The Attorney-General, to whom all Bills are submitted for official ruling as to their constitutionality and validity, has given me the following opinion on this Bill:

"This Bill undertakes to provide that no licenses shall be issued by the Clerk of the Court in Anne Arundel County unless certain taxes have been paid. I believe the Bill is probably all right, but you will note that the new matter referring to Anne Arundel County follows the following language in the present law: 'All licenses granted or issued by said Clerks shall expire the first day of May next thereafter, except licenses for fisheries and horse racing'. The Bill then provides that 'no such license shall be issued by the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel County * * * '. It might be contended that the provision regarding Anne Arundel County only applies to licenses for fisheries and horse racing. Such a construction would destroy the purpose of the Bill and I believe the matter should be called to the attention of the Anne Arundel County Delegation and in my opinion it would be better to have the Bill re-enacted in proper form."

MERIT SYSTEM.

February 17, 1943.

The President of the Senate,
Maryland State Legislature,
State House,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Sir:

I am returning, without approval, Chapter No. 15 (Senate Bill 24), entitled:

"An Act to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 22 of Article 64A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title 'Merit System', as said section was amended by Chapter 866 of the Acts of 1941, relating to vacation and sick leave."

I favor the purpose of this Bill but, after consultation with the heads of State Departments, believe that it might be amended so that consideration might be given to an alternative provision which will permit departments, with available funds, to pay their employees for working periods which are taken from their unused vacations or weekly leaves.

The Department of Correction feels that the present Bill if signed, while meritorious itself, will aggravate the present