

**Senate Bill No. 417—Forest Conservancy Districts**

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 388 to ~~399~~, 400, inclusive, of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Forests and Parks," subheading "Forest Conservancy Districts," to change the subheading "Forest Conservancy Districts," to be "Forest Promotion and Conservancy Districts," to revise the laws relating to the use, promotion and preservation of forests and forest lands in the State, providing for the appointment of district forestry boards, and relating generally to the forest lands of the State.

May 6, 1963.

Honorable William S. James  
President of the Senate  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with the provisions of Article 2, Section 17, of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 417 and I am returning this Bill to you accompanied by my veto message.

Although Senate Bill 417 incorporates several minor changes in existing law, the major revision provides that appointments to the various Conservancy Districts be made by the Governor rather than by the Commission of Forests and Parks.

The members of the Commission have no objection to the Governor assuming this authority. However, there seems to be little reason for this revision inasmuch as a Governor would make such appointments upon the recommendation of the Commission. It seems more appropriate for the Commission to be responsible for the entire operation.

No individual has registered strong objections to any provisions of the Bill, but members of the Commission of Forests and Parks have indicated to me that further discussions regarding the essential provisions of the legislation creating Conservancy Districts should be undertaken prior to enactment of legislation in this area.

The members of the Commission have indicated that the present law exempts agricultural interests and that some individuals are circumventing the intention of this exemption and are making excessive cuttings on steep slopes causing erosion damage.

It is because of this latter fact that I agree with the Commission's suggestion that further studies be made of this problem and, therefore, I have vetoed Senate Bill 417.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(s) J. MILLARD TAWES,  
Governor.

JMT/Jd/Encl.