

House Bill No. 45—Retirement for Community College Employees

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 5(b) of Article 77A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Supplement), title "Higher Education," subtitle "Community Colleges," to provide for membership in the Teachers' Retirement System by full time professional and clerical employees of the Community Colleges and defining full time professional employees.

May 26, 1970.

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 45.

This bill provides that all full-time professional and clerical employees of the various community colleges of Maryland be required to become members of the Teachers' Retirement System. The existing law makes membership in the System optional for such persons.

At the public hearing which I held in reference to this bill, many of the employees of the community colleges appeared to express their fears and disapproval of House Bill 45. The arguments presented by these persons basically fell into two categories: The first was that the salary scale established for community college personnel does not contemplate their becoming members of the retirement system, and the budgeting of the individuals in their personal lives would be seriously affected if they were required to become members of the retirement system without an appropriate adjustment in their salary scale. Secondly, it was represented that a high percentage of the persons teaching at the community colleges do not remain as teachers in the community colleges for a long enough time to gain the benefits from the retirement system. In fact, the bill could possibly have the effect of causing the community colleges to lose more of their professional employees because of the requirement that they become members of the retirement system. No one appeared at the hearing to contradict these arguments.

Apparently, this bill passed the General Assembly with little notice to the persons who would be affected thereby, and I am convinced that had these persons appeared at the various legislative hearings, the General Assembly would have taken into consideration their legitimate concerns.

In light of these facts, I believe that this measure must be vetoed.

Sincerely,

/s/ MARVIN MANDEL,
Governor.