

Senate Bill No. 39 - People's Counsel, Public Service  
Commission

AN ACT concerning

Public Service Commission - People's Counsel

FOR the purpose of making the People's Counsel of the  
Public Service Commission a full-time employee of  
the State.

May 17, 1976.

Honorable Steny H. Hoyer  
President of the Senate  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17, of the  
Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill  
39.

This bill requires that the People's Counsel to the  
Public Service Commission shall devote full time to his  
official duties and may not engage in the private  
practice of law.

House Bill 1361, which was enacted by the General  
Assembly and signed by me on May 17, 1976, generally  
restructures the present Public Service Commission and  
the duties of many of its personnel. In doing so, it  
requires that the People's Counsel serve full time.  
Although House Bill 1361 does not contain a general  
prohibition on the private practice of law by the  
People's Counsel, it does delineate certain specific  
activities which are forbidden to all Commission  
personnel, including any activity or avocation which is  
incompatible with the duties of the office or the  
employment by the Commission.

Thus, the intention of the General Assembly with  
respect to the full time nature of the position of  
People's Counsel is obviously accomplished in House Bill  
1361, and it is unnecessary for me to sign Senate Bill  
39.

Sincerely,