

This Bill provides that whenever property rented for a term of not more than seven years shall become untenable by reason of certain specified causes, the tenancy shall be terminated and liability for rent shall cease.

I am informed by the Attorney General's office that the Bill is constitutionally defective. For the reasons given in the attached copy of the opinion from the Attorney General's office, which is to be considered a part of this message, I believe that the measure must be vetoed.

Sincerely,

/s/ MARVIN MANDEL,

*Governor.*

Letter from State Law Department—H.B. 91.

May 8, 1969.

The Honorable Marvin Mandel  
Governor of Maryland  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Re: House Bill 91

Dear Governor:

At your request, we have reviewed House Bill 91. We regret to advise you that we find this Bill to be constitutionally defective.

The title of this Bill provides "that when business premises become untenable because of riot or civil disorder, the tenant shall have an option to terminate the tenancy and liability for rent shall cease upon proportionate payment."

During the course of the passage of this measure in the General Assembly, however, the reference to "business premises" in the body of the Bill was deleted by amendment and the Bill, by its terms, now applies not only to business premises, but to *all* premises rented for a term of not more than seven years.

Although the Court of Appeals in recent years has exhibited great reluctance to invalidate a bill because of a defective title, we do not see how the Court could sustain the great discrepancy between the title to this Bill and the actual provisions thereof.

We advise you, therefore, of our view that this Bill should not be signed into law.

Sincerely,

/s/ ROBERT F. SWEENEY,

*Deputy Attorney General.*