

Honorable William S. James  
Old Bay Farm  
Havre de Grace, Maryland

April 7, 1964.

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with the provisions of Article 2, Section 17, of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 99 and I am returning this Bill to you along with my veto message.

Senate Bill 99 would permit commercial vehicles to operate on Maryland highways at the same speeds now established for passenger cars.

I have sought and received the advice of traffic safety experts both within and without the State of Maryland regarding the merits of Senate Bill 99 and opinions vary widely.

Supporters of this legislation point out that elimination of the speed differential between trucks and passenger cars would be helpful on two-lane highways in rural areas. I am inclined to agree with this point. It is not uncommon to see lines of cars following behind a slow-moving commercial vehicle and, I fear, too often the impatient driver ignores traffic safety procedures in his haste to pass.

However, there are other factors that should be considered. The allowable weight limits for commercial vehicles on the Nation's highways are being increased frequently. Combine this fact with the knowledge that many of our new expressways and high speed, limited access highways carry these heavier vehicles through built-up areas of our State and we begin to realize the importance of limiting the speeds of heavy commercial vehicles through such areas.

Traffic volumes on such expressways and high speed highways can be expected to increase in sufficient intensity as to require exceptional care. Such care, in my opinion, can be better exercised if the speed of heavy, commercial vehicles requiring long distances in which to come to a full stop, is regulated more stringently than the speed of passenger cars.

For this reason, I have decided to veto Senate Bill 99. It is my hope, however, that, as Chairman of the Legislative Council, you will request the Council to re-examine this matter so that the beneficial aspects of Senate Bill 99 can be incorporated in new legislation for introduction at the 1965 session of the General Assembly.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(s) J. MILLARD TAWES,  
Governor.

The President put the question: Shall the bill pass notwithstanding the objections of the Executive?

Affirmative—None

Negative

Senators—

President, Alton, Bertorelli, Clark, Curran, Dean, Derr, Dorf, Graham, Gude, Hall, Hepbron, Hodges, Hughes (G.), Hughes (H.), Mach, Malkus, Nock, North, Parran, Phoebus, Pine, Raley, Roney, Sanford, Snyder, Weant, Welcome, Wheatley—Total 29.

*The President announced the veto was sustained.*