

Senate Bill No. 552

AN ACT concerning

Rape and Sexual Offenses - Doctor and Hospital Charges

FOR the purpose of changing the procedure for the payment of certain doctor and hospital charges for the victims of rape and sexual offenses; and generally relating to payment of doctor and hospital costs for rape and sexual offense victims.

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 552.

This bill changes the procedure for payment of physicians and hospital bills for victims of rape or sexual offense.

I have been advised by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene that presently the Department reimburses a physician \$80 for examination of victims of rape or sexual offense and completion of a multipage report for prosecution purposes. By requiring that the physicians bill the victim's insurer, this bill would result in a considerable reduction of that fee. I am advised that this would mean that fewer physicians would be willing to conduct these examinations and complete the reports. Therefore, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has requested that this bill be vetoed. The Department will introduce corrective legislation in the 1980 legislative session.

For these reasons I have decided to veto Senate Bill 552.

Sincerely,
Harry Hughes
Governor
