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ACTS OF ASSEMBLY

There were several bills introduced in the General Assembly of 1947 in which the Hall of Records was interested. One of them (H.B. 488) would have permitted the destruction of certain original records after they had been microfilmed. It was specified in the bill that the type of record to be treated in this fashion would be limited to those approved by the Hall of Records Commission, and, as an additional safeguard, it was provided that the kind of film and the method of film storage should be subject to the approval of the Commission. This bill, which was modeled after one now enacted into law in Delaware and some other states, failed of passage. It is hoped that better success will be had at the next session.

Of the large number of bills introduced providing for the recording by photographic process of various types of records by clerks of court, one passed (Chapter 767), and at this writing two photostatic cameras are being installed in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court in Baltimore, and similar machines have been ordered by the clerks of court of Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties. The advantages of recording by photographic process over transcribing by typewriter or by hand are obvious. It is faster, and it is cheaper. It does not, however, reduce the bulk of the records in any way, and that remains the most critical problem in record custody in our Maryland courthouses.

A bill whose purpose was to permit the substitution of a photostatic or microfilm copy of the deed or recording of the