

May 29, 1978

Honorable John Hanson Eriscoe
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 1264.

This bill requires the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to determine the need, if any, for community residences for mentally ill persons in each county.

This bill as originally introduced would have facilitated the use of community residences to serve the mentally ill and thereby alleviate overcrowding in State mental hospitals. However, because of extensive amendments placed on the bill, the bill is no longer in accordance with its original intent. Rather, in very ambiguous terms, the bill now provides, inter alia, that the Secretary may choose sites and contract with other groups to run facilities on the sites, but only if the location is "as provided in county and municipal zoning ordinances."

I believe that the effect of this bill will be to restrict, rather than to facilitate, the development of these community residences. Its very laudable purpose can be achieved by appropriate legislation in 1979.

For these reasons, and at the request of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Legal Aid Bureau, the Mental Health Association of Maryland, and the Mental Health Association of Metropolitan Baltimore, I have decided to veto House Bill 1264.

Sincerely,
Blair Lee III
Acting Governor

House Bill No. 1319 - Income Tax - Itemized
Deductions

AN ACT concerning

Income Tax - Itemized Deductions