

## House Bill No. 1636 - Drug Labels

AN ACT concerning

## Drug Labels

FOR the purpose of requiring every pharmacist who, by prescription, dispenses or sells certain drugs, to place a warning on the label of the drug container informing the consumer that the drug may impair driving ability.

May 31, 1974.

Honorable John Hanson Briscoe  
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 1636.

This bill requires all pharmacists who dispense or sell by prescription certain specified drugs to place the following warning label on the drug container: "This Medication May Impair Your Driving Ability".

At a public hearing held with respect to House Bill 1636, the Dean of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, as well as a number of pharmacists and representatives of the pharmaceutical industry, testified that, in fact, not all of the types of drugs specified in House Bill 1636 would necessarily impair driving ability. They further testified that there are various other drugs, not listed in the bill, which might have adverse effects in driving habits of individuals. I am also advised that the Commissioners of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy are in agreement with this assessment. Copies of letters to me in this regard from the Dean of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and from the President of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy are attached to and should be considered a part of this veto message.

In addition, I have been assured by the Board of Pharmacy that the undeniably commendable purpose of House Bill 1636 can, and will, be administratively implemented through Board regulation.

For these reasons, I have decided to veto House Bill 1636.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Marvin Mandel