

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Annapolis, Md., May 28, 1969.

Honorable Thomas Hunter Lowe
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 1340 and am returning it to you.

This Bill makes it unlawful for any person to take oysters with patent tongs from a boat unless the boat is anchored with the anchor line attached to the bow. It also makes it unlawful to use patent tongs while the boat is being propelled by machinery. The Bill was introduced by the Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Matters at the request of the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs.

The purpose of this Bill was to prevent persons from using patent tongs as dredges. However, a great deal of concern has been expressed both to my office and to the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs, by members of the General Assembly and others, over whether the language of the Bill is broader than its purpose and may prohibit the proper use of patent tongs. Furthermore, the enactment of House Bill 1341, which was signed by me on April 23, 1969, renders House Bill 1340 largely unnecessary.

For these reasons, the Director of the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs, the sponsoring agency, has written to my office requesting that House Bill 1340 be vetoed. The attached letter from the Director is to be considered part of this message. I am complying with this request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Marvin Mandel,

*Governor.**Read and journalized.*

DEPARTMENT OF CHESAPEAKE BAY AFFAIRS

Annapolis, Md., April 7, 1969.

Mr. John C. Eldridge
Chief Legislative Officer
Executive Department
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Eldridge:

H. B. 1340 was introduced by the chairman of the Committee on Environmental Matters at the request of the Department. The bill makes it unlawful to take oysters with patent tongs unless the boat is anchored by the bow. The bill was intended to enable the Marine Police to apprehend persons illegally using patent tongs as dredges, a practice which suddenly became a problem in 1969.

No opposition to the bill was heard until after its enactment, but I have been receiving numerous calls from patent tongers who seem to feel