

May 29, 1979

Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
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 1062.

This bill provides a statutory procedure for the resolution of disputes between the Mental Hygiene Administration and the Mental Retardation Administration regarding the proper placement of patients in residential facilities of the respective Administrations.

In my judgment, the provisions of Code, Art. 59A, §§ 15 and 17, coupled with the authority vested in the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Governor are more than sufficient to resolve any such disputes in a manner consistent with the primary mission of the Department, i.e., to provide a speedy, efficient, effective and coordinated public health care program. Therefore, I am satisfied that, as a matter of law, this measure is unnecessary. However, I am not satisfied that, as a matter of fact, the problems which prompted this legislation are insignificant. Quite to the contrary, wherever the General Assembly of Maryland finds it necessary to provide a statutory mechanism for resolving disputes between agencies within the Executive Branch, especially where, as here, they are constituent agencies of the very same Department, I am greatly concerned. Consequently, I have directed the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to review the subject of requests for transfers for the purpose of insuring that the laudable intent of this legislation is achieved administratively.

For these reasons, I have decided to veto House Bill 1062.

Sincerely,
Harry Hughes
Governor

House Bill No. 1090

AN ACT concerning