

Sincerely,
Marvin Mandel
Governor

Senate Bill No. 171 - Mental Health Aftercare Services
AN ACT concerning

Mental Health - Aftercare Services

FOR the purpose of requiring aftercare programs to be included in mental health services except in a certain instance; permitting funds for aftercare programs; providing responsibilities of certain officials in the design and implementation of aftercare services; requiring certain information to be included in aftercare plans; ~~[[and]]~~ generally providing for rules and regulations to be established in mental health aftercare programs; clarifying language; and removing incorrect references.

May 19, 1976.

Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 171.

This bill requires the preparation of a detailed written aftercare plan for each patient prior to discharge from a public or private mental health facility, except a voluntary patient who leaves the facility against medical advice. It also requires that the plan be sent to the Regional Mental Health Director and the Local Public Health Officer of the county in which the patient resides if the patient consents in writing to such transmission. If he does not, the plan is to be placed in the patient's file for "possible future reference". A patient discharged on a voluntary basis may refuse all services provided in his aftercare plan; yet, subject to obtaining his consent, the plan must still be sent to the two local officials "for reference or possible future action".