

The General Assembly introduced 117 joint resolutions: 43 in the Senate and 74 in the House. Of these, 14 Senate joint resolutions and 17 House joint resolutions were passed by both houses.

The State operating budget passed for the 1986 fiscal year was \$7.5 billion. The amount of the new State debt authorized by the General Assembly totaled \$219,987,000. This amount included \$83,597,000 in the General Construction Loan of 1985; \$34,600,000 in the School Construction Loan; and \$101,790,000 in individual bonds.

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

The bills that had been vetoed by the Governor from the 1984 session were considered by the 1985 General Assembly, but no vetoes were overridden.

The 1985 session produced significant legislation related to banking, the environment, health care, racing, and prisons. Enacted laws included measures to phase in limited regional banking; allow full-service banking for Citicorp in 1986; ban phosphate detergents; approve a new shock trauma facility; provide health care cost containment; allow the terminally ill to end life support; provide a tax break for the racing industry; and approve plans for a new maximum security prison. Other legislation involved subsidized telephone service for the disabled; voluntary plant closing notification; regulation of mobile vendors; provision for children to testify on closed circuit TV; establishment of a home improvement guaranty fund; and closure of a loophole in consumer loan law. The legislature passed, but the Governor vetoed, legislation that would allow slot machines for charity and repeal the ban on steep slope strip mining. The General Assembly rejected proposals to license all gambling operations and require their disclosure of proceeds, and to mandate background checks for persons who work with minors.

1985 SPECIAL SESSIONS

The Governor called the General Assembly into special session on May 17, 1985, and again on October 17, 1985, pursuant to Article III, sec. 14, of the Constitution. These special sessions constituted the 390th and 391st sessions of the legislative branch of Maryland government.

The purpose of both sessions was to address a financial crisis in the State chartered savings and loan industry. Legislation was enacted to protect

depositors, create the Office of Special Counsel, and provide for the sale of savings and loan institutions.

A total of 31 bills (14 in the Senate and 17 in the House) was introduced during the First Special Session on May 17. Fourteen bills (7 Senate and 7 House) were passed by both houses; 12 were signed and 2 were vetoed by the Governor. The 2 joint resolutions introduced (1 in each house) did not pass.

During the Second Special Session (October 17-November 5), two of the 1985 Regular Session bills vetoed by the Governor were passed over the veto and became law as Chapters 1 and 2. Of the 45 bills introduced (33 Senate bills and 12 House bills), 6 (4 Senate and 2 House) were passed by both houses and signed by the Governor. The one Senate joint resolution introduced did not pass.

1986 SESSION

The General Assembly convened on January 8, 1986. This was the 392nd session of the legislative branch of Maryland government. The session concluded 90 days later on April 7.

A total of 2,938 bills were introduced (1,070 in the Senate and 1,868 in the House). Of the Senate bills, 364 were passed by both houses, 299 signed by the Governor, and 65 vetoed. Of the House bills, 623 were passed by both houses, 566 signed by the Governor, and 57 vetoed.

The General Assembly introduced 127 joint resolutions: 39 in the Senate and 88 in the House. Of these, 19 Senate joint resolutions and 24 House joint resolutions were passed by both houses.

The Governor did not exercise the authority to introduce Executive Orders during the 1986 session.

The State operating budget enacted for the 1987 fiscal year was nearly \$8.2 billion.

The amount of new State debt authorized by the General Assembly totaled \$219,984,000. This total included \$90,627,000 for the General Construction Loan; \$44,300,000 for the School Construction Loan; and \$85,057,000 for individual bonds.

The 1986 session considered issues relating to malpractice, liability, aid to education, sports stadium, seat belts, housing, and the environment. Enacted legislation provided for a cap on noneconomic damages in personal injury lawsuits;