

Under the circumstances above set forth, while I am sympathetic with the purpose of this legislation to afford speedy bail, I am constrained to withhold my approval.

Respectfully,

(s) THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,

Governor

TRMcK:mg

House Bill No. 101—Packaging Soap and Soap Products

AN ACT to repeal ~~and re-enact, with amendments,~~ Section 27 (a) of Article 97 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition), title "Weights and Measures", ~~establishing certain requirements for~~ RELATING TO PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO the packaging of soap in bar and cake form.

April 28, 1955

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I return herewith House Bill No. 101 which I have today disapproved. The bill repeals a section of the Weights and Measures Law contained in Article 97 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition) which exempts the packaging of soap, *soap products and detergents* from operation of the law. The title of the bill would appear to be misleading by its reference solely to the packaging of soap "in bar and cake form" and the omission of any reference to soap products and detergents.

Aside from possible deficiencies in the title of the bill, its legislative history apparently fails to reflect full awareness of the facts. I am informed that, as originally introduced, the bill represented an agreed compromise between representatives of the soap industry and the Weights and Measures Association in order to initiate workable regulation in the field. As ultimately amended and passed, the bill disregarded the compromise and totally repealed existing exemptions. No opportunity was given the interests affected to be heard in connection with the matter, and it is represented to me that enactment of this bill would have serious consequences for the general public. Soap when manufactured has a high water content which is subject to varying degrees of evaporation, depending upon the climate, season of the year, method of handling, method of storage and other factors, which make it very expensive and virtually impossible to regulate sale by weight. At the very least, it appears that the cost of attempting to comply with the requirements of this law would greatly increase the cost of soap products to the ultimate consumer without any equivalent benefit. Since both the enforcing agencies and the affected industry are in agreement as to the effect of this repealer and both are likewise in agreement as to the desirability of enactment of workable regula-