

Occupational Therapy Practice

FOR the purpose of establishing a Board of Occupational Therapy Practice in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; unless excepted, requiring licensure by the Board to practice occupational therapy in the State; establishing the procedures and qualifications for obtaining, maintaining, and renewing a license; establishing civil and criminal penalties for violation of this subtitle; providing for a contingency; and generally relating to the practice of occupational therapy.

May 29, 1978

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 538.

This bill establishes a Board of Occupational Therapy Practice in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and, after a certain date, requires licensure to practice occupational therapy in this State.

House Bill 935, which was enacted by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 29, 1978, accomplishes the same purpose. The bills differ, however, because of an amendment to the provisions that specify the responsibility of the Board with respect to licensure.

The Senate Bill states that the Board has a duty to issue licenses within 90 days after application for licensure is made. House Bill 935 was amended to delete the 90-day requirement, and a one year delay in the commencement of all licensure activities was substituted.

The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene has advised me that a 90-day period for licensure would be insufficient for licensure by reciprocity and that a one year delay in activities, as provided in House Bill 935, is preferable, since the budget for Fiscal Year 1979 does not contain provisions for this new board. In addition, the adoption of rules and regulations and other administrative responsibilities could be effected during this period of one year.

Since the purpose of Senate Bill 538 is accomplished by the enactment and signing of House Bill 935, and for the reasons given for preferring the language of House Bill 935,