's health planning process; and two omnibus bills on interest rates and financing.

Five proposals to amend the Constitution of Maryland were enacted for referral to the voters in the November general election. Titles of the questions were: Imprisonment for Debt Support and Alimony; Temporary Borrowing by the State; Montgomery County—Election of County Council; Baltimore City—Bond Authorization; and Charter County and Referendum Petitions.

A HISTORY OF THE 1982 SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Governor called the General Assembly into special session on August 6, 1982 (Const. 1867, Art. III, sec. 14). This was the 385th session of the legislative branch of Maryland government.

Three bills were introduced in each house, and one Senate bill was enacted. Senate Bill 1, Unemployment Insurance—Additional Benefits, became Chapter 1 of the 1982 Special Session.

One Joint Resolution was introduced in each house, but neither passed.

Vetoes from the 1982 regular session were considered, but none was overridden.

STANDING COMMITTEES

SENATE

Budget and Taxation

Laurence Levitan, *Chairperson*

Room 100, James Building Telephone: 841-3690

State operating and capital budgets, including revenues and expenditures; supplementary appro-

priation bills; State and county bond authorizations; legislative budgetary procedures; all taxation and property assessment legislation; and creation of judgeships.

Constitutional and Public Law

Norman R. Stone, Jr., *Chairperson*

Room 400, James Building Telephone: 841-3582

Government operations; procedures of executive and administrative departments and agencies; civil rights; election laws; motor vehicle code; administrative law; and constitutional amendments.

Economic Affairs

Jerome F. Connell, Sr., *Chairperson*

Room 200, James Building Telephone: 841-3661

Regulation of businesses, labor, occupations, and professions in general; economic development; insurance; banking; utility regulation; consumer protection; natural resources and environmental matters; agriculture; energy; and land use planning and zoning.

Finance

Rosalie Silber Abrams, *Chairperson*

Room 100, James Building Telephone: 841-3677

Education; transportation; health and welfare matters; gambling and horse racing; pensions; and State personnel and pension matters.

Judicial Proceedings

Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., *Chairperson*

Room 300, James Building Telephone: 841-3623

Judicial administration and court structure; legal profession; crimes and punishments; criminal and civil laws and procedures; juvenile justice; real property; trusts, estates, and probate matters; and legal rights and immunities.

Executive Nominations

Clarence M. Mitchell III, *Chairperson*

Examines all nominations for appointments made by the Governor and reports thereon to the Senate with recommendations.

Rules, Organization, and Procedure

Melvin A. Steinberg, *Chairperson*

Considers proposals concerning the rules, organization, and procedures of the Senate and makes recommendations thereon; reviews legislation introduced after bill deadline.