



Measles in area led epidemic

The clinics are free to all students. Consent forms have been sent out through the schools. They must be signed by a parent or guardian before the child can receive the immunization."

The measles last about seven days and are not particularly

dangerous unless the accompanying fever runs too high, Yost said.

The first cases turned up almost simultaneously at Annapolis Junior High and Rolling Knolls Elementary Schools, and have been traced back to a family that has

children in both schools. Yost said an older brother who contracted measles in the Army came home for a visit and infected the rest of the family.

Health and school officials thought they had the problem under control before Christmas, but it is spreading.

Rocky road looming for Mandel proposals

By TOM STUCKEY

There won't be many bills in Gov. Marvin Mandel's 1976 legislative package, but the chief executive and his staff expect to have a tough time getting even a limited program through the General Assembly.

Although Mandel aides are still drafting bills for the session which begins Wednesday, administration sources say the governor will concentrate his efforts in four areas—community corrections centers, medical malpractice claims, reorganization of the state's educational structure and reorganization of the Baltimore court system.

At least three of those are certain to run into stiff opposition, and the fourth, the education bills, also may be difficult to get enacted.

In addition, Mandel will face problems with some of the secondary items in his package, such as a proposal to revamp the state scholarship program.

And while there is disagreement as to what, if any, effect the governor's indictment and pending trial will have on his influence with the General Assembly, they certainly won't make

his job of dealing with the 188 senators and delegates any easier.

Probably the most controversial item in the Mandel program will be his bill dealing with community corrections centers.

When the General Assembly set up the program for construction of small, community-based penal centers, local governments were given veto power over prospective locations.

So far fierce local opposition has kept even a single center from being built.

The governor wants to revise the selection process by allowing the state to designate an area in which a center is needed and then turning the selection process over to the county government or Baltimore City.

But the chief executive's bill would provide that if a site isn't selected within 18 months, then the state could step in and decide where the center would be built regardless of local opposition.

That is the feature of the bill which will certainly create problems in the legislature with

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Rocky road ahead for Mandel bill package

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senators and delegates reluctant to give up local control.

Mandel has confided privately, however, that he thinks there is no other way to make the program workable.

"If this doesn't work, we might as well forget it," he has said.

The medical malpractice bill, which the governor will sponsor in conjunction with a special legislative committee which spent months working on the problem, is another item virtually certain to get caught up in endless wrangling in committee and on the House and Senate floors.

The bill, approved by the committee and drafted with the help of Mandel aides, would set

up an arbitration system for handling claims of mistreatment lodged by patients against their doctors.

The bill would allow either the doctor or the patient to appeal an arbitration award to the courts.

One of the major complaints already raised is that since the bill would permit appeals to the courts, it would not reduce the number or size of claims and would simply add another step to an already lengthy and expensive process.

Mandel aides as well as committee members say the bill would probably be unconstitutional if it didn't allow the right of appeal. But they say the arbitration process should reduce the number of cases going to the courts.

Many lawyers—and the legislature is full of

them—are opposed to the bill because the arbitration feature is much simpler than a court suit and greatly reduces the legal work necessary in handling claims.

Some opponents of the bill also say that the proposed system will encourage filing of more malpractice claims because arbitration will be cheaper and quicker than a trial.

"I don't think there is any question that you are going to have more malpractice suits," Mandel says. But he adds that he thinks the verdicts and the size of the awards will be more realistic under arbitration.

The Baltimore court bill, which will create a unified circuit court out of the city's fragmented Supreme Bench, likely will run into political opposition because it will provide for a single

elected court clerk to replace the elected clerks who now serve the various sections of the Supreme Bench.

Mandel's education bills will follow the recommendations made last week by a task force which he had set up to review the proposals of the Rosenberg Commission, which spent about two years studying public education at all levels in Maryland.

The education bills have not been completed yet, but the major feature is expected to be creation of a new State Board of Higher Education. It will replace the existing Maryland Council for Higher Education, but will exercise more authority over the colleges and universities than does the council.

Another part of the education package will be a bill the governor and his aides hope will clear up the confusion over funding education for handicapped children.

Administration sources say the bill will set up a complex formula for deciding how much the state will pay to educate handicapped children and how much will be paid by the counties and Baltimore City. They say it will also increase the money spent on educating the handicapped over a five year period to about \$120 million a year.

Lt. Gov. Blair Lee, who has been working on the bill, says that "if it fails this session, I think the handicapped children are going to suffer."

He said he thinks there has been a strong public push for the handicapped recently, but that he thinks public support is beginning to wane.



Even a star hockey player needs some help every once in a while. So Tom Hutchinson, left, of Bay Drive in Bay Ridge, tightens the laces on the skates of his son Chris, 10, before a hockey game on the ice at Lake Ogleton in Bay Ridge Saturday.

\$8 million in aid

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paid \$29,134 by the state.

The association of Drs. Manning W. Alden, William A. Williams and Roy V. Land received \$69,725 from the state. The doctors perform the laboratory pathology work in Anne Arundel General Hospital.

Another medical association,

the Doctors Emergency Service, which contracts to provide emergency ward coverage for the hospital, was paid \$31,501 by the state last year.

A group of four Pasadena dentists headed by Dr. Sylvan M. Shane received the third highest amount of Medicaid payments made to dentists or dental associations in the state.

They were paid \$188,873 last year.

Shane said this morning, "That seems like a lot, but it went to four different doctors, and it doesn't take into consideration that more than half is consumed by laboratory expense and overhead.

Lyman W. Karr, executive director of the Maryland State

Dental Association, said state records indicate more than half the licensed dentists do treat Medicaid patients.

The second highest payment for dental fees in this county went to Annapolis dentists Albert H. Klair Jr. and Stanley S. Frankel, who together received \$47,617.

County nursing homes received relatively small payments for services to patients on medical assistance programs. The Plaza Manor Nursing Home, the largest in the county, was paid \$567,186, the most of the nine homes in the county. The home is owned by Alonzo and Susie Moore.

Other nursing homes, their

of Baltimore; \$402,221.

— Hammond's Lane Nursing Center, owned by Medical Services Corporation, the largest nursing home operator in the state; \$347,351.

— North Arundel Convalescent Center, owned by CH-C Corporation; \$257,073.

— Fairfield Nursing Center, owned by the nonprofit Fairfield Nursing Center Association; \$177,584.

— Knollwood Manor, owned by John and Naomi Lloyd of Millersville; \$172,390.

— Cooper Convalescent Home, owned by Mrs. Halaria Cooper of Columbia; \$140,578.

— Annapolis Nursing and Convalescent Center, recently

L.A. doctors' strike is worsening daily