

YOUTH COMMISSION

May 7, 1951

Hon. John C. Luber
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have today disapproved House Bill No. 349 which was designed to create a "Maryland Commission for Youth" for the following reasons:

I believe the creation of a new State agency would be ill-advised, particularly at this time when a study of the State government and its departments, bureaus and agencies is being launched by the Sobeloff Commission.

I believe the proposed new agency would invade the realms of responsibility and duplicate much of the work of the State's subdivisions, the public schools, the churches, departments of recreation where they exist, the departments of public welfare, various private and semi-public organizations and other agencies that now are functioning.

While the Bill would provide that the total appropriation for the commission would not exceed \$10,000 per year, there is no assurance that, once the agency was established, this sum would not be increased with each new budget. There is the danger that it eventually would become another major department.

There is nothing to prevent the various organizations and agencies interested in the problems of youth from getting together under existing authority for the exchange of ideas, the study of facilities and the needs of youth in general and to plan for cooperative action if such action is indicated.

I believe that a State agency for the purpose would succeed only in creating confusion or adding to existing confusion.

I can envision nothing that such an agency could accomplish which cannot now be accomplished by existing agencies.

Respectfully,

THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,
Governor