

I have no objection to the purpose of this bill. In fact, I sponsored similar legislation when I was a member of the Legislature.

However, during the legislative process, several amendments were adopted to this bill which cause me to veto the measure. Specifically, the bill provides in subsection (h) that if, after a hearing, the Department of Natural Resources concludes that the State has no legal right to deny a land use change permit, certain events may occur. The State may purchase the land within the take-lines or execute an option for purchase, but the landowner may not initiate the land use change which he originally proposed. The original version of the bill has required the State in this instance to purchase the land or execute an option.

I believe that this provision, as amended, leaves the landowner in the precarious position of awaiting the Department's decision to purchase his land. Yet he is prohibited from initiating the procedures for a land use change for his property. I do not believe that the bill adequately addresses the rights of the landowner in this regard.

Both the Secretary of Natural Resources and I are in support of the intent of Senate Bill 990. The Secretary has advised me that he intends to submit departmental legislation to the 1979 General Assembly which will meet the objectives of the sponsors of Senate Bill 990 and also meet the objections raised herein with regard to this bill.

For these reasons, and at the request of the Secretary of Natural Resources, I have decided to veto Senate Bill 990.

Sincerely,
Blair Lee III
Acting Governor

Senate Bill No. 1043 - Municipal Infractions

AN ACT concerning

Municipal Infractions

FOR the purpose of altering the fine that a municipality may provide for a violation of a municipal ordinance; providing that a municipality may deem the violation of certain ordinances to be "municipal infractions";