

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Corrections in cooperation with the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland to establish standards for health care in State correctional and reformatory institutions; requiring the Department in cooperation with the Faculty to make regular inspections of these institutions to determine if the standards are being met; and requiring the Department in cooperation with the Faculty to make reports of the inspections to certain parties.

May 29, 1979

Honorable James Clark, Jr.
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 342.

This bill requires the Department of Corrections, in cooperation with the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, to establish health care standards for State correctional institutions and to inspect and report on those inspections.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene presently has this authority and regulations regarding health care standards for State correctional institutions are now in effect. The approval of this bill would, inter alia, impose upon a private organization, the duty to perform a service which is clearly within the competence, capability and responsibility of State agencies. To the extent that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene should ever require the assistance of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, I am confident that such assistance can be secured absent legislative mandate.

For these reasons, I have decided to veto Senate Bill 342.

Sincerely,
Harry Hughes
Governor

Senate Bill No. 367