

Review of Federal Grant-in-Aid Applications

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of State Planning to notify and provide for review by members of the General Assembly of certain applications for federal grants-in-aid affecting their respective districts; and requiring the Department to include comments received from General Assembly members about an application to be included in the State Intergovernmental Cooperation Clearinghouse review letter for that application.

May 29, 1978

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 1359.

This bill requires the Department of State Planning to provide to members of the General Assembly for their review federal grant-in-aid applications in excess of \$50,000 that affect their respective districts.

The majority of these grant applications involve statewide projects which contain very little information specific to individual legislative districts. I am informed that the enactment of this bill would result in additional administrative and clerical procedures that may delay timely application for federal funding and ultimately endanger the receipt of federal funds.

The grant application process is an already cumbersome one. I certainly have no objection to the involvement of members of the General Assembly in the review process if an application actually involves their particular districts. However, I do not believe that compulsory legislation is necessary to accomplish this objective. I am certain that the Secretary of State Planning can, on an individual basis, inform legislators of applications which are of direct concern to them.

For these reasons, and at the request of the Secretaries of Budget and Fiscal Planning and Health and Mental Hygiene, I have decided to veto House Bill 1359.

Sincerely,
Blair Lee III
Acting Governor
