

**House Bill No. 761—Appeals from Municipal Court of Baltimore City**

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 45 of Article 5 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1962 Supplement), title "Appeals," subtitle "Appeal from Municipal Court of Baltimore City to Criminal Court of Baltimore," changing the time within which an appeal may be taken from Municipal Court of Baltimore City to the Criminal Court of Baltimore from ten to thirty days.

May 2, 1963.

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have reviewed House Bill 761 and, in accordance with Article 2, Section 17, of the Maryland Constitution, I am returning this Bill to you accompanied by my veto message.

House Bill 761 changes the time within which an appeal may be taken from the Municipal Court of Baltimore City to the Criminal Court of Baltimore from ten to thirty days.

The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles has advised me that enactment of this Bill would permit a motor vehicle operator convicted of a serious violation to continue driving for the appeal period of thirty days from the date of conviction rather than the ten day appeal period as now provided.

In my opinion, this would not be consistent with the public safety and welfare. The Department of Motor Vehicles has indicated that a great many appeals are taken primarily to delay the impact of the State's suspension and revocation laws and the provisions of House Bill 761 certainly would delay the prompt action intended by the Point System Law in removing unsafe and unfit motor vehicle operators from the highways of Maryland.

The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles also has advised me that the extension of the appeal period to thirty days would hamper the prompt administrative procedure now prevailing and require the Department to set up advanced date files. Under the present procedures, convictions in the Municipal Court of Baltimore City are promptly reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles and administrative action under the Point System or under Sections 104 and 105 of Article 66½ is completed almost immediately upon expiration of the present ten day appeal period.

The function of any unit of government, whether it be Federal, State or local, is to promote the safety and well-being of its citizens. In my opinion, House Bill 761 is not consistent with this policy and, therefore, I feel obligated to veto this Bill.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(s) J. MILLARD TAWES,  
Governor.

JMT/Jd/Encl.