

by the 1974 Resolution of the Legislative Compensation Commission, for members of the 1975 term of the General Assembly, to former members of the General Assembly who retired prior to January 7, 1975 and would otherwise receive pension benefits in accordance with the terms of the Commission's 1975 Resolution.

The Attorney General has advised me that Senate Bill 592 is in direct contravention of Article III, Section 15 of the Maryland Constitution. A copy of the Opinion of the Attorney General is attached and should be considered a part of this veto message.

For this reason, I have decided to veto Senate Bill 592.

Sincerely,
/s/ Marvin Mandel
Governor

Letter from State Law Department on Senate Bill No. 592

May 12, 1975.

Honorable Marvin Mandel
Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Re: Senate Bill 592

Dear Governor Mandel:

Senate Bill 592 would add a new subsection (13a) to Section 11, Article 73B of the Maryland Code in order to establish a minimum pension level for certain former members of the General Assembly with at least eight years of service therein who are not members at the present time. Because of the exclusive jurisdiction of the General Assembly Compensation Commission with respect to the subject of legislative pensions, we conclude that this bill is unconstitutional.

By constitutional amendment adopted at the general election in 1970, subsections (2) through (5) were added to Section 15 of Article III of the Maryland Constitution (see Chapter 576 of the Laws of Maryland of 1970). The General Assembly Compensation Commission, appointed shortly thereafter, has filed Reports and Resolutions relating to "compensation and allowances" of members of the General Assembly in January, 1971 and 1974. In a formal opinion dated January 11, 1971, addressed to the Chairman of that Commission signed by Attorney General Burch and by then Deputy Attorney General Robert F. Sweeney, this office advised that the language of the