

1078, which itself imposes a regulatory scheme throughout the county at the same time as it alters the existing county scheme.

In conclusion, since the Express Powers Act contains a general welfare or police power clause which would authorize a charter county to enact an ordinance for the purpose of regulating pawnbrokers, Senate Bill 1078 violates Article XI-A of the Maryland Constitution.

Very truly yours,
Stephen H. Sachs
Attorney General

1/ Harford County became a charter county in 1972. Harford County Code (1978 Edition).

2/ There are no public general laws regulating or licensing pawnbrokers.

3/ The Prince George's County provision concerning pawnbrokers was added to the Public Local Laws of Prince George's County by the General Assembly in Chapter 42, Laws of 1968, two years prior to the adoption of the Charter in that County.

4/ We were advised that a Maryland District Court judge in the county has concluded that the county pawnbroker ordinance cannot be enforced in the municipalities in Harford County. The entire question of whether county-wide ordinances can be enforced in municipalities is the subject of a pending Opinion of the Attorney General. Until the issuance of that opinion, we will not have finally resolved the question of a charter county's powers in this area.

Senate Bill No. 1080

AN ACT concerning

Cecil County - Road Work

FOR the purpose of deleting Cecil County from certain provisions of law relating to the construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of county roads by the State Highway Administration.

May 27, 1980

Honorable James Clark, Jr.