

This bill would authorize Dorchester, Frederick and Prince George's counties to exempt from local taxes property leased from the federal or State governments and provides that Anne Arundel, Dorchester, Frederick and Prince George's counties may provide for payments in lieu of local taxes.

As pointed out in the attached letter from the Attorney General, the title of the bill does not properly reflect the provisions of the body of the bill, and the bill is therefore unconstitutional.

For that reason, I am vetoing Senate Bill 782.

Sincerely,
Harry Hughes
Governor

May 24, 1982

The Honorable Harry Hughes
Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Re: Senate Bill 782

Dear Governor Hughes:

This is to advise that we have reviewed for constitutionality and legal sufficiency Senate Bill 782, a bill authorizing certain counties and municipalities to exempt from local taxes property leased from the State or Federal government and providing that certain counties and municipalities may require a payment in lieu of taxes. Because the title does not properly reflect the provisions of the bill, we are unable to approve it.

Article III, § 29 of the State Constitution provides, in part, that every law shall embrace one subject, and "that shall be described in its title." This requirement is satisfied if the title fairly advises the Legislature and the public of the real nature and subject of the legislation. Baltimore Transit Co. v. Metropolitan Transit Authority, 232 Md. 509, 521 (1963). While the title need not be an abstract of the contents, Mayor and City Council of Baltimore v. State of Maryland, 281 Md. 217, 225 (1977), it must be sufficiently clear and comprehensive to reasonably cover the provisions of the bill. Barrett v. Clark, 189 Md. 116, 127 (1947). Moreover, the title may not be misleading. Allied American Mutual Fire Insurance v. Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, 219 Md. 607, 614 (1959).