

for the retrieval of information vary; and, based upon the concerns expressed, with near unanimity by the agencies responsible for carrying out the programs that depend upon access to ADP, I have serious questions as to whether the required centralization and transfer of responsibility can be effectively achieved within the time frame mandated by this bill.

The Comptroller's Office has advised me that, although it would do its best to implement the bill, if signed, it would prefer to achieve the objective on a phase-in basis, after careful preparation for each phase. This is the same approach that was taken with centralized payroll. The Comptroller has suggested a three-phase process:

- Phase I: Centralizing the Annapolis and Baltimore Data Centers, as well as the Public Safety and University Hospital Operations;
- Phase II: Bringing the Department of Transportation into the System;
- Phase III: Including Higher Education in the System.

In utilizing this approach, the special needs and circumstances of the agencies involved can be addressed and considered, and reasonable time limits can be established for such centralization as is found desirable to take place. I do not believe, as evidenced by the comments I have received from the agencies, that House Bill 459 allows for that type of consideration.

With this veto, I have requested the Secretary of Budget and Fiscal Planning and the Comptroller to commence the three phase process, and have directed all State agencies to cooperate with them.

Sincerely,  
Marvin Mandel  
Governor

\* By Opinion dated September 8, 1976, the Attorney General concluded that the Secretary's authority under this section did not extend to the Legislative and Judicial Branches.

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