

## House Bill No. 1861

AN ACT concerning

## Forest or Park Reserve Fund

FOR the purpose of providing that a certain portion of the funds in the Forest or Park Reserve Fund shall be used to revegetate and restore timber sale areas; ~~basing determining the amount of the payments that are made to the counties on-the-remaining-portion~~; clarifying the provision relating to that Fund by deleting certain archaic references; and reorganizing that provision.

May 27, 1980

Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
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 1861.

As introduced, the intent of this departmental bill was to insure State reinvestment in cutover State forest lands by requiring that 10 percent of the revenues from timber sales be used to recultivate those lands. The 10 percent reinvestment was to have been deducted from the collected revenues prior to county refunds being calculated. Under this proposal, the counties, through a relatively minor commitment, would have shared the costs of the preferred reinvestment for recultivation of our State forests.

During the legislative process, the bill was amended to provide that, despite the provisions relating to the 10 percent reinvestment factor, the Department could not retain revenues which would result in an annual county payment less than that for fiscal year 1980.

That amendment is unclear. Evidently, the intent was to maintain county payments at the 1980 level. However, as to any year in which sales revenues are not high enough to assure payments to the counties at the 1980 level after the 10 percent has been deducted, the amended act is subject to several different interpretations.

The Department, as well as several conservation