

May 27, 1986

The 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 64 because it would weaken the State's ability to enforce various State laws that regulate motor vehicles and auto parts.

This bill was originally introduced with the support of the Department of Transportation to strengthen the authority of the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and the State Police to inspect licensed auto dealers and recyclers to locate stolen auto parts and for other purposes. In the last days of the Session, the bill was substantially amended to greatly restrict the ability of the MVA and police officers to inspect inventory and records of licensees. As amended, inspections would be limited to not more than 4 per year for periods not longer than 12 hours unless a search warrant was obtained.

Under current law, MVA conducts approximately 250 audits per year that last on average 2-3 days each. Some licensees are audited far more frequently than 4 times per year. Records and accounts of licensees have always been open to inspection during normal business hours.

The Secretary of Transportation has requested a veto because the provisions of the amended bill would hamper the State's ability to investigate stolen motor vehicles and auto parts, to collect unpaid automobile excise taxes, and to verify titling and registration of motor vehicles. Such a result is not in the public interest.

Therefore, for the above reasons, I have decided to veto House Bill 64.

Sincerely,  
Harry Hughes  
Governor

House Bill No. 64

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws -- Licensing of Businesses and Occupations -  
Inspection