

be appointed to resolve the differences between the two chambers.

Conference Committee: Appointed by the Senate President and the House Speaker, a conference committee consists of three members of each house. The committee reports back to both chambers where its recommendations are adopted or rejected without amendment. If the report is adopted, the bill is voted upon for final passage in each house. If the report is rejected by either house, the bill fails.

Presentation of Bills to the Governor: All bills, except the budget bill and constitutional amendments, must be presented to the Governor within twenty days following adjournment of a session. The Governor may veto such bills within thirty days after presentation to him. If he does not veto a bill, it becomes law. The budget bill, however, becomes law upon its final passage and cannot be vetoed. Constitutional amendments become law only upon their ratification by the voters at the next general election.

Vetoed Bills: The power to override a veto rests with the General Assembly. If the Governor vetoes a bill during a regular session, the General Assembly immediately considers the Governor's veto message. If the Governor vetoes a bill presented after the session, the veto message must be considered immediately at the next regular or special session of the Legislature. The General Assembly may not override a veto during the first year of a new term. A three-fifths vote of the elected membership of both chambers is necessary to override a veto.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF BILLS

Elected Officials. The most effective source of information on the status of a bill is often a constituent's State Senator or Delegate, who usually has information resources not available to the general public.

Department of Legislative Reference. The Library of the Department of Legislative Reference answers any request for information about the status of a bill.

Library (year-round) 841-3810
D.C. area: 858-3810

Information Desk, State House Ground Floor
841-3886
(during session only) D.C. Area: 858-3886

The Department of Legislative Reference offers a subscription service known as the *Bin Service* to persons or organizations with a broad continuing need for bill information. Subscriptions are filed in Room G-17 of the Legislative Services Building (Phone: 841-3883; or from D.C. area: 858-3883).

Bin Service Subscription Rates:

Picked up in Annapolis —\$20 for bills (first reader, third reader, enrolled); \$5 for synopses, proceedings, hearing schedules.

Mailed Out —\$500 for bills; \$200 for synopses; \$100 for proceedings; \$50 for hearing schedules.

Newspapers. Newspapers often publish public hearing schedules of General Assembly committees and sometimes publish articles about bills introduced.

Bibliography: *Legislator's Handbook*, Department of Fiscal Services, Annapolis, 1982, 115 pp. *Student Legislative Handbook*, Cornelia Connelly, Maryland General Assembly, Annapolis, n.d., 31 pp. *Your Voice in Annapolis*, Maryland General Assembly, Annapolis, n.d., 16 pp. *Rules of the House of Delegates of Maryland*, Maryland General Assembly, 1982, 100 pp. *Rules of the Senate of Maryland*, Maryland General Assembly, 1983, 100 pp.

1983 SESSION

The General Assembly convened on January 12, 1983, for the 386th session of the legislative branch of Maryland Government. The Legislature adjourned 90 days later on April 11.

In all, 2,456 bills were introduced (900 in the Senate and 1,556 in the House). Of the Senate bills, 295 were passed by both houses, 262 signed into law, and 33 vetoed. Of the House bills, 456 were passed by both houses, 425 signed by the Governor, and 31 vetoed.

The Governor introduced two Executive Orders pursuant to his authority under Article II, sec. 24 of the Constitution. One of these was withdrawn, and the other took effect as provided under the Constitution.

The General Assembly introduced 93 joint resolutions: 36 in the Senate and 57 in the House. Of these, 13 Senate joint resolutions and 16 House joint resolutions were passed by both houses.

The State operating budget passed for the 1984 fiscal year was \$6.4 billion, a 5.7 percent increase over the previous year's appropriation. The capital