

This Bill changes the operation of the Department of Welfare in granting assistance to an applicant if he has children who, by the Department's income scale, are found to be able to support him.

At present, when an aged person applies for assistance, the Income Scale determines the ability of his children to support. If they are found able to support the parent entirely, the application is rejected. If the ability to support is partial, this amount is deducted from the parent's requirements according to the Department's standards, and the grant is for the difference. If there is failure by the child to pay the determined amount, the parent makes the decision whether or not he wishes to take his child into court to force him to pay.

The Bill would change this procedure. The Department would pay the full amount of the grant to the applicant, and would let him know that the determination of the ability of his children to support would be reported to the collection unit embodied in the State Department of Mental Hygiene; and that if the collection unit could not collect the exact amount reported to be within the ability of the child to pay, the collection unit would need to take the child into court for a decision regarding the child's contribution.

The Bill further relates the 24 local welfare departments to a collection unit under the supervision and control of another State agency (The State Department of Mental Hygiene). The State Department of Public Welfare believes that this divided responsibility would be very difficult for the public to understand, since the Department would be working with the applicant for assistance and the collection unit would be related to the children from whom they would be required to collect.

Although I can sympathize with those who support the Bill, I feel compelled to veto it for the reasons set forth above.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(s) J. MILLARD TAWES,
Governor.

JMT/ECM/g/Encl

House Bill No. 217—Motor Vehicle Axle Loads

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 315 (h) of Article 66 $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Motor Vehicles," subtitle "Operation of Vehicles Upon Highways," to permit suspension or reduction by trial magistrates of penalties for violations of maximum axle loads for motor vehicles, and relating generally to suspension or reduction of penalties for maximum weight violations for vehicles.