

Chapter 358 (Senate Bill 379) which is a local measure applicable to Allegany County, undertakes to change the State-wide law relating to the appointment of School Trustees.

By its provisions, it requires and directs the County Board of Education for Allegany County to appoint only residents of each school district to serve on the District Board of Trustees and provides a penalty of \$50.00 against members of the Board who participate in the appointment of a person as School Trustee not a resident of the District or who fails to appoint said School Trustee for any district.

The State Law Department has filed a special communication on this Bill in which the attempted departure from uniformity in school legislation is pointed out. The novel provisions in the Bill, particularly those in providing for penalties through fines, should not be inserted in the State-wide law by making them applicable to only one county or a portion of the State. In order to preserve uniformity in school administration and to guard against any undue limitation upon the powers and rights of the school authorities, I feel compelled to veto this measure.

SUSQUEHANA RIVER BRIDGE.

Chapter 590 (Senate Bill 496); Chapter 896 (House Bill 823). The State Law Department has ruled, in an opinion to me, that these Bills would be in violation of the indenture under which the bonds for the Susquehanna River Bridge were issued.

The official ruling is to the effect that these recently enacted Bills are invalid.

In view of this official opinion, I have no alternative but to veto the Bills.

TAX EXEMPTION.

Chapter 421 (House Bill 149). The Attorney General in his official opinion pointed out that there is a conflict between Chapter 421 and Chapter 907 (House Bill 712) which latter enactment is the new general law covering electrical cooperatives.

In the official opinion rendered to me, the State Law Department explains that the general law "exempts such companies from all excise or income taxes (except an annual fee of \$10) * * *"

The legal opinion points out, also, the possible invalidity of Chapter 421 as a special Act. Under the generally accepted rule, a special act cannot be passed relating to the subject matter covered by a general act.