

The President announced the veto was sustained by yeas and nays as follows:

Negative

Senators—

President, Bertorelli, Clark, Curran, Dean, Derr, Dorf, Graham, Gude, Hall, Hepbron, Hodges, Hughes, (G.), Hughes, (H.), Mach, Malkus, Nock, North, O'Farrell, Parran, Phoebus, Pine, Raley, Roney, Sanford, Snyder, Steffey, Welcome, Wineland.  
Total 29.

Senate Bill No. 170—Psychiatrists

AN ACT to add a new Section 13A to Article 35 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Evidence," subtitle "Competency of Witnesses," to follow immediately after Section 13 thereof, providing that certain disclosures and communications between a patient and a person licensed to practice medicine while acting in the capacity of a psychiatrist shall be privileged communications under certain circumstances and relating generally to the terms and conditions for this privilege.

EXECUTIVE'S MESSAGE

May 4, 1965.

Honorable William S. James  
President of the Senate  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 170, 1965 session, and I am returning this bill along with my veto message.

This bill adds a new Section 13A to Article 35 of the Annotated Code of Maryland providing that certain disclosures and communications between a patient and a person licensed to practice medicine while acting in the capacity of a psychiatrist shall be privileged communications under certain circumstances.

It has not been easy for me to reach the decision to veto this bill for I believe there is great merit to providing privileged communications, under certain circumstances, to persons receiving psychiatric care. However, in the minds of many prominent citizens this bill, in some instances appears to go too far in providing unwarranted advantage to defendants in criminal cases; while at the same time, in the minds of many others being discriminatory to other professions providing care to the mentally or emotionally disturbed.

I believe, however, that with more time, and with the cooperation of the Bar Association, the State Judiciary, and the professional associations of both the psychiatrists and psychologists an acceptable bill can be prepared for enactment at the next session of the General Assembly.

I am, therefore, referring this bill and my veto message to the President of the Legislative Council, with the request that he call the