

way in its purview and is State-wide in application, I felt compelled to veto the same.

Respectfully,

(s) J. MILLARD TAWES,

JMT:ss

Governor.

Senate Bill No. 352—Baltimore City Registration Records

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 37 of Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Elections", sub-title "Registration by Permanent Boards of Registry", ~~relating to the information required on records of permanent voting registration in Baltimore City.~~ PROVIDING THAT CERTAIN INFORMATION FROM REGISTRATION AND VOTING RECORDS IN BALTIMORE CITY SHALL NOT BE RELEASED OR FURNISHED, EXCEPT IN SPECIFIED CASES.

May 5, 1959.

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

Dear Mr. President:

I have today vetoed Senate Bill No. 352. I feel that the thought behind this bill was commendable, in that the Senator who introduced it had in mind abolishing any vestige of race discrimination insofar as balloting in elections was concerned. However, a review of this legislation as enacted reveals that it has other features which might well arm those who would violate the sanctity of the ballot with a cogent tool.

I am referring to the fact that this bill in effect prohibits furnishing to anyone except an official agency of the State or a city any information as to the race or color of a voter. There is a great basic principle which should be protected, and that is that registration lists should be kept open for public inspection, and there should be no denial of public access to them. Under the guise of seeking to eliminate possible race discrimination by restricting access to public registration records, we might do much to undermine our democratic processes.

For this reason, I am compelled to veto Senate Bill No. 352, and have so done.

Respectfully,

(s) J. MILLARD TAWES,

JMT/F/db

Governor.

Senate Bill No. 375—Clams

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sub-sections (a), (f) and (g) of Section 712 of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Natural Resources", sub-title