

accidental disability retirement. They involve pension of two-thirds of final average salary, plus an annuity which may be purchased from the member's accumulated contributions to his retirement system. To this extent they are quite reasonable. However, since the enactment of these provisions, benefits under the Social Security Program have been made available to State employees. When this is considered, along with the situation that substantial amounts paid to a disabled employee under the program would receive preferential treatment under income tax provisions, the conclusion is reached that it is entirely possible that a person receiving benefits under these programs would experience a "take-home" pay substantially greater than his net salary when fully employed.

For this reason, although there is no question in my mind that an employee disabled during a job-connected accident should be adequately protected and compensated, I feel that the entire program should be re-evaluated in the light of the factors mentioned, to ascertain that it is not an undue or unfair burden on the taxpayers of the State, but at the same time adequate for State employees.

Under these circumstances, I am reluctant to do anything that would have the effect of expanding the program until such a re-evaluation can be completed.

Nevertheless, I would not veto this bill, particularly because of what seems to be an inequity under the present law, were it not for the fact that no appropriation has been made for its implementation during this fiscal year. Thus, its signing could have no practical effect. Hopefully, the re-evaluation I have mentioned can be undertaken by the time that an appropriation would normally be made.

For these reasons, I feel compelled to veto the bill at this time.

Sincerely yours,

(s) SPIRO T. AGNEW,

Governor.

House Bill No. 81.—State Bond Construction Act

AN ACT to authorize the creation of a State debt in the aggregate amount of ~~Forty One Million Nine Hundred Sixty One Thousand and Six Hundred Dollars (\$41,961,600)~~ FORTY SEVEN MILLION SIX HUNDRED AND TWENTY SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (~~\$47,626,200~~) FORTY-EIGHT MILLION NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$48,900,700), the proceeds thereof to be used for certain necessary building, construction, demolition, planning, deferred maintenance and equipment purposes of this State, for acquiring certain land and options in connection therewith, and providing generally for the issue and sale of Certificates of Indebtedness evidencing such loan, and, for the purposes of this Act, modifying the provisions of Section 8 of Chapter 903 of the Acts of 1963, Chapter 159 of the Acts of 1964, Chapter 743 of the Acts of 1965, and Chapter 504 of the Acts of 1966, AND SECTION 9 OF THIS ACT.