

House Bill No. 1896 - County Plans for Water, Sewer,
and Solid Waste

AN ACT concerning

County Plans for Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste

FOR the purpose of providing that county plans for water, sewer, and solid waste be submitted periodically instead of annually to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

May 29, 1978

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 1896.

This bill authorizes revisions of county plans for water, sewer, and solid waste programs to be submitted to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at least once every three years, rather than on an annual basis.

These county plans state the needs for water supply, wastewater, conveyance and purification, and solid waste facilities in terms of areas requiring service and the timing of facilities needs for those areas. Proposed water and wastewater facilities proceed through subsequent planning, design, and construction steps only after their inclusion in an approved county plan. I am sure that House Bill 1896 was intended to reduce the workload on local agency staffs, particularly those of undermanned rural counties, by relieving them from the annual updating of these plans. But I believe that the plans of even the most rural counties warrant an annual review.

In addition, county water and sewerage plans are an integral part of the State's water quality management program. The Continuing Planning Process for Water Quality Management, a document submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to federal law, sets forth the relationships between the various water quality programs mandated by State and federal law. The activities spelled out in the Process depend upon input from county plans, and most of the grant-eligible activities require some form of annual update.