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VETOES

May 31, 1972.

Honorable William S. James  
President of the Senate  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17, of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 418.

This bill permits officers or agents of corporations to appear or sue in certain matters without legal counsel in the District Courts of five counties of the State.

In my opinion, any law permitting the practice of law by a non-lawyer in the courts of this State should be statewide in application. The ramifications of such legislation are serious and should be studied in depth to consider the effects on the Court system.

In addition, the Committee on Laws of the Maryland State Bar Association has requested that I veto Senate Bill 418 for some of the above-mentioned reasons as well as for others as set forth in their letter, which is attached herewith.

In light of the foregoing, I have decided to veto Senate Bill 418.

Sincerely,

/s/ MARVIN MANDEL,  
Governor.

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Letter from Maryland State Bar Association, Inc.,  
on S. B. 418 Committee on Laws

May 23, 1972.

The Honorable Marvin Mandel  
Governor of Maryland  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Re: *Senate Bill 418*

Dear Governor Mandel:

The Committee on Laws of the Maryland State Bar Association respectfully urges the veto of Senate Bill 418 which would permit officers or agents of corporations to appear or sue in the District Courts in civil matters involving an amount not exceeding \$500.00. The measure would apply only in five counties of the Eastern Shore.

While the Bar Association recognizes some merit in allowing officers and agents of corporations to appear without counsel, we oppose the Bill for the following reasons:

1. Representation by a layman would add to actions involving corporations, the delays to judges and opposing lawyers now encountered when individuals appear in proper person. Valuable time is lost while the judge instructs and guides the laymen through the proceed-