

In light of the historical controversy attendant on slot machines and litigation that may result unless the legislative intent is absolutely clear, I believe that the General Assembly, if it desires to address this issue, should do so more directly than is done in this bill.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 1677.

Sincerely,
Marvin Mandel
Governor

Letter from State Law Department on
House Bill 1677

May 23, 1977

Honorable Marvin Mandel
Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Re: House Bill 1677

Dear Governor Mandel:

Although we are able to approve House Bill 1677 as constitutionally permissible, we are unable to recommend that you approve the bill. Our reasons are as follows.

This bill is a 69 page enactment which was proposed solely for the purpose of clarifying the local laws of Calvert County by striking obsolete and redundant sections thereof, clarifying the language thereof, renumbering as appropriate, transferring certain provisions of the Code of Public Local Laws to the Code of Public General Laws, making the Code of Public Local Laws more clear and readable, and generally relating to a certain conciseness, clarity, and contemporary approach to that Code. In short, the bill was intended to work no change in substance; rather, it was designed to be merely code revision legislation.

Unfortunately, inter alia, at lines 2593-2783, the bill repeals and re-enacts §§181-185 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Calvert County relating to the keeping, maintenance, operation or distribution for operation of mechanical or electrical amusement devices which require the insertion of a coin or token for their operation and which offer the operator an award based upon chance, summa e.g., slot machines! Indeed, in