

the State Athletic Commission from certain license fees shall be distributed in a certain manner; and clarifying language.

May 24, 1976.

Honorable John Hanson Briscoe  
Speaker of the House of Delegates  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 526.

This bill amends Section 114 of Article 56 to provide that all monies collected by the State Athletic Commission as license fees from the gross receipts from boxing and wrestling matches be credited to a special fund and paid out by the State Treasurer upon requisition of the Commission. However, at the end of the fiscal year, any unexpended funds revert to the general fund and are to be distributed to the subdivisions on a pro rata basis. The bill is effective June 1, 1976.

A related bill, House Bill 527, was also enacted by the General Assembly. It amends Section 112 of Article of Article 56 in order to license the promoters of these same events at closed circuit showings. However, an amendment to the bill provides that all monies collected from fees on gross receipts from these events are general fund revenues. The bill is effective July 1, 1976.

House Bills 526 and 527 are inconsistent because of the amendment made to the latter bill. House Bill 526, effective June 1, 1976, would return to the subdivisions the unexpended money collected as license fees from these events. But House Bill 527, effective July 1, 1976, as a result of the amendment to the bill, provides that this same money is general fund revenue. The effect of signing both bills is that the local subdivision distribution provision of House Bill 526 would operate on a one-time basis with respect to funds on hand at the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 1976. Thereafter, the provision of House Bill 527 would prevail because it bears the later effective date of July 1, 1976.

The amendment to House Bill 527 creates considerable confusion as to the disposition of all monies collected under the subtitle dealing with boxing and wrestling events, particularly when read in conjunction with House Bill 526.

I have no problem with legislation designed to