

I am certain that each year many able State employees are compelled to retire although they would prefer to continue working. To make one exception is not only inequitable—it invites others until the exceptions inexorably cripple the whole principle of compulsory retirement.

For these reasons, I am compelled to veto the bill.

Sincerely yours,

(s) SPIRO T. AGNEW,

Governor.

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**House Bill No. 22.—Retirement Systems**

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 11(7) of Article 73B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Pensions," subtitle "In General," and to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 113(4A) of Article 77 of said Code (1965 Replacement Volume and 1966 Supplement), title "Public Education," subtitle "Chapter 8. Teachers' Certificates, Salaries and Pensions," subheading "Teachers' Retirement System," AND TO REPEAL AND RE-ENACT, WITH AMENDMENTS, SECTION 53 (6) OF ARTICLE 88B OF THE SAID CODE (1966 SUPPLEMENT), TITLE "STATE POLICE," SUBTITLE "STATE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM"; amending the laws relating to the Employees' and Teachers' AND STATE POLICE Retirement Systems by removing therefrom the age requirement for an accidental disability benefit.

May 4, 1967.

Honorable Marvin Mandel  
Speaker of the House of Delegates  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Section 17 of Article II of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed today House Bill 22 and am returning it to you.

The State Retirement Systems now provide accidental disability retirement benefits for an employee disabled during job-related activities if he is under 60 years of age. If the employee is 60 years old or older, he is not entitled to the benefits, but may retire under standard retirement provisions. This bill would remove the age limitation on accidental disability retirement.

Almost certainly, the original reasoning behind the age limitation in the present law involved the view that elderly persons are generally more accident-prone and subject to total disability. I do not subscribe to that view and furthermore I am in complete agreement with the principle of the bill that accidental disability retirement should not be conditioned on an arbitrary age limitation.

My concern is broader than the subject of this bill. I have serious reservations about the extent of the present provisions for