

of protective supervision or out-of-home placement is requested, or upon review of placement or custody orders. Although it is not possible to know exactly how many children may be placed at risk as a result of a local department of social services' inability to introduce such evidence in court, the Department of Human Resources and other proponents of the veto believe the number is substantial.

The Department of Human Resources and Office of the Attorney General have further considered the anomaly in the law whereby the testimony of licensed social workers would be subject to the privilege but the testimony of unlicensed social workers -- who do exactly the same "counseling" in protective services cases -- would not. The Attorney General has expressed the view that "such an anomaly in the law will undoubtedly lead to litigation, particularly in view of the large percentage of social workers who have chosen to be licensed."

Under these circumstances the need to veto this bill and avoid its negative impact on the welfare of children and others is unfortunate but unavoidable. I have, however, been assured by the Secretary of Human Resources that a priority effort will be made to assist the proponents of this measure to structure legislation for the 1983 session that corrects the deficiencies of the present bill. My Administration supports the enactment of an appropriate privilege between social workers and their clients that recognizes and safeguards such a professional counseling relationship.

Sincerely,  
Harry Hughes  
Governor

Senate Bill No. 905

AN ACT concerning

Privileged Communications - Social Worker's Patients  
Clients

~~FOR--the--purpose--of--creating--the--social--worker--patient  
privilege--during--all--judicial--and--administrative  
procedures.~~

FOR the purpose of providing that a client of a licensed  
certified social worker has a privilege in certain  
proceedings to refuse to disclose and prevent  
disclosure of certain communications made to the  
licensed social worker under certain circumstances;  
defining certain terms; and generally relating to the  
licensed certified social worker-client privilege.