

Montgomery County within the regional district for highways, school sites and other public uses. This would expand the functions of the Park and Planning Commission into new fields adequately covered by existing agencies. By amendment to the bill it was provided that school sites were not to be acquired without prior approval of the Montgomery County Board of Education. Thus, in the field of school sites there would be an unnecessary duplication of function and, despite the amendment, possible conflict between the two agencies. Insofar as highways and other public uses now covered by other County agencies, such as the Department of Public Works, are concerned, there could conceivably be a clear conflict of authority without even the limitation of prior approval. A number of representative civic organizations, including the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, have expressed very firm opposition to this proposed extension of operational functions of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

In the light of the foregoing, I am constrained to concur in these objections as validly taken.

Respectfully,

(s) THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,

Governor

TRMcK/tk

House Bill No. 829—Special Taxes, College Park

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 16(f) and Section 19(a) of the Charter of the Town of College Park, in Prince George's County, as enacted by Chapter 1051 of 1945, incorporating said Town, as amended by Chapter 68 of the Acts of 1947, Chapter 149 of the Acts of 1949, Chapter 405 of the Acts of 1951 and Chapter 267 of the Acts of 1953, the purpose of the amendments being to authorize and empower the Mayor and Common Council of College Park to levy and collect annually a special assessment against owners of multi-family structures located within the corporate limits of the Town for the collection and disposal of refuse and to reduce the period of time for reporting delinquent assessments for special improvements from one year to six months.

April 28, 1955

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

House Bill 829 authorizes a refuse collection tax on multi-family structures in the town of College Park, and reduces the grace period before legal steps for collection are initiated. This bill violates the new Article 11E of the Constitution (the Home Rule amendment) which prohibits any such legislation unless embodied in a general law applicable to all municipalities of the same class. Nor does it fall within the exception as to fixing a tax limit. This view is confirmed