

the extent that a non-resident has paid a lesser tax or no tax at all he would enjoy an advantage upon titling the car in this State which is not accorded to residents of Maryland.

I am, therefore, returning the Bill without my approval.

Respectfully,

THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,

Governor

May 7, 1951

Hon. George W. Della
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. President:

Senate Bill No. 71 provides for the issuance of special automobile tags to operators of vehicles equipped with a mobile radio unit. The tag would carry the call letters and numerals of the applicant instead of the usual numerals for other cars. This special privilege is requested because of the possible need for identification of available mobile radio units in the event of emergency or disaster. While the avowed purpose of this legislation and the desire of its supporters to be available for public service is praiseworthy, I feel that the legislation is unwise and unnecessary. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles advises that a special tag can be issued to the operators of these mobile units, which will adequately identify them.

As a general proposition both the Commissioner and myself disapprove of the practice of issuing special license numbers. The flood of requests for special combinations of numbers or numbers ending in zeroes, etc., are a source of endless confusion in the routine of the Commissioner's office, and occasions the State considerable additional expense. Such special privileges should not be granted in connection with the issuance of license tags, and the implication conveyed to some that special license numbers confer any special privileges or immunities should be removed.

It is against this background of general policy for the future and the fact that in this case a desirable end can be attained without the legislation, that I return the Bill herewith without my approval.

Respectfully,

THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,

Governor