

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 855.

As you know, this bill relates exclusively to employees of the Legislative Branch. In your capacities as presiding officers and administrative heads of your respective Houses, you and the President of the Senate have reflected further upon the relative wisdom of this measure and have concluded that it contains ambiguities which warrant its veto.

Accordingly, in deference to the Legislative Branch, and for the reason set forth in your letter of May 22, 1979, a copy of which is attached to this veto message and made a part hereof, I have decided to veto House Bill 855.

Sincerely,  
Harry Hughes  
Governor

Letter from the General Assembly  
on House Bill 855

May 22, 1979

The Honorable Harry R. Hughes  
Governor of Maryland  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor Hughes:

It has been brought to our attention that the intent of the language in House Bill 855, concerning Legislative Employees, contains certain ambiguities.

The provisions with regard to employee rights and benefits are not clear. The rights and benefits of full-time legislative employees are to be the same as for employees of the Department of Legislative Reference and the Department of Fiscal Services. However, within each department there are two groups of employees—the supportive staff which, by law, are in the classified service of the State and the professional employees who are unclassified.

Another issue is parity to be maintained with the two staff agencies. It places our staff directors in the awkward position of inadvertently determining personnel policies for legislative employees, which should be determined solely by the presiding officers.