

AN ACT concerning

Charles County Board of Education - Salaries  
and Vacancies

FOR the purpose of establishing certain procedures to fill vacancies on the Board of Education of Charles County, and altering the salary of the members of the Board.

May 31, 1974.

Honorable John Hanson Briscoe  
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 730.

This bill increases the salaries of the members of the Board of Education of Charles County. It also establishes new procedures for the filling of vacancies occurring on the Board. In the event of a vacancy, a new member would be chosen by a majority of the remaining Board members from a list of three names submitted by the Council of Parent-Teacher Associations of Charles County.

The several county boards of education are certainly among the most important local agencies in the State, as they determine the educational policies of the county. This fact was given particular recognition only four years ago when the General Assembly and the people of Charles County established an elective Board for the County. (Chapter 386 of the Acts of 1970, ratified September 15, 1970.) It is in this light that House Bill 730 must be considered.

House Bill 730 would limit the Board's choice of a new member to one of three persons selected by the Council of Parent-Teacher Associations. However, the level of the Council's current activity raises serious doubt as to its ability to assume the important function which would be assigned to it by this bill. Indeed, I am advised that in recent months that Council often has been unable to hold even regular meetings for lack of a duly constituted quorum. Obviously, any failure of the Council to submit a list of names to the Board would wholly preclude the appointment of any person, however qualified, to fill a vacancy.

Even if the Council were a truly viable, active organization, its representation is that of only a small