

ject to a referendum is enforceable until approved by a majority of the voters at the election in which the referred bill is voted upon, except an emergency bill, which is effective immediately and remains effective thirty days following its rejection by the voters (Const. 1867, Art. XVI).

The House of Delegates has sole power of impeachment of any officer of the State. A majority of the whole number of members of the House must approve any bill of impeachment. The Senate tries all impeachment cases, and two-thirds of the total number of Senators must concur in a verdict of guilty (Const. 1867, Art. III, sec. 26).

Both Houses elect the State Treasurer by joint ballot. The General Assembly also elects the Governor and/or the Lieutenant Governor if the popular election has resulted in a tie or the winning candidate and/or candidates are ineligible. When a vacancy occurs in the office of Governor, the Lieutenant Governor succeeds to that office for the remainder of the term. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Lieutenant Governor, the Governor nominates a person to succeed to that office upon confirmation by a majority vote of all members of the General Assembly in joint session. If vacancies occur in both the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor at the same time, the General Assembly must convene and fill the office of Governor by a majority vote of all the members in joint session. The chosen Governor then nominates a Lieutenant Governor with the same confirmation.

The President of the Senate serves as acting Governor if the Lieutenant Governor is not able to serve as acting Governor. If there is a vacancy in the office of President of the Senate when he is authorized to serve as acting Governor, the Senate must convene and fill the vacancy (Const. 1867, Art. II, secs. 1A, 1B, 6, 7A).

### **A HISTORY OF THE 1981 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The General Assembly met in regular session on January 14, 1981, and adjourned on April 13. This was the 383rd session of the legislative branch of Maryland government.

Of the 3,041 bills introduced during the 1981 session, 1,127 originated in the Senate and 1,914 in the House. A total of 356 Senate bills were passed by both houses; 306 were signed and 50 were vetoed by the Governor. Of the House bills, 553 were passed by both houses; 508 were signed by the Governor and 45 were vetoed.

Joint Resolutions introduced totaled 176, with 71 originating in the Senate and 105 in the

House. Of these, 16 Senate and 14 House Joint Resolutions were passed by both houses. All were signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

The Budget Bill enacted during the 1981 Session for fiscal year 1982 amounted to \$5,646,180,937. The General Construction Loan of 1981 (Capital Budget) approved a total of \$87,670,000 in projects. The Governor vetoed one line item in the Capital Budget (Const. 1867, Art. II, sec. 17, and Art. III, sec 52(8)).

Among the important measures enacted were: A six-bill package tightening enforcement against drunken drivers; fiscal relief for State education programs; broadening of civil rights protection for minority businesses and handicapped persons; enlargement of both the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the District Court; strengthening of flood management programs; a five-bill package concerning the Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation; a ten-bill package aimed at improving energy conservation; licensing provisions for dealers in precious metals and stones; a comprehensive revision of the Condominium Law; consolidation and updating of Emergency Management; and a limited waiver of sovereign immunity in certain tort actions.

No proposals to amend the Constitution of Maryland were enacted.

### **A HISTORY OF THE 1982 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The General Assembly met in regular session on January 13, 1982, and adjourned on April 12. This was the 384th session of the legislative branch of Maryland government.

Of the 3,052 bills introduced during the 1982 session, 1,130 originated in the Senate and 1,922 in the House. A total of 433 Senate bills were passed by both houses; 361 were signed and 72 vetoed by the Governor. Of the House bills, 607 were passed by both houses; 555 were signed by the Governor and 52 were vetoed.

Joint Resolutions introduced totaled 173, with 65 originating in the Senate and 108 in the House. Of these, 11 Senate and 19 House Joint Resolutions were passed by both houses. All were signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

The Budget Bill enacted during the 1982 session for fiscal year 1983 amounted to \$6,162,490,944. The General Construction Loan of 1982 (Capital Budget) approved a total of \$98,633,000 in projects.