

This bill purports to be for the purpose of ensuring a prompt distribution of funds in decedents' estates, but its only effect is to require a personal representative to attach to his petition for probate the names and addresses of "interested persons", as defined in Section 1-101(g) of the Estates and Trusts Article, and the names and addresses of witnesses to the Will.

Section 7-104 of the Estates and Trusts Article, enacted by the General Assembly and signed by me on February 18, 1974, as Chapter 11 of the Laws of Maryland, 1974, already requires a personal representative to deliver the names and addresses of the decedent's heirs and legatees to the Register of Wills within twenty days of his appointment. This list would appear to cover everyone included under the definition of "interested person". Section 5-201(f) of said Article requires the petition for probate to include the names and addresses of the witnesses to the Will.

Thus, the principal requirements of House Bill 548 are already provided for in the law; and, in the opinion of a number of attorneys specializing in estate and trust law who have written to me, including the Chairman of the Maryland State Bar Association Section of Estate and Trust Law, House Bill 548 would merely establish an unnecessary duplication, without in any way contributing to a more prompt distribution of estate funds. The provisions of House Bill 548 were included in the 1969 revision of the decedent's law; but the difficulty in obtaining a list of "interested persons" prior to filing a petition for probate, especially in light of the requirement that such a list be filed within twenty days after appointment of the personal representative, led the General Assembly to repeal those provisions in 1971.

For these reasons, I have decided to veto House Bill 548.

Sincerely,
/s/ Marvin Mandel
Governor

House Bill No. 558 - Baltimore City Residential
Financing Bonds

AN ACT concerning

Baltimore City - Residential Financing Bond Issue

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council