

*Office of the Vermont Secretary of State*  
**Vermont State Archives**

**Veto Message: Governor Washburn  
1869 (H.85)**

**An act relating to the collection of taxes.**

STATE OF VERMONT  
Executive Department.  
Montpelier, Vt., Nov., 1869

*To the Speaker of the House of Representatives:*

SIR: I return herewith to the House of Representatives, without my approval, a bill originating in the House, entitled " An act relating to the collection of taxes; "

The intent of this bill probably was to facilitate the collection of taxes against non-residents, by allowing the collector of a town, holding a rate-bill against a non-resident, to transmit an abstract of his rate-bill and a copy of his warrant to the collector of the town in which the tax-payer resides, and authorize the collector of that town to collect the tax there. And if the bill provided only this, with suitable checks and limitations, there would be no serious objection to it, although the necessity for its enactment is not very obvious, under the provisions of section fifteen of chapter eighty-four of the General Statutes. But the bill, as drawn, is uncertain in its application and without sufficient guards in its execution. It makes no distinction between town, school district, or village collectors, but provides that any collector, having a tax against a person residing out of the town in which the collector resides, may transmit the specified abstract and copy to " a collector of taxes " in any other town, without limitation.

It does not provide for any verification of the abstract of the rate-bill and copy of the warrant by the collector who transmits them, or by any other officer, and thus authorizes the delegation of important powers, including the power of district, and of court, with the loosest possible evidence of authority.

And instead of providing that such abstract and copy shall be transmitted to the collector of the town in which time taxpayer resides, it provides that they may be put into the hands of a collector of taxes in "*any other town*," and authorizes such collector to collect the tax and charge for his actual travel.

It may be that no mischief would ever arise from this looseness of provision; but I am unwilling to approve of a bill which would afford even the opportunity to an evil disposed person to work such injustice under order of law as its terms might allow.

I therefore respectfully return the bill to the House of Representatives for their further consideration.

PETER T. WASHBURN,  
Governor

**Governor's Veto Sustained**  
**H.85 1869**

Governor's veto sustained in the House:  
**Yeas: 9 Nays: 192**

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Sources: *Journal of the House*, November 11, 1869 (pages 176-179,253)