

## Public Education - Finance and Reports

FOR the purpose of [[adding Somerset County to those counties who count kindergarten pupils as full-time]] allowing Somerset County to count certain kindergarten pupils as full-time in the definition of "pupils" for purposes of State financial assistance.

May 17, 1976.

Honorable John Hanson Briscoe  
Speaker of the House of Delegates  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 2107.

This bill amends the definition of "pupils enrolled" in the current expense formula for State support of public education. State aid under that formula is based in part upon the number of "pupils enrolled" in each local school system on the previous September 30. All pupils enrolled in grades 1-12 and, except in Garrett County, one-half of the pupils enrolled in Kindergarten are counted as "pupils enrolled". In Garrett County, all pupils enrolled in kindergarten are counted since, because of unusual transportation problems, that county has a full time, rather than a part time, kindergarten program for its children.

House Bill 2107 provides that, in Somerset County, all children enrolled in a full time kindergarten program and one-half of the children enrolled in a part time program will be counted as "pupils enrolled". The effect of this change would be to increase State aid to Somerset County by approximately \$50,000 a year.

I have two objections to the bill. First, excluding Garrett, there are four other subdivisions that have full time kindergarten programs - Baltimore City and Charles, St. Mary's, and Wicomico Counties. It would be unfair to these subdivisions to provide this additional benefit to Somerset County and not provide it also to them. If this bill is signed, therefore, the inevitable result will be similar legislation next year for the other four subdivisions, the cost of which to the State would be significantly greater than the \$50,000 to Somerset County.

My second objection is that, unlike the situation in Garrett County, the impetus for this extended benefit to