

88A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition). Broad authority is conferred upon the State Board in the issuance and revocation of licenses, and adoption of operating regulations for such homes. State regulations provide for approval of the local Health Department before a child is placed in a foster home. A great number of responsible social agencies have declared their opposition to the Bill and its possible interference with uniform State-wide regulation of foster homes.

There would seem to be no need to provide for a local licensing law which would merely duplicate the State licensing law, but without the power of review, revocation and suspension. Any abuses which are discovered by the State Board or called to its attention, can, and I am assured, will, be promptly investigated.

One of the background factors for this Bill is the possible overloading of local schools with children from other localities who are placed in foster homes. The child, as a ward of the State, deserves particular attention. It may well be, however, that some provision should be made for contribution to schools. The entire question of adequacy of existing regulations and inspections of foster homes, and possible financial adjustments, particularly as to school costs, either by the State or by local subdivisions with each other, is of sufficient importance to justify full consideration by the Legislative Council. I would appreciate your bringing this matter to the attention of that body. The officials of the Board of Public Welfare will give every cooperation in furnishing any data which may be desired.

Respectfully,

(s) THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,

Governor

TRMcK:R

SENATE BILL NO. 204

May 5, 1953

Honorable George W. Della
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. President:

I am returning herewith without my approval, Senate Bill No. 204. This bill would require the County Welfare Boards in Kent and Anne Arundel Counties to furnish