

The County Commissioners of Allegany County are strongly opposed to the bill and have voiced their objection to me. In addition, the State Tax Commission has also expressed opposition to the bill because it eliminates the provision of the present law which requires the County Commissioners to consult with the Supervisor of Assessments before decreasing an assessment at any time between general revision of assessments. In view of these objections, I am vetoing the bill.

BAD CHECK LAW.

HOUSE BILL 627.

AN ACT to add a new section to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1943 Supplement), title "Crimes and Punishments", sub-title "False Pretenses", said new section to be known as Section 152A, and to follow immediately after Section 152 of said Article, providing that justices of the peace assigned to hear criminal matters shall have original and concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Courts of the counties to hear, try and determine cases arising under the bad check laws except when either party desires a trial by jury.

Under this enactment Justices of the Peace would be given the authority to decide finally any case arising under the bad check laws. One serious question immediately presents itself. That is, no provision is made for the Justice of the Peace to procure records of the accused. It might very well happen that professional bad check operators could go from place to place within the State and, if apprehended, might be tried before different magistrates, shortly after the arrest, without the magistrate having the means of ascertaining the prior convictions of the accused.

As in the case of Senate Bill 611, I am advised that prosecuting authorities and Judges were not advised of the purpose of this bill. It occurs to me that the matter should be debated fully and carefully by the best informed officials and citizens of the State before such a change is effected. For this reason I consider it necessary to refuse executive approval.

BALTIMORE CITY.

HOUSE BILL 599.

AN ACT to repeal Sections 592 and 593 of Article 4 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland and Baltimore City Charter (1938 Edition), title "Baltimore City", sub-title