

Chapter 605 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1981
Section 1

The Speaker put the question: Shall the Bill pass, notwithstanding the objections of the Executive?

The roll call vote resulted as follows:

Affirmative: 4

Negative: 123

(See Roll Call No. 2076)

The Speaker announced the veto was sustained.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

June 1, 1982

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
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 155.

The original intent of the bill, which is evident from the language of the bill as introduced, was to exempt operators of certain emergency vehicles from liability for negligent, but not malicious or grossly negligent, acts or omissions while performing emergency services. The bill would have further provided that the responsibility for those acts would be shifted to owners or lessees of emergency vehicles, including the political subdivisions of the State. I wholeheartedly support the original intent of the bill.

The bill as originally drafted and as amended has given rise to certain severe interpretive problems which the Attorney General believes will unnecessarily perplex both courts and litigants. A copy of the Attorney General's letter of advice to me is attached. I agree with the Attorney General that the enactment of this bill may not assure that its original intent will be given effect after it has been tested through the judicial process. For that reason, I have decided to veto House Bill 155.

Sincerely,
Harry Hughes
Governor