

Maryland General Assembly Finishes Session

The 2006 Maryland General Assembly finished its work on April 10th, closing a successful legislative session for historic preservation. This year, two preservation initiatives passed: Preservation of Historic Agricultural Structures (HB 699), which establishes an Advisory Committee on Historic Agricultural Structure Preservation and a Barn Preservation Fund; and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund (HB 175), which allows for the continued practice of using transferred funds to support expenses of the Maryland Heritage Area Authority.

In addition, funding for preservation programs fared relatively well in a tight budget session. The Assembly approved funding for several existing programs — including \$30 million for the state's Rehabilitation Tax Credit, \$3 million for the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, and nearly \$2 million for the Museum Assistance Program.