

Section 6 is included in the Acts of 1935—Chapter 303, creating the State Police and had the effect of assuring Merit System rights to the employees who were at that time transferred.

While there was no apparent intention to vitiate the arrangement by which the status of these employees was preserved, nevertheless, the repeal of the Act would raise the question as to whether these individuals are now included in the Merit System or enjoy the benefits to which their State service entitles them.

The Attorney-General has given me a formal opinion to the effect that the Bill should be vetoed and for the reasons above outlined, I am following this course.

TREES.

March 29, 1943.

The Speaker of the House,
Maryland House of Delegates,
State House,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Sir:

I am returning herewith, without executive approval, House Bill No. 409 (Chapter 223), entitled:

“An Act to add a new section to Article 21 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland (1939 Edition), title ‘Talbot County’, sub-title ‘Easton’, said new section to be known as Section 162A, and to follow immediately after Section 162 of said Article, to authorize the Mayor and Council of Easton to provide for permits for the trimming of trees in said town.”

The Commission of State Forests and Parks seriously objects to the approval of this measure, declaring that it will jeopardize the State-wide program for conservation of trees. In other words, this Bill, if signed, would deprive the State Forester of authority over the handling of trees in the city of Easton and would be considered an unfortunate precedent.

Under present circumstances, the Department of State Forestry is ready and able to be of every possible assistance toward the proper handling of roadside trees, in this locality. In fact, the facilities of the Department and the plans already made enable the City officials to acquire trees at nominal costs and then expert advice and assistance for their preservation.

While the officials of Easton desire to have authority over the trimming of trees in the City, it is believed that this result can be accomplished without the necessity of a change of