

One of the oddities of the 1953 Session of the General Assembly was House Bill No. 354. The story begins with Chapter 542 of the Acts of 1949, which provided for a penalty to be paid by anyone presenting for recordation any instrument which was not in good order. It also made certain special provisions for the form of instruments presented for recordation in offices where recording was done by photostat camera. The provisions of this Act were inadvertently omitted from the Annotated Code of 1951; therefore, the preamble to the Act of 1953 said, among other things, that "It is desirable to re-enact these provisions without change in order to remove any doubts as to their effectiveness." In the meanwhile, many counties had introduced microfilming as a method of recording, and we therefore urged the sponsor of the bill to amend it in order to include microfilming. This was done and there was every expectation that the amended bill would pass, but unfortunately, it did not. Since microfilming and photostating are now almost the only means of recording found in Maryland courthouses, they will surely have to be dealt with within the near future. It is our hope that House Bill No. 354 can be revived at the next session.