

budget (General Construction Loan of 1983) approved a total of \$99,215,000 in projects.

The 1983 session proved to be one of the quietest and least controversial in recent memory. However, of the bills enacted, some of the most significant were: revisions in the death penalty law; broadening of provisions that require smoke detectors in hotels and multi-family dwellings; tightening of drunk driving laws; a requirement that young children traveling in automobiles be placed in child safety seats; creation of a new Department of Employment and Training; passage of the Job Training Partnership Act; establishment of a "Lotto" game under the State Lottery Commission; revision of the allocation of powers between counties and the incorporated municipalities located in those counties; broadening of local government anti-trust immunity; and a bill to deregulate consumer credit.

Twelve constitutional amendments were proposed during the session, but none were approved by the General Assembly.

There was no consideration of the vetoed 1982 bills because consideration of whether to override those vetoes was taken up during the 1982 special session of the General Assembly.

1983 SPECIAL SESSION

The Governor called the General Assembly into special session on June 12, 1983, pursuant to his powers under Article III, sec. 14 of the Constitution. This constituted the 387th session of the legislative branch of Maryland government.

Although three bills were introduced during the one-day special session, only one was acted upon. That bill, subsequently signed by the Governor, alters the law relating to the purchase of corporate stock in situations of corporate "take-overs."

Bills from the 1983 regular session that had been vetoed by the Governor were considered, but no vetoes were overridden.

1984 SESSION

The General Assembly convened on January 11, 1984. This was the 388th session of the legislative branch of Maryland government. The session concluded 90 days later on April 9.

A total of 2,813 were introduced (1,073 in the Senate and 1,740 in the House). Of the Senate bills, 342 were passed by both houses, 302 signed by the Governor, and 40 vetoed. Of the House bills, 540

were passed by both houses, 496 signed by the Governor, and 44 vetoed.

The General Assembly introduced 120 joint resolutions: 52 in the Senate and 67 in the House. Of these, 14 Senate joint resolutions and 17 House joint resolutions were passed by both houses.

The Governor did not exercise his authority to introduce Executive Orders during the 1984 session.

The State operating budget enacted for the 1985 fiscal year was \$6.9 billion, an 8.37 percent increase over the previous year's appropriation. The capital budget authorized \$117,193,000 in construction projects.

In contrast to the 1983 session, the 1984 session was one of the most controversial of recent years. Although the measure eventually passed, reform of the State pension system generated intense pressure from affected groups. Among the important enactments were: a change in the burden of proof when the insanity defense is used in criminal cases; a constitutional amendment requiring that certain elected officials be registered voters; a change in the licensing procedure for bay pilots; creation of a statewide master electrician licensing procedure; implementation of a "competitive rating" structure for casualty and automobile insurance; creation of the Maryland Economic Development Corporation; an Automotive Warranty Enforcement Act, popularly known as the "lemon law"; a work sharing unemployment insurance program for partially unemployed workers; increased workmen's compensation for coverage for seasonal and migratory farm workers; a reform of the State's pension system; a package of bills to restore the quality of the Chesapeake Bay; and a major revision of the State's system of aid to public education.

There was no consideration of 1983 bills that had been vetoed by the Governor because that constitutional duty had been performed during the 1983 special session.

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