

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 480.

This bill requires the Secretary of State to compile each January (a) a list of certain civil officers appointed by the Governor in the prior year and (b) a list of such officers whose terms expire within the twelve months following. These lists are made a matter of public record, available to any person upon request, and are to include the officer's name, position, term of office, and salary. In addition, the Secretary of State is required to send a copy of the list to each member of the General Assembly.

Presently, the very information required to be compiled by Senate Bill 480, with the exception of salaries, is available in the Maryland Manual, a publication issued by the Secretary of State every two years and distributed without charge to public libraries, agencies of State and county government, all school libraries, members of the General Assembly, and others as prescribed in Article 41, Sections 104-106 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The salaries of these officers are contained in the Annual State Budget, which is also available to the General Assembly, government agencies, libraries, and, upon request, to the public at large.

Senate Bill 480 would thus provide no information not already available to the public, and its effect would be merely to place an unnecessary burden on the Secretary of State, possibly entailing additional staff and its concomitant expense. The Secretary of State is already overburdened with the many other responsibilities of his office, including the duty of compiling the Maryland Register and Code of Maryland Regulations and the duty of being custodian of all of the financial disclosure statements required to be filed by the Financial Disclosure Act.

In the 1974 legislative session, the General Assembly enacted House Bill 1117 which, except for the additional provision contained in S.B. 480 which requires the Secretary of State to send copies of the list to each member of the General Assembly, is identical to Senate Bill 480. I vetoed H.B. 1117 for the reasons I have above enumerated. Since there is no substantial difference between H.B. 1117 and S.B. 480, and since I am at this time attempting to curtail all unnecessary State expenditures, I feel that I must veto S.B. 480.