

in the Code. In effect, House Bill 425 eliminates a provision of the law prohibiting the possession or drinking of intoxicating beverages by spectators at any place where elementary school, junior high school or high school athletic contests are taking place.

While I agree with the purpose of the bill, I believe that the repeal of Section 123(b) of Article 27 does not further this purpose. In addition, I am concerned about the repeal of the crime provided for in Section 123(b) from a law enforcement and educational point of view. Repealing Section 123(b) takes away an important law enforcement tool in keeping order at scholastic athletic events.

The State Superintendent of Schools has sent me a letter requesting that this bill be vetoed, and his letter delineates other problems which House Bill 425 will create. A copy of the Superintendent's letter is attached herewith and is to be considered a part of this message.

For the above reasons, I have concluded that House Bill 425 should be vetoed.

Sincerely,

/s/ MARVIN MANDEL,
Governor.

Letter from State Department of Education on House Bill No. 425

May 25, 1971.

The Honorable Marvin Mandel
Governor of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Governor Mandel:

It has been called to my attention that House Bill 425, which was passed during the recent session of the General Assembly, would eliminate a provision of the law which prohibits the possession or drinking of intoxicating beverages by spectators at athletic contests taking place at elementary, junior high, or senior high schools. I am concerned about the results if this provision of the law is eliminated; therefore, I am requesting that you veto House Bill 425.

Currently, there is a bylaw which was passed by the State Board of Education prohibiting students from using intoxicants on school premises. However, adult spectators are not covered under this bylaw.

If it is desirable to repeal Section 123(a) and (e) of Article 27, I would suggest that legislation be introduced during the next session to repeal just those sections.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES A. SENSENBAUGH,
State Superintendent of Schools.

House Bill No. 580—Calvert County Motor Vehicle Laws

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 11-101 of Article 66½ of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replace-