

May 9, 1955

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

Dear Mr. Speaker :

House Bill 232 is identical with a bill passed at the 1951 Session of the General Assembly, and vetoed by me. This measure would add to the authorization for a manufacturer's exemption of tools and machinery, the further proviso that in Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis, laundry machinery shall be classed as used in the business of manufacturing. Nothing has occurred in the last four years to change the objections which I had to this bill in 1951. The existing provisions of this section of the tax laws are state-wide in application and should not be encumbered with a provision for one local subdivision. Moreover, it is unnecessary to have this legislation to accomplish the avowed purpose of the bill, since local authorities under existing law can add items to the manufacturer's exemption, if deemed desirable.

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

Respectfully yours,

(s) THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,

Governor

TRMcK:mg

House Bill No. 253—Witnesses Attesting Wills

AN ACT to add a new section to Article 93 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition), title "Testamentary Law", sub-title "Wills", said new section to be known as Section 384A and to follow immediately after Section 384 thereof, authorizing proof of wills out of court by attesting witnesses by means of affidavits.

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Dear Mr. Speaker :

House Bill 253 would make a drastic innovation in the law of Wills in this State. It would permit attesting witnesses to wills, at the request of the testator, or, after his death, at the request of his executor or any person interested under it, to make and sign an affidavit stating such facts as would be required in Orphans' Court testimony to prove such will. The affidavit is required to be written on the will or on some paper attached thereto, and is to stand in lieu of the sworn statement of such witness as if it had been taken before the Court.

I have consulted with the Chief Judge of the Orphans' Court of Baltimore City and others concerning the desirability of this provision. It seems to be the unanimous opinion of those specializing in this field that the bill is an unwise departure from established procedure.