

given yard, but solely upon the *number*. Clearly, some junked vehicles have greater value than others; yet, House Bill No. 506 demands that the yard owner pay the same tax on every vehicle, regardless of value. This our Declaration of Rights forbids.

For the foregoing reasons, it is our opinion that House Bill No. 506 is *constitutionally defective*.

Very truly yours,

(s) Thomas B. Finan,  
Attorney General.

TBF/h

### House Bill No. 570—Minimum Prices for Alcoholic Beverages

AN ACT to add new Section 109 (c-1) to Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Alcoholic Beverages," subtitle "Restrictions Upon Licensees," to follow immediately after Section 109 (c) thereof, stating the legislative intent of the General Assembly in the enactment of this Act; providing for the filing, publication and maintenance of minimum prices in sale at retail of liquor and wine in containers for off-premises consumption; providing for additional fees for the administration and enforcement of this Act; providing a penalty for failing to comply with the provisions of this Act; and generally amending the laws concerning the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages in this State; and exempting certain counties from the provisions of this Act.

May 6, 1963.

Honorable Marvin Mandel  
Acting Speaker  
House of Delegates  
State House  
Annapolis, Md.

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with the provisions of Article 2, Section 17, of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed House Bill 570 and I am returning this Bill to you accompanied by my veto message.

House Bill 570 would permit the establishment of minimum retail prices for alcoholic beverages, except beer, in Maryland with the exception of nine counties. The minimum prices would be filed with the State Comptroller by the manufacturer or wholesaler with the responsibility for enforcement resting with the Comptroller.

It has been argued that House Bill 570 is in the public's interest in that it would have the effect of stabilizing prices within the industry and providing for an orderly distribution of alcoholic beverages.

It also has been argued that many small retail outlets in Maryland suffer a competitive disadvantage because large retail outlets, with their larger volume, can sell at lower prices.

While I sympathize with the problems faced by many small retail liquor dealers, I am not convinced that House Bill 570 serves the