

and preparation of plans and specifications to a State Office Building for the Executive offices, the Department of State Planning and the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning.

May 17, 1976.

Honorable Steny H. Hoyer  
President of the Senate  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 1124.

This bill amends an appropriation in the General Construction Loan of 1974 for the preparation of plans and specifications for a State Office Building in Annapolis to house Executive Offices, the Department of State Planning, and the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning. The amendment provides that, as of July 1, 1976, all work on the plans and specifications shall be discontinued, and no further funds from the appropriation shall be expended until a revised master plan for the State Office Complex in Annapolis is approved by the General Assembly.

There appears to be neither any doubt of the need for additional office space for these agencies nor any substantial objection to this space being in close proximity to the Statehouse. At the present time, the State is negotiating with Anne Arundel County to purchase the Arundel Center; and, if these negotiations are successful, there would be less need (or perhaps no need) for an additional Executive Office Building in the downtown Annapolis area. However, at this point, the availability of the Arundel Center is not assured.

The revised plan for the State Office Complex required by the bill can and will be prepared for submission to the General Assembly without this legislation. But that revised plan and its inclusion or exclusion of the proposed Executive Office Building, will depend on whether the State is able to acquire the Arundel Center. If that acquisition proves possible, further design work on the new building can and will be halted; but if it does not prove possible, the work ought to proceed. The need for the space is such that the delay required by this bill would be both unwise and expensive. There are, of course, no construction funds authorized for the new building, so no final decision can be made with respect to it without further Legislative approval.