

MARYLAND AT A GLANCE

State Capital. Annapolis: The original capital was St. Mary's City. In 1694, the General Assembly designated Anne Arundel Town the capital. After Queen Mary's death in December 1694, Anne Arundel Town was renamed Annapolis for Queen Mary's sister and heiress apparent, Princess Anne. The government moved to Annapolis in February 1694/5, when the site was still known as Anne Arundel Town.

Population. 4,216,975 in 1980 census; ranked 18th among the states.

Government. The governor, elected by popular vote for a four-year term, is the chief executive of the State. Most State agencies are encompassed within one of the fourteen cabinet-level executive departments. Maryland's bicameral Legislature consists of a 47-member Senate and a 141-member House of Delegates. As of July 1984, the Senate has 41 Democrats and 6 Republicans and the House of Delegates includes 124 Democrats and 17 Republicans. The Legislature meets each year on the second Wednesday in January for 90 days to enact laws. The Maryland Judiciary consists of four court divisions: the Court of Appeals, the Court of Special Appeals, the Circuit Courts, and the District Courts. Local government exists in Maryland's 23 counties, 154 municipal corporations (including Baltimore City), and special taxing districts. Of the 50 states, Maryland is among those with the fewest number of local governments.

Area. In square miles: land, 9,837; inland water, 623; Chesapeake Bay, 1,726; total, 12,186. Ranks 42nd among the states.

Statehood. April 28, 1788, the seventh state.

Physiography. Divided into three provinces with progressively higher altitudes from east to west; Coastal Plain province extends from Atlantic Ocean to Fall Line; Piedmont or "Foothill" province from Fall Line to base of the Catoctin Mountains; Appalachian province from base of Catoctin Mountains to western boundary of State. Mean elevation, 350 feet; maximum elevation, 3,360 feet on Backbone Mountain.

Distances. Longest east-west, 198.6 miles—Fairfax Stone to Delaware Line; north-south, 125.5 miles—Pennsylvania line to Virginia line at Smith Point on south-shore mouth of the Potomac River; shortest north-south, 1.9 miles—Pennsylvania line

to south bank of Potomac River near Hancock; farthest points northwest corner to southeast corner at Atlantic Ocean, 254.7 miles.

Location. Highway distance from Central Maryland (in miles): Boston, 392; Chicago, 668; New York, 196; Philadelphia, 96; Pittsburgh, 218; Richmond, 143; Washington, D.C., 37.

Climate. Generally moderate, varies from mild to hot in summer and in winter from moderate in the east and south to very cold in the western mountains. Average annual rainfall, 42.90 inches; average seasonal snowfall, 25 inches ranging from 10 inches on the southern Eastern Shore to 110 inches in Garrett County. Average annual temperature 54.6 degrees Fahrenheit, with high temperatures in July, the warmest month, averaging in the low 80s and the low temperatures in January, the coldest month, averaging in the low 30s. Duration of the freeze-free period averages 185 days, ranging from 130 days in Garrett County to 230 days in the southern Chesapeake Bay area.

Chesapeake Bay. 195 miles long with 1,726 square miles in Maryland and 1,511 square miles in Virginia. Varies in width from 3 to 20 miles. Navigable for ocean-going ships and has two outlets to the Atlantic Ocean, one through the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, one through the mouth of the Bay between the Virginia capes. The William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Bridge (Chesapeake Bay Bridge) spans 4.2 miles between Sandy Point, Anne Arundel County, and Kent Island, Queen Anne's County.

Chief Rivers. Potomac, Wye, Patuxent, Susquehanna, Choptank, Nanticoke, Elk, Magothy, Patapsco, Sassafras, South, Severn, Gunpowder, Tred Avon, Bush, Miles, Chester, Northeast, Wicomico, Pocomoke, and Great Bohemia.

Boating Waters. Twenty-three rivers and bays with more than 400 miles of water tributary to the Chesapeake Bay; Chincoteague Bay with 35 miles of water accessible to and from the Atlantic Ocean; an estimated (1984) 215 boat ramps and 31,000 boat slips.

Water Frontage. Sixteen of the 23 counties and Baltimore City border on tidal water. Length of tidal shoreline, including islands, 4,100 miles.