

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 308.

It is my understanding that Senate Bill 308 does not accomplish its intended objective. As originally introduced, the legislation repealed the State Board of Education's authority to nominate 2 members and granted that power to the Commission. When the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission was created in 1966, its initial charge was to develop an educational and cultural television system and radio programming network throughout the State of Maryland. Over the last 23 years the Commission has grown substantially, has become involved in pursuing national and regional productions, has undertaken a host of other projects, and has begun to pursue private sources of funding. Given that the Commission has a far stronger business orientation than it did in the mid 1960's, there is probably more of a need for the Maryland business community to be represented on the Commission. Since the Commission would probably be better prepared than the State Board to nominate individuals with business backgrounds, the original change proposed by Senate Bill 308 seems to have been quite appropriate.

In spite of that, Senate Bill 308 was amended to restore the State Board's nominating authority. In addition, the size of the Commission was altered from 11 to 13 and all appointments were made subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. What concerns me about those amendments is that they appear to be unnecessary. The overall mission of the Commission was not changed. The Commission's responsibilities were not increased. With no corresponding increase in workload, the addition of 2 new commissioners is not justifiable. In addition, there is no apparent reason for bringing the legislature into the appointments process. The Governor has made the appointments to this Commission for in excess of two decades. That process has worked well and I see no real need to change it now.

Consequently, I have decided to veto Senate Bill 308.

Sincerely,
William Donald Schaefer
Governor

Senate Bill No. 308

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission