

1969. For the reasons set out in the attached letter from the Chairman of the State Roads Commission, which is to be considered a part of this message, I am compelled to veto House Bill 1323.

Sincerely,

/s/ MARVIN MANDEL,

Governor.

Letter from State Roads Commission—H.B. 1323.

April 17, 1969.

The Honorable Marvin Mandel
Governor of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Attention: Mr. John C. Eldridge
Chief Legislative Officer

Dear Governor Mandel:

The State Roads Commission, by unanimous resolution, has requested that you veto House Bill 1323 introduced by Delegate Hinkel.

In general, this bill provides that the total reductions made in the budget of the State Roads Commission and Department of Motor Vehicles by the General Assembly will revert to General Funds. In the past, reductions in the State Roads Commission budget reverted to the State Roads Commission Construction Fund and such sums could be used for the Commission's Highway Construction Program.

The Legislature, in considering the 1970 fiscal State budget, made reductions amounting to \$1,468,529 in the State Roads Commission budget. These reductions came about by increasing the "turnover expectancy" in the salary account from 2% to approximately 6% which amounts to \$1,344,807. The Legislature then reduced proportionately the Social Security, Retirement and Health Benefits in the State Roads Commission budget amounting to an additional \$123,722, making a total of \$1,468,529.

If House Bill 1323 becomes law, this sum will not revert to the Commission's Construction Fund, but will revert to the General Fund of the State. We might point out that as far as we know, this sum is not needed to balance the State's General Fund budget.

We would also like to bring the following to your attention. The general salary increase to state employees, ranging from 5% to 9%, will cost the Commission approximately \$2,300,000 in fiscal 1970. Insofar as General Fund agencies of the State are concerned, this increase was budgeted in the Supplemental Budget. In the case of the State Roads Commission, however, this additional expenditure will come from the State Roads Commission's Construction fund. In addition thereto, the Legislature passed an overtime bill which the Accounting Division of the Commission estimates will cost \$1,000,000. There was, of course, no supplemental budget appropriation to cover this sum.

It can be seen that the additional cost to the Commission from its Construction Fund from the above-mentioned salary increase and the overtime bill will amount to approximately \$3,300,000. As