

work 'in any week prior to the passage of this Act.' While the Bill was probably intended to provide that the compensation should not be reduced below the amount which the employee was receiving at the effective date of the legislation, it actually provides that the compensation for a 40 hour week may not be reduced below the compensation that the employee was receiving for a 44 hour week at any time prior to the passage of the Act. However, it actually has two very different results. Hourly employees will receive a salary increase since they must be paid the same compensation for a week of 40 hours' work as they received for a 44 hour work week. Secondly, an employee might argue that his compensation 10 years ago, or at any time prior to the effective date, was higher than it is now and that it cannot now be reduced below that amount. Conversely, an argument could be made that the minimum below which the salary may not be reduced is the lowest wage which the employee has ever received, which might be considerably lower than his present wage. This Section is obviously ambiguous.

"Under these circumstances, we feel obliged to advise you that there is substantial objection to the legal form and sufficiency of the Bill."

In view of the patent ambiguities of the Bill, and its failure to meet the Constitutional test of Section 29 of Article 3 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed House Bill 346.

Sincerely,

(s) THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,  
Governor.

TRMcK/tk

#### House Bill No. 384—Bingo in Charles County

AN ACT to add new Section 318A to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition) title "Crimes and Punishments", sub-title "Gaming", to follow immediately after Section 318 thereof, relating to and legalizing bingo in Charles County.

April 15, 1957.

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

House Bill 384 legalizes bingo in Charles County. The group of responsible citizens of Charles County who originally requested this legislation, intended that it should be limited, as in other counties of the State, to a restricted class of organizations with the proceeds solely for their accepted purposes.

Unfortunately, the bill contains no such limitations. It would permit anyone to conduct a game of bingo in Charles County and use the proceeds as he saw fit. This would lead to evils which occasioned