

suasion from the standpoint of curriculum would inevitably lower the standards of dentistry to which the citizens of Maryland are entitled.

For these reasons, I am compelled to veto the bill.

Sincerely yours,

(s) SPIRO T. AGNEW,

Governor.

**Senate Bill No. 468. Charles, Garrett, and St. Mary's Counties—
Amish or Mennonites**

AN ACT to add new Section 54A to Article 77 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "Public Education," subtitle "Chapter 5. County Board of Education," to follow immediately after Section 54 thereof, to provide for the applicability of school laws, rules or regulations to schools in Charles, GARRETT and St. Mary's Counties conducted or operated by certain religious groups and to authorize the modification of such requirements by the local boards of education in these counties.

May 4, 1967.

Honorable William S. James
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Section 17 of Article II of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed today Senate Bill 468 and am returning it to you.

This bill would sever the county boards of education in Charles, Garrett and St. Mary's Counties from any control by the State Board of Education in regulating the operation of Amish and Mennonite schools.

Although I have signed a related bill that expressly recognizes such schools as "bona fide church schools" (Senate Bill 470), I am compelled to veto this bill in order to preserve the fundamental standards of education established by the State Department of Education and generally applicable to public, private and church affiliated schools. Even though the Department has made, and will continue to make, reasonable allowances for diverse religious, social and educational beliefs, it cannot hope to fulfill its educational responsibilities to the State if it is deprived of its powers to perpetuate reasonable and equitable standards.

Sincerely yours,

(s) SPIRO T. AGNEW,

Governor.