

to the old method of appointment by the County Commissioners in 1959, after the lapse of four years. This temporary change in the method of appointment of clerical assistants is certainly no argument for its desirability, and I have found no valid reason to overturn the existing system for a limited period of time.

The County Commissioners of Allegany County who are charged with the responsibility of raising local tax revenues are opposed to this bill. They maintain the position that they are providing adequate clerical assistants. While under this bill, the Trial Magistrates, who are my appointees, would have the power of appointing the additional clerks and have submitted data to support the need therefor, I am constrained to the belief that this is entirely a local matter. It can adequately be determined and satisfied under existing legislation and should not be made the basis of temporary legislation such as this. Accordingly, I have vetoed Senate Bill 528.

Respectfully,

(s) THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,

Governor

TRMcK:mg

Senate Bill No. 533—Retirement System

AN ACT to add Section 3A to Article 73B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition), title "Pensions", said new section to follow immediately after Section 3 thereof, relating to the membership in the State Employees' Retirement System of certain elected or appointed officials.

May 9, 1955

Honorable Louis L. Goldstein
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. President:

Senate Bill 533 would permit an elected or appointed official to continue membership in the State Retirement System *after* conclusion of his service, upon making all the payments which would have been made by him and also by the State, had he remained in the service.

The Board of Trustees of the Employees Retirement System has disapproved this bill as discriminatory and unfair to other employees of the System. It would permit one select group (elected and appointed officials) to continue as members of the System while denying this right to all other former State employees. The Retirement System Trustees inform me that an inequity would be created because this favored group would receive greater benefits at less cost. In addition, the actuary of the System advises that serious administrative problems would be involved.

Proponents of this measure have advanced strong arguments in rebuttal of the position taken by the Trustees, contending with much logic that there is a sound basis for differentiating between elected and appointed officials as compared with State employees who enjoy continuing tenure of office. While there is some doubt in my mind,