

This Bill would decrease the fee charged by Registers of Wills from \$1.50 to 75¢ for each copy of any paper or record furnished to members of the public.

A substantial number of the Registers of Wills throughout the State have requested that the Bill be vetoed. They point out that the salaries and expenses of operating their respective offices are paid for from fees collected in the course of administering the affairs of their offices and that any deficits therein must be budgeted for by the State. They further point out that in most of the counties the charge of \$1.50 per copy is commensurate with the costs their offices incur in providing this service and that to reduce the fee as provided for in this Bill would create a financial deficit in their operations. I am advised that the deficit in some of the smaller counties would be quite substantial.

It is true that in one or two of the larger counties, through the use of expensive photocopying machines, the fee might be reduced without creating a deficit. However, since this Bill would have a seriously adverse impact on the revenues of most of the offices of the Registers of Wills throughout the State, I am constrained to veto House Bill 961.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(s) J. MILLARD TAWES,

Governor.

House Bill No. 1146—Burial Cost for Veterans

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 4 of Article 96½ of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume), title "Veterans," subtitle "Relief Fund," to provide for State contribution to the burial cost of veterans.

May 4, 1965.

Honorable Marvin Mandel
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 1146, 1965 Session, and I am returning this bill to you along with my veto message.

This bill amends Section 4 of Article 96½ of the Annotated Code of Maryland to provide for State contribution to the burial cost for veterans.

I have been advised by the State Department of Budget and Procurement that had this bill been in effect last year it would have cost the taxpayers of Maryland in excess of \$180,000. It has also been pointed out that the Federal government already contributes \$250.00 toward funeral expenses of veterans.