

**House Bill No. 450—School Board in Talbot County**

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 6 (a) of Article 77 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1956 Supplement), title "Public Education", sub-title "Chapter 2. Formation of Boards", and to add a new section to said Article and sub-title, said new section to be known as Section 12F, and to follow immediately after Section 12E thereof, providing for the nomination and election of the County Board of Education in Talbot County, changing the number of members thereof, relating generally to the tenure and conduct of the members of the Board of Education and making this Act subject to a referendum.

April 15, 1957.

Hon. John C. Luber  
Speaker of the House of Delegates  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have today vetoed House Bill 450, which would supplant the existing provision for a three-man school board in Talbot County, appointed by the Governor. Subject to referendum in 1958, House Bill 450 would provide for the election of a seven-man school board, commencing in November, 1960, with one to be elected from each of the five election districts, and two to be elected from the County at large.

A companion measure, House Bill 451, provides for appointment of school board members in Talbot County on exactly the same basis unless and until the election procedures become effective.

The election of school boards tends to involve them more closely in partisan politics, which is distinctly opposed to all sound thinking in the field. There has been continuing unanimous bi-partisan approval of keeping Maryland schools out of politics. The single experiment with elected school boards, which I reluctantly sanctioned in Montgomery County because of strenuous home rule protestations, has, in the opinion of qualified observers, not been satisfactory. The great majority of affiliated school organizations in Talbot County have expressed to me their opposition to the elective school board idea. Furthermore, the objection to confining appointments to election districts, which I have noted in my veto of House Bill 451, should apply with equal force to their election on such a basis.

I am, therefore, returning House Bill 450 without my signature.

Respectfully,

(s) THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,

Governor.

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