

May 9, 1955.

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

Dear Mr. President:

I have vetoed Senate Bill 575 which would defer for another year the increase in motor vehicle registration fees contemplated as a part of the twelve year road building program. On April 2, 1954, I vetoed Senate Bill 78 of the 1954 Session, which had a similar purpose. Subsequently, at this 1955 Session of the Legislature, I approved a one year deferment of the increased registration fees because it appeared financially feasible. I made it clear then and repeat now, that any such deferment must be based on clear financial data showing that there will be no obstruction of the road program. It is impossible to forecast what the financial picture will be when the 1956 Session convenes, by which time a more accurate determination can be made. Nor is such speculation necessary, since ample time will then remain for consideration of the advisability of any further deferment.

It should be noted that the 1955 Session of the Legislature authorized increasing from two million to three million dollars the amount which could be transferred from construction funds to maintenance funds in a given year. This helps to assure more adequate maintenance, but may create a deficiency of construction money already programmed. Furthermore, the needs of the traveling public have necessitated continuing changes in contemplated construction of highways at increased cost to meet public demand and to insure long term efficiency. Likewise, the amount of federal aid to be available is an unknown and indefinite quantity at this time. In addition, the credit rating accorded bond issues is inextricably interwoven with the soundness of the supporting revenue picture.

These various complex factors cannot be ignored and a determination of whether further tax relief is feasible must be left for the next session of the Legislature. I shall continue to adhere to the principle that the rate of any tax should not be greater than necessary to satisfy the purposes requiring its imposition, but shall insist upon having the best available information in reaching a conclusion.

Respectfully,

(s) THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,

Governor

TRMcK:mg

Senate Bill No. 583—Allegany County Tax Collector

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 116 of Article 1 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland (1930 Edition), title "Allegany County", sub-title "County Tax Collectors", and to repeal Sections 117 through 124A, inclusive, of said Article and sub-title, some or all of which sections were amended or added by Chapter 614 of the Acts of 1947, Chapters 59 and 176 of the Acts of 1931, Chapter 449 of the Acts of 1951, Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1953, Chapter 199 of the Acts of 1945,