

This bill creates voluntary separation without reasonable expectation of reconciliation as a ground for a divorce a mensa et thoro.

Senate Bill 646, which was enacted by the General Assembly and signed by me on April 26, 1973, accomplishes the same purposes as House Bill 639.

Therefore, it is unnecessary for me to sign House Bill 639.

Sincerely,

/s/ Marvin Mandel
Governor

House Bill No. 678 - Minimum Prices for Alcoholic Beverages

AN ACT to add new Section 109(c-2) to Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Replacement Volume), title "Alcoholic Beverages," subtitle "Restrictions upon Licensees," to follow immediately after Section 109(c-1) thereof, stating the legislative intent of the General Assembly in the enactment of this Act; providing for the prohibition of sales by retail dealers below cost; providing for additional fees for the administration and enforcement of this Act; providing a penalty for failing to comply with the provisions of this Act; and generally amending the laws concerning the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages in this State ; and providing for certain exceptions.

June 1, 1973.

Honorable Thomas Hunter Lowe
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17, of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 678.

House Bill 678 would have the effect of establishing minimum prices for all alcoholic beverages sold at retail in this State by prohibiting their sale for less than the cost to the retailer plus a specific markup to cover the "cost of doing business". In the absence of proof that the cost of doing business is less, the bill would require that the markup be no less than 12% of the cost of the alcoholic beverage to the retailer. The stated legislative intent of House Bill 678 is to eliminate price wars which unduly stimulate the sale and consumption of beer, wine and liquor, to bring about the orderly sale and distribution thereof, and to foster and promote temperance. The bill exempts from its coverage alcoholic beverages sold by or purchased from a Liquor Control Board which buys directly from a manufacturer.

House Bill 678 represents the third attempt in recent years to establish minimum markups for alcoholic beverages sold in this State. Governor Tawes vetoed the two prior measures on the basis that the establishment of minimum prices for alcoholic beverages had no relation to the stated legislative objectives. Governor Tawes also questioned the propriety of legislation which would promote the interest of the small liquor dealer at the expense of the vast majority of citizens.