

\$11.9 million on the Voluntary Noise Land Acquisition Program, buying homes in airport noise-affected areas and relocating the occupants. Another \$2.2 million has been spent on the Homeowners Assistance Program to soundproof homes and to provide resale assurance guarantees which assure homeowners fair market value for their homes. Finally, the School Soundproofing Program has provided soundproofing, including HVAC systems, for both the Corkran Middle School (\$2.7 million) and the Arthur Slade Regional Catholic School (\$700,000 to date). Indeed, at the two elementary schools which are at issue here, Oakwood and Glen Burnie Park, over \$200,000 has been spent at each school on noise abatement. To date over \$17.9 million has been spent on these noise abatement programs.

I continue to recognize the need to mitigate local environmental impacts while prudently expanding Baltimore/Washington International Airport, an important statewide transportation facility and economic development asset. House Bill 755, however, unnecessarily interferes with an extremely successful Noise Abatement Program by mandating, through a future Executive budget submission, the administrative details of program implementation. For that reason, I have concluded that House Bill 755 must be vetoed.

In an effort to administratively resolve the noise problems that were the focus of this legislation, I asked the Secretary of Transportation to discuss alternative approaches to funding the costs of HVAC systems with the Anne Arundel County Executive and members of the Legislature. I have approved an agreement with the County Executive that the State will pay 50% of the costs of HVAC systems in the schools at issue, up to \$100,000, and all costs over \$100,000.

Sincerely,
William Donald Schaefer
Governor

House Bill No. 755

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Aviation Administration – Noise Assistance Programs — Public Funding – Schools

FOR the purpose of requiring the ~~Maryland Aviation Administration to establish a public school assistance program for certain public schools within a certain airport noise zone; requiring the Administration to pay the costs associated with certain soundproofing improvements of certain public schools; defining certain terms; clarifying language~~ Department of Transportation to fund by a certain date the purchase and installation of HVAC systems at certain schools in a certain county; and generally relating to noise assistance programs for public schools.

BY repealing and reenacting, ~~with~~ without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 5-1201(i) ~~and 5-1204(e)(2)~~