

Commission of Tidewater Fisheries. In a measure, its operation would be impractical if the latter reorganization is not carried out, and in addition to this it is opposed by the other commissions dealing with natural resources on the ground that it would impair the independence and initiative of the departments over which a Director of the Board of Natural Resources would have directory, supervisory and coordinative power.

Under the circumstances, and because I believe to do so will in the long run prove beneficial in the ultimate solution of the problem of rehabilitating the oyster industry in Maryland, I have vetoed Senate Bill No. 429 and the companion measure, Senate Bill No. 430.

NON-RESIDENTS

HOUSE BILL No. 194

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 149 of Article 16 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Chancery", sub-title "Non-residents", providing that non-resident service acknowledgments may be made before officers other than notaries public.

Under existing law, an order of publication against a non-resident, or a person who may be proceeded against as a non-resident, instead of being published, may be served upon the defendant. If such service is made other than by a Sheriff, the affidavit or affirmation of the person serving such order of publication shall be made and signed before a Notary Public and so verified.

House Bill No. 194 provides that the person, other than a Sheriff, making such service shall make oath or affirmation before a Notary Public "or any other officer who has authority to take acknowledgments under the law of the jurisdiction where the notice is served". Thus, the person making the certification that the order of publication was served by another may be an officer without a seal, and, in that event, it may be difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain if the person making the certification is authorized under the law of a foreign State to do so. He may have no authority at all to make the certification. As there is no requirement in House Bill No. 194 that evidence of official character be given, opportunity for making fraudulent returns would exist.

As the office of Notary Public is quite widely used throughout the United States, and the acts of those officers are generally attested by their seals, which are prima facie evidence of official character, there seems to be little reason for depart-