

Since his inauguration on January 14, 1959, Governor Tawes, with the approval of the General Assembly, has reorganized many State agencies for the purpose of increasing their efficiency. Included are the State Roads Commission, the State Racing Commission, the Department of Tidewater Fisheries and the State Planning Department. The old State Tax Commission was divided into two agencies, the State Tax Court and the Department of Assessments and Taxation, to separate the administrative and quasi-judicial functions of that body. The Department of Research and Education was re-established as a part of the University of Maryland under a new name, the Natural Resources Institute. The governing bodies of the closely allied departments of Health and Mental Hygiene were consolidated into a single Board of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Two agencies were created to perform new governmental services. These were the Department of Economic Development, to encourage the development of business and industry and to promote tourism, and the Commission on Problems of the Aging, to coordinate activities on behalf of older citizens. With the Governor's strong support, there was created for the City of Baltimore a new Municipal Court with full-time judges. The membership of the Court of Appeals was increased by a Constitutional amendment from five to seven, and several new circuit judgeships were created to relieve an overburdened judiciary.

During the first two years of his term, substantial advancements were made in the State programs of highway construction, education, health and public welfare.

To relieve financially hard-pressed counties, cities and towns, the General Assembly, at Governor Tawes' request, increased materially the State's financial aid to local subdivisions.

An active participant in the affairs of the National Governors Conference, Governor Tawes in 1961 was made a member of the executive committee of that body.

In May, 1960, Governor Tawes issued an invitation to Governors of the states of the Appalachian region to attend a conference in Annapolis to discuss problems of the Appalachian area. Out of that meeting grew the Conference of Appalachian Governors, which President Kennedy selected as an advisory group to work with his Area Redevelopment Commission to revitalize the economically depressed Appalachian region.

The Governor holds membership in the following clubs and fraternal organizations: Crisfield Rotary Club (charter member), Elks, Knights of Pythias, Advertising Club of Baltimore, Hibernian Society of Baltimore, Maryland Society of Pennsylvania, Crisfield Fire Department (past president), Chesapeake Bay Fishing Fair Association (past president), Masons, Shrine, Order of the Eastern Star, Eastern Shore Shrine Club, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Scimeter Club, and the Eastern Shore Society of Baltimore.

He is a former member of the Board of Visitors and Governors of Washington College, and of the Board of Trustees of Wesley Junior College, Dover, Delaware, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the McCready Memorial Hospital in Crisfield, and the Board of Trustees of Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He is past president of the Maryland State Firemen's Association and is a former chairman of its Scholarship Committee. He is past president of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers. He is an honorary member of Omicron Delta Kappa, National men's leadership society.

Governor Tawes' present address is Government House, Annapolis, Maryland. He maintains a residence in Crisfield.