

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 1945.

This bill requires the County Commissioners of Cecil County to provide health insurance coverage for the sheriff and his deputy sheriffs and reimbursement for the court time of certain deputy sheriffs. In an uncodified section, it also transfers to the Sheriff's Department five communications personnel of the State Civil Defense and Disaster Preparedness Agency.

I have no objections to the provisions of this bill regarding the benefits for the sheriff and his personnel. However, I do not believe that the uncodified section regarding the communications personnel can be given effect.

Five of these seven employees of the Cecil County Civil Defense and Disaster Preparedness Agency are not State employees, but, in fact, are now county employees. The two remaining employees, the director and the deputy director, are paid from federal funds. This provision therefore purports to transfer State employees to county employment. In fact, that is not the case.

In addition, the County Commissioners of Cecil County and the Director of the Cecil County Civil Defense and Disaster Preparedness Agency have apprised me of their opposition to the bill in light of the efficiency and economy with which this unit implements the county communications system.

For these reasons, and at the request of the Director of the State Civil Defense and Disaster Preparedness Agency, the County Commissioners, and the Director of the Cecil County Civil Defense and Disaster Preparedness Agency, I have decided to veto House Bill 1945.

Sincerely,
Blair Lee III
Acting Governor

House Bill No. 1947 - Merit System - Reclassification
of Positions

AN ACT concerning

Merit System - Reclassification of Positions