

not exceeding One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars in any fiscal year, the proceeds of the said bond issues and of all of them to be used for the purpose of acquiring those tracts or parcels of land or parts thereof included in said reservations, which, because of imminent development, building construction, encroachment, or other use, are in critical jeopardy of being lost for right-of-way purposes, and to provide for the repayment of said bonds and the interest thereon by a general tax levy against all of the property assessed for State and County taxes in Prince George's County; to provide for the allocation and the manner of expenditure of the proceeds of said bonds; to provide for temporary use of funds from general tax levy for emergency purchases of land; to provide reimbursement to the County Commissioners from Federal, State, and/or other funds which may, from time to time, become available for highway development, acquisition, or construction purposes; to provide, in certain cases and under certain conditions, for relief to owners of land reserved for highway purposes by means of tax abatement or exemption, purchase of rights in land and/or highway development rights, option, and acquisition, through donation, dedication, gift, grant, devise, purchase, or condemnation, and to permit the County Commissioners to exercise and grant such relief in appropriate cases; and to provide for a time limitation and extension thereof, subject to certain conditions, on reservations of land for highway purposes.

This Bill has been opposed by the State Roads Commission and my own examination of it discloses several provisions, the wisdom of which may well be doubted. For instance, if the State Roads Commission takes any property formerly acquired under the provisions of this Bill, if approved, the State would be compelled to pay the County Commissioners the full amount of the purchase price thereof, together with interest, irrespective of its then value. Furthermore, under its provisions, the County Commissioners may take an option on property which it desires to purchase at a future date and during the existence of the option the property is exempt from State and County taxes. I believe the objections to the Bill are sound and, therefore, I have vetoed it.

PROCESS

SENATE BILL No. 54

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 157 of Article 75 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1947