

"Correctional authorities feel that the chances of rehabilitation are better when the prisoner is kept in or near his home environment. The regional detention center would allow the highly effective work-release program to be used more widely."

The impetus for the legislation came last summer during one of the Governor's personal visits to Maryland counties. The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland requested that he investigate the possibility of a regional prison there, implementing a concept that had been discussed before but never acted on. Since then several other counties have expressed interest in the proposal.

While the bill makes no requirement for such facilities, the Governor said he felt sure it would provide the incentive for more and more counties to undertake such ventures on an economical basis.

"At the present time, local governments cannot afford the modern facilities or specially trained correctional personnel required to offer necessary rehabilitation services, and prisoners languish in local jail houses with little benefit to themselves or to society," the Governor said.

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## COMMENTS TO THE PRESS ON PINBALL MACHINES

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**Question.** Governor, would you please explain your position on pinball machines?

**Answer:** I want to see them eliminated. This includes pinball machines in private clubs, fraternal and religious organizations and everywhere. The existing ban on slots calls for the elimination of slot machines everywhere, with no exceptions as to religious or fraternal or private organizations. Pinball machines are just like slots — they can be adapted to gambling with the same facility. It would be inconsistent to make slots illegal in private clubs and pinballs legal.

**Q.** What is your position on the Gambling Committee study?

**A.** I think it has a lot of merit but I want to be very careful in proposing the legislation, so I have informed Mr. Miles that I would like to see the legislation referred to the Legislative Council for study. I'd like to avoid the McCarthy type of witch hunt tactic that may result from a super-investigative State agency.