

Bill to limit utility rate bases gains

A bill that would prohibit Maryland's utilities from including lobbying expenses within their rate bases was given final approval Wednesday by the House of Delegates.

In a 30-minute session, the House also repealed the state Fair Trade Act, due to expire in March anyway because of federal action, and sent to the Senate a measure requiring door-to-door salesmen to reveal the purpose of a house call immediately.

The delegates repealed a section of the state tax code which had made the decision by husband and wife on what type of tax return to file irrevocable for that year.

The utility lobbying measure was approved by the House Economic Matters Committee last week after a hearing during which two lobbyists disclosed different company guidelines for handling their expenses.

Mandel indictment raised in Senate

The Maryland General Assembly was well into its 15th day before the subject of Gov. Marvin Mandel's federal indictment was raised for the first time on the Senate floor.

Sen. Julian L. Lapidés, DBalt., one of Mandel's most persistent legislative critics, brought up the subject Wednesday during voting on whether to confirm the chief executive's appointment of four District Court judges.

Lapidés did not challenge the appointees themselves, but he said he thought confirmation could place the courts under a cloud because the men were named to their judgeships while Mandel was under indictment.

Michael Silver, a Mandel aide, said after the Senate adjourned for the day that three of the four appointees—David Bates of Baltimore County, William B. Yates of Dorchester County and Robert H. Mason of Prince Georges County—were made before the governor was indicted in November for alleged violations of federal mail fraud and racketeering statutes.

The fourth judge, Joseph A. Citola of Baltimore, was named after the indictment, Silver said.

"I don't believe a person under criminal indictment should be naming members of the judiciary of this state," Lapidés said as he raised his objections during the Senate session.

His remarks prompted a defense of Mandel from Roy N. Staten, D-Balt. Co., the majority floor leader.

"The governor's indictment has nothing to do with his ability to appoint judges," Staten said. "Thank God a person is innocent until proven guilty. I resent my good friend from Baltimore City suggesting the governor couldn't make an appointment while under indictment."

Lapidés got no support from his Senate colleagues.

Discrimination Human Relations chief

By TOM STUCKEY

The chairman of the Maryland Human Relations Commission said Wednesday a Legislative Council bill now before the General Assembly would make it virtually impossible for his agency to help victims of discrimination.

Jacob J. Edelman, the chairman, said the commission

has agreed unanimously to oppose the bill and to try to have it defeated.

He said it is the feeling of the commission that the bill is so bad and so unworkable that it can not even be amended into acceptable form.

At the time the proposal was explained to the Legislative

No opposition is to governor salary

Despite recent controversy on the matter, a House committee heard no opposition Wednesday to a bill described as one which would make a gubernatorial salary hike more palatable to the public.

Del. Charles A. Docter, D-

Montgomery, told the House Constitutional and Administrative Law Committee that it is crucial the governor of Maryland receive an adequate salary.

"We all know about the flap on this in 1974," Docter said. "One argument I heard then was that such a salary hike would be more palatable if it was being recommended by a panel of outsiders.

"This bill would have to be submitted to a referendum vote, but it would be more saleable if the people knew they were setting up a commission that would examine the problem of the governor's and lieutenant governor's salary," he continued. "And it would allow the assembly to lower the recommended increase of the salary hike should it so decide."

The governor is currently

Mechanic's lien change proposed

Last year when Frederick Phelan retired from the military, he decided to remain in Maryland, purchase a house in the Washington suburbs and settle down.

Now, he wishes he hadn't. After buying the home in

prevent future incidents of unsuspecting homebuyers being left to pay the debts of contractors.

Existing law permits subcontractors and building material suppliers to file mechanics liens against citizens after they have pur-

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