

House Bill No. 464—Prince George's County, Unincorporated Areas

AN ACT to add Section 464 (e-1) to the Code of Public Local Laws of Prince George's County (1953 Edition, being Article 17 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland), title "Prince George's County", sub-title "County Commissioners", said new section to follow immediately after Section 464 (e) thereof, authorizing and empowering the Board of County Commissioners of Prince George's County to establish boundaries of unincorporated areas in Prince George's County for the performance of certain municipal and governmental services, AUTHORIZING PROVISION FOR CERTAIN GOVERNMENTAL FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING REFERENDUM ELECTIONS, authorizing the imposition of a special tax for such services and relating generally to such services and to the taxes imposed therefor.

May 16, 1955

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As originally introduced House Bill 464 authorized the County Commissioners of Prince George's County to prescribe boundaries of unincorporated areas within the county in which it would perform certain municipal and governmental services, such as garbage and trash collection, street lighting and cleaning. By amendment, authority was given the Commissioners to provide for construction, maintenance and operation of public library facilities. The Board of Library Trustees of Prince George's County has advised me that it feels this amendment will complicate orderly development of the County Library system in this fast growing county.

Under the provisions of Article 77 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition), and particularly Section 182 thereof, the Board of Library Trustees in each County of the State are generally charged with the overall development of a library system and particularly with the control of library operations.

In effect, this bill would provide for divided control of authority in Prince George's County alone, contrary to the state-wide system now prevailing. The Library Trustees are particularly concerned with such division of authority in view of unsatisfactory experiences with somewhat similar expansionary ventures made with the promise of continuing community cooperation and aid which have not materialized. The entire needs of the County and all of the purposes of this bill with reference to public libraries can, I believe, be satisfied within the framework of the existing law by continuance of cooperation between the County Commissioners and the Library Board. In view of this fact and the recommendation of this unpaid Board, which is serving the public, that the enactment of House Bill 464, with the library amendment, would be detrimental to the continued development of the County library system in a manner best to serve the