

Therefore, it is unnecessary for me to sign Senate Bill 952.

Sincerely,

/s/ Marvin Mandel
Governor

Senate Bill No. 954 - Motor Vehicles Financial

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 6-107 and 6-108 of Article 66-1/2 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume and 1972 Supplement), title "Vehicle Laws," subtitle "Subtitle 6. Drivers' Licenses," and to add new Sections 7-103 to 7-105, inclusive, and Sections 7-201 to 7-211, inclusive, to Article 66-1/2 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume and 1972 Supplement), title "Vehicle Laws," subtitle "Subtitle 7. Required Security," to follow immediately after Section 7-102 thereof, abolishing the imputation of liability of a minor to a parent or guardian, prohibiting the use or operation of uninsured vehicles in this State, vehicles exempt from compulsory insurance requirements, requirements of vehicles owned by nonresidents, defining judgment, establishing procedures for courts reporting nonpayment of judgment, action with respect to nonresidents, suspension for nonpayment of judgments, exceptions for certain Government vehicles, exceptions when insurer liable or insolvent, suspensions until judgments satisfies, satisfaction of judgments, installment payments of judgments, defaults for breach of agreements and disposition of Financial Responsibility deposits, and clarifying the language in Sections 6-107 and 6-108.

June 1, 1973.

Honorable William S. James
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17, of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 954.

This bill enacts a new general financial responsibility law relating to the operation of motor vehicles. It also deletes those parts of Article 66-1/2, Sections 6-107 and 6-108, which provide that the negligence of a minor when driving a motor vehicle shall be imputed to the parent or guardian who signs the minor's application for a driver's license, unless there is deposited with the Motor Vehicle Administration, on the minor's behalf, proof of financial responsibility.

These deletions, as contained in Senate Bill 954, are virtually identical to those contained in House Bill 691 passed by the 1969 General Assembly, which I vetoed on May 21, 1969, and Senate Bill 758 passed by the 1970 General Assembly, which I vetoed on May 26, 1970. As I noted on both of those two prior occasions, in my view, a parent or guardian who gives his consent for his minor child to obtain a driver's license, yet fails to maintain the appropriate insurance, ought to be responsible for the child's driving. Moreover, requiring parents either to provide insurance covering their children or assume liability for their children's negligent driving, may lead to greater parental teaching and supervision with respect to minor's driving habits.