

2-309 of the Courts Article sets forth the county-by-county authorizations and requirements for sheriffs and their deputies. Generally, the only limitation on the number of deputies that a sheriff may appoint is in the county budget. Under Section 49 of Article 87, the sheriff may also appoint members of fire companies, volunteer or paid, to be appointed deputy sheriffs at fires and on the way to and from fires. Although a sheriff may not appoint "Honorary" or "special" deputies and clothe them with the power of a deputy sheriff (37 OAG 321), House Bill 535 will allow sheriffs to appoint part-time deputies who will be able to wear and carry a handgun even while off-duty, so long as they have completed certain firearms handling requirements at the police training commission.

The protection which is afforded by the firearms training requirements of the bill is hardly adequate in light of the possible abuses by the appointing authority and in light of the strict protections and safeguards of the present law.

The present law restricts any law-enforcement personnel to the active-duty wearing of a handgun. The original purpose is obvious, and it is still valid today: the law will not sanction the carrying of a handgun, except when it is absolutely necessary.

The signing of House Bill 535 would be a step backward. It would produce more guns on the streets, and I cannot sign legislation which could liberalize the carrying of handguns.

For these reasons, I have decided to veto House Bill 535.

Sincerely,
/s/ Marvin Mandel
Governor

House Bill No. 578 - Unemployment Insurance for
for State Employees

AN ACT concerning

Unemployment Insurance Law

FOR the purpose of increasing the coverage of the State