

This enactment would allow Justices of the Peace to try and determine manslaughter cases where deaths occur through the operation of vehicles. It would, also, reduce the grade of the offense from felony to misdemeanor.

The Justices of the Peace do not preside over courts of record. In a number of the counties the State's Attorney does not appear to prosecute cases and it might very well happen that, if this bill were enacted into law, cases in which human lives would be taken would be handled without counsel appearing for one or both sides.

It would seem that this is a drastic change from the present practice and I am advised that numerous officials including judges and State's Attorneys were not apprised of this proposed innovation.

Believing that this matter should be considered fully and that all interested parties should be invited to submit their views before such change is effected, I am vetoing the measure.

PAROLE.

HOUSE BILL 539.

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 74, 75, 76, 78, 82, 83, 84, 85 and 86 of Article 41 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Governor—Executive and Administrative Departments", sub-title "Division of Parole and Probation", relating to the powers, duties and employees of the Department of Parole and Probation, defining Pardons, Commutations of Sentence, Parole and Probation, and abolishing the Board of Parole and Probation and establishing a new Board of Parole and Probation.

This legislative enactment proposes a three-man parole board with absolute authority over releases from penal institutions. The proposed law would have permitted the Governor to appoint two full time members at a combined salary of \$14,500 to pass finally upon all parole cases, the third member of the board being the Chairman of the Board of Correction.

There are several reasons for the vetoing of the bill. The present Parole Director, F. Murray Benson, informed me that he could not accept appointment under the terms of the new law which would require the two members of the Board to give their full time to parole work. Numerous inquiries were made as to the availability of outstanding men with experience in matters affecting criminal justice. However, the efforts did