

The Bill purports to do three things. It authorizes (1) the Governor to appoint a person to serve as Chairman during the absence or disability of the Chairman and confers upon the person so appointed all of the authority conferred by law upon the Chairman; (2) it provides that the Chairman should keep the Commission fully advised and informed on the status and condition of the highways in the primary and interstate systems, and (3) it provides that the Commission shall by resolution approve the appointment of all consulting engineers and all others who perform contractual services for the Commission.

Although I am generally in accord with the overall objectives of this Bill, I am advised by the Chairman-Director of the State Roads Commission and the office of the Attorney General that the procedures called for in the Bill not only legally can be, but already have been, provided for administratively. The Special Assistant Attorney General, who serves as counsel to the State Roads Commission, has ruled that the Governor has the legal authority under existing law to appoint an Acting Chairman to perform the duties of the Chairman should this become necessary because of illness or temporary disability.

The Chairman-Director and several members of the Commission have advised me that the Chairman, as a matter of administrative policy, is keeping the Commission fully advised and informed on the status and conditions of the highways in the primary and interstate systems.

With respect to the third objective envisioned by the Bill, there is already in the law a provision that authorizes the Commission to review all contracts with consulting engineers and to modify or alter the termination dates thereof. I am advised that a committee of the Commission members is already in existence which has reviewed and will continue to review such contracts.

It would appear, therefore, that the procedures provided for in the Bill have already been initiated and are now fixed and permanent administrative procedures of the State Roads Commission. Accordingly, I have concluded to veto Senate Bill No. 603.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(s) J. MILLARD TAWES,
Governor.

House Bill No. 44—Usury

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 4 of Article 49 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume), title "Interest and Usury," to provide that any person guilty of usury shall forfeit ALL THE EXCESS ABOVE the real sum or value of the goods and chattels actually lent or advanced and all interest charges thereon.