

This bill would change the hours and days of voter registration in Calvert County. Both the sponsor of the bill and the Senator representing the County have informed me that events subsequent to the bill's passage have cleared up the problem the bill is designed to correct. For this reason they have requested that I veto the measure.

I am thus complying with their request.

Sincerely,

(s) SPIRO T. AGNEW,

*Governor.*

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### House Bill No. 574—Generic Names of Drugs

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 42 (a) of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume and 1967 Supplement), title "Health," subtitle "Miscellaneous Provisions," to provide that the Department of Health, after hearings, shall publish a list of drugs which shall be prescribed by their generic name; ~~and to limit the profit allowable as a handling charge for drugs under the medical aid program to twenty per cent of wholesale costs.~~

May 7, 1968.

Honorable Marvin Mandel  
Speaker of the House of Delegates  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Section 17 of Article II of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed today House Bill 574 and am returning it to you.

This bill would direct the Department of Health to publish a list of drugs which, when prescribed under a grant program, must be prescribed by their generic names. I want to make it abundantly clear that I am not opposed to the principle of this bill. I am certain that some generic drugs can be prescribed with the same confidence as brand name drugs. However, the dangers inherent in such a procedure make it of the utmost importance that we proceed only when we are sure of our steps.

The bill before me would allow a list to be published only after public hearings and only after the physician's and pharmacists' services committees of the Maryland Medical Assistance Advisory Committee approve. However, many questions are raised by this procedure which the bill does not answer. Must the committees be unanimous in their approval? What is to be used as a criteria for judging the efficiency of these drugs? Are they to be tested and if so, who is to do the testing and how will it be financed? What can be done if a doctor refuses to prescribe the drugs by their generic name once on