

City and are, therefore, peculiarly qualified to consider the nature and extent of proposed legislation affecting divorce laws.

After a most thorough and painstaking consideration of all the bills, this committee has filed its report with me, suggesting that the first bill be signed and the other two bills be vetoed. Acting in accordance with their suggestion, I have signed the first bill which will eliminate one cause for divorce under which system women were not afforded equal rights with men.

Chapter 232 (House Bill 86). The reasons advanced by the committee for their suggestion that I veto this bill providing, in the title, "that divorce may be granted after abandonment has continued uninterruptedly for *one year*" is that in the body of the bill it is provided that the period shall be "eighteen months". The Masters of Chancery stressed the fact that our Court of Appeals has emphasized that one essential requisite of legislation is a good title. But they further point out that if this Act is approved, it will become effective next week and that undoubtedly many divorce cases will be instituted which could not have been entertained under the present existing law and that in different circuits of the State conflicting opinions may be rendered as to the validity of the new enactment. The Masters further advise me that it would ordinarily be impossible to procure a final adjudication on the validity of the new bill for a number of months and that, meanwhile, persons who would be divorced under the new statute would be left in doubt as to their true legal status.

It is evident, therefore, that with the possibility of remarriage of persons who might be divorced under the new law, that the rights of children as well as property might be adversely affected and I cannot emphasize too strongly the possible difficulties that would arise because of the substantial variance in the terms of the bill.

In view of the convincing argument contained in the report of the Bar Association committee, I intend to veto this measure.

Chapter 626 (House Bill 618). Regarding the third of the bills which provides that a husband or a wife can obtain a divorce from a spouse who has become permanently and incurably insane, it can be understood that cogent reasons can be advanced on either side of the argument. I personally attended the session of the Senate when this bill was debated very intelligently and thoroughly before its enactment.

The Masters of Chancery advise me that the portions of the bill which deal with jurisdictional and procedure matters are outlined in considerable detail and appear to be valid and