

and to deprive the State Roads Commission of the right of selection of this official.

The State Roads Commission has filed a memorandum with me concerning this measure which reads as follows:

"This Bill provides for a County Engineer for Somerset County to maintain the County roads and to be appointed by the County Commissioners.

"There is no other County in the State where the State maintains the County roads where the County Commissioners appoint the Engineer in charge of the maintenance of County roads. Since the State of Maryland is maintaining the roads in Somerset County the present law gives the State Roads Commission the right to appoint the County Engineer, and we do not feel that the County Commissioners should be permitted to name a man whose qualifications might not be such that the Commission would approve. We feel that inasmuch as the State Roads Commission is responsible for the proper maintenance of the County roads that the man in charge of this maintenance should be under the direction and responsible to the State Roads Commission and not to the County Commissioners.

"We would, therefore, recommend that this Bill be vetoed."

In view of the reasons stated by the State Roads Commission, and inasmuch as the State is responsible for the proper maintenance of these roads and for the prudent expenditure of the County Road Funds, I feel compelled to veto this measure.

SPECIAL ACTS.

Chapter 598 (House Bill 636). Chapter 463 (House Bill 535). The Attorney-General holds these Bills to be invalid because they are *special acts* undertaking to grant financial allowances.

The Police Commissioner of Baltimore City also urges the veto of one of the two Bills (House Bill No. 636) which directs the Commissioner to pay a pension to a widow of a former member of the Police Department (Lt. Martin J. Mannion). The Commissioner declares that the death of the officer in question was due to natural causes.

In connection with the second of the two Bills (House Bill No. 535), the Attorney-General states further that the sources of the allowance sought to be granted are funds collected by the Sheriff which are due and owing to the State.

In view of the foregoing facts, I am vetoing the measures.