

FOR the purpose of making the renovation or remodeling of existing public school facilities a construction or capital improvement cost which is payable by the State under the Public School Construction Program ; and providing for certain exceptions to the provisions of this Act .

May 15, 1975.

Honorable John Hanson Briscoe
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 1020.

This bill amends the Public School Construction Program law, in particular Section 130A(c) of Article 77, to provide that the cost of renovating and remodeling existing school facilities "is a construction or capital improvement cost which is payable by the State, if it constitutes an improvement or alteration which will increase the usefulness or extend the life of the facilities." Although the bill excludes certain maintenance costs and programs costing less than \$50,000 and having a useful life of less than fifteen years, it includes programs involving "code violations that result from amending State laws."

The Interagency Committee for State Public School Construction has advised me that, under existing guidelines, approximately \$1,000,000,000 in planned renovation projects are eligible for State funding. This bill, in the Committee's judgment, would make an additional \$400,000,000 to \$500,000,000 in remodeling projects eligible, placing a further burden on the program in that amount plus approximately 58.8% more in interest costs. Items such as the conversion of boilers to comply with the clean air laws, and the replacement of ceiling tile which is not acceptable under existing fire codes would be submitted for State funding.

In addition to these items, I am very much concerned that enactment of this bill will encourage the subdivisions to curtail, more than they already have, programs of required maintenance and preventive maintenance, with the expectation that when the facilities deteriorate enough, the required restoration, renovation, or replacement will be a capital cost paid for by the State.