

General is attached and should be considered a part of this veto message.

For this reason, I have decided to veto House Bill 990.

Sincerely,
Marvin Mandel
Governor

Letter from State Law Department on
House Bill 990

Honorable Marvin Mandel
Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404
Re: House Bill 990

Dear Governor Mandel:

We have reviewed House Bill 990 (Anne Arundel County - Annapolis Double Taxation) and have determined that the bill raises serious constitutional problems.* The bill appears to violate the Home Rule Amendment of the Maryland Constitution with respect to Charter counties.

Article XI-A, Section 4 of the Maryland Constitution provides in pertinent part:

"From and after the adoption of a charter under the provisions of this Article by the City of Baltimore or any County of this State, no public local law shall be enacted by the General Assembly for said City or County on any subject covered by the express powers granted as above provided."

The distinction between a public general law and a public local law depends on whether the subject matter of the legislation is of significant interest to the entire state or whether it affects only one county or subdivision. Cole v. Secretary of State, 249 Md. 425 (1968).

The Maryland Court of Appeals explained the distinction in Norris v. Baltimore, 172 Md. 667, 681 (1937), as follows:

"While it is difficult to formulate a comprehensive definition of distinction between a public local law and a public general law, it may be said that a "public local law" is a statute dealing with some matter of governmental administration peculiarly local in character, in which persons outside of that