

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 858.

This bill provides that a physician may not represent himself to the public as a specialist in any field of specialized medicine unless he has been identified by the State Board of Medical Examiners as a specialist in that field of medicine. The bill authorizes the Board to adopt rules and regulations concerning the qualifications and procedures for identification as a specialist. The bill, if signed, would become effective July 1, 1983.

Currently many physicians in this State ethically represent themselves to the public as specialists. Senate Bill 858, if signed, would require these physicians to seek and obtain certification by the State Board by July 1 in order to be in compliance with the law. A physician who violates this statute would appear to be guilty of a misdemeanor under § 14-706 of the Health Occupations Article. Upon conviction, the physician would be subject to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 5 years, or both.

The State Board of Medical Examiners has advised me that it is not practically possible to implement the physician specialty identification procedures before the effective date of the bill.

In light of the implementation difficulties and because violation of this provision may be a criminal misdemeanor, I have decided to veto Senate Bill 858.

Sincerely,  
Harry Hughes  
Governor

Senate Bill No. 858

AN ACT concerning

Licensed Physicians - Medical Specialties

FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain ~~licensed~~ physicians from making certain representation to the public that the ~~licensed~~ physician is authorized to practice a medical specialty unless the ~~licensed~~ physician ~~has-passed-certain~~ examinations is identified as a specialist in that field by the State Board of Medical Examiners; providing that the Board may determine certain qualifications of a physician on request; requiring the Board to adopt certain rules and regulations under this Act; allowing the Board to approve certain additional specialties that are recognized and approved by the American Medical Association; providing that the Board is a depository for and the arbitrator of certain standards of the American Medical Association; and generally