

While it is our view that the bill is unconstitutional, we would add that election officials continue to have authority to forbid electioneering in or near polling places and to regulate the conduct and presence of poll watchers and other persons in order to insure the integrity, efficiency and order of the electoral process.

Very truly yours,  
Stephen H. Sachs  
Attorney General

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Senate Bill No. 580

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Veterans Commission

FOR the purpose of increasing the number of members on the Maryland Veterans Commission; altering the membership of the Maryland Veterans Commission; specifying organizations to which each new member shall belong; and relating generally to the Maryland Veterans Commission.

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 580.

This bill would increase the number of members on the Maryland Veterans Commission from nine to fifteen, alter the membership of the Commission, and specify organizations to which each new member shall belong.

Currently, with the exception of the chairman, the commissioners are selected by congressional district. This method of organization was well thought out in order to achieve maximal representation for the greatest number of our veterans. Given the numerous veterans' organizations in the State of Maryland, it is virtually impossible to provide equitable representation for all special interest groups. However, the present commission, as structured, has a demonstrated history of responding to the issues that affect the majority of our veterans in a forthright and competent manner.