

River in a depth greater than six feet. The bill specifies no minimum depth of water and would, therefore, permit their feeding in shallow waters. Careful tests in Maryland and widespread experience in the industry in Virginia clearly establish the fact that crab pots in shallow waters are quite destructive of not only small crabs but of diamond back terrapin and to some extent fish. This is an important reason for limiting their use to Bay waters. Furthermore, the Commission is of the opinion that if crab pots were legalized in Tangier Sound, it would inevitably lead to pressure for their use in adjacent areas and elsewhere throughout the State. Should their general use be authorized, the Commission does not believe that the crab population could be maintained in the face of the greatly increased catch, which would inevitably follow.

The Commission will undertake to hold public hearing on the question of whether, under its regulatory power, it should act to authorize the use of crab pots in all or a portion of Tangier Sound and Pocomoke Sound. In the light of representations made by the various interest which would be represented at such a hearing, the Commission could determine the advisability of a change in its present position on this question.

For the above reasons, the bill will be vetoed.

## CUMBERLAND

### HOUSE BILL 459

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 244 of Article 56 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Licenses", sub-title "Gasoline Tax", providing for refunds of gasoline tax to be paid to the City of Cumberland.

Under the present law taxes paid on gasoline that is purchased for a motor vehicle used solely within the limits of Baltimore City or of any other incorporated city or town in connection with a business operation, are required to be refunded at a certain rate. This bill proposes to repeal such refund provisions with respect to the City of Cumberland. As the entire Section 244 of Article 56 of the Code, which deals with the above refund is repealed by Senate Bill No. 359 which is one of the new State roads laws, the passage of this bill is unnecessary.

The bill will therefore be vetoed.