

[for the period from June 1, 2004, through November 30, 2004] FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FOLLOWING THE DATE THE PRECEDING REPORT IS PROVIDED, on:

- (1) the number of complaints filed with the Administration relating to the denial of coverage for the surgical treatment of morbid obesity;
- (2) the health insurance carrier that denied coverage and the reason given for the denial; and
- (3) whether the Administration upheld or reversed the denial of coverage and the basis of the decision.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2004. [It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Insurance Administration shall adopt regulations:

- (1) clarifying the applicability of the National Institutes of Health's guidelines to the utilization review process for primary bariatric surgery for insurance carriers and private review agents; and
- (2) establishing reasonable documentation requirements for the utilization review of primary bariatric surgery following the recommendations of the Task Force to Study Utilization Review of the Surgical Treatment of Morbid Obesity as set forth in the report of the Task Force issued November, 2004.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2005.

May 20, 2005

The Honorable Michael E. Busch  
Speaker of the House  
State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 479 - *Election Law - Voting System - Study of Independent Verification Systems*.

House Bill 479 requires the State Administrator of Elections to study, review, and evaluate independent verification systems, including at least one system that includes a voter verified paper trail. The required study would be conducted during municipal elections in specified counties. To assist with the evaluation, House Bill 479 establishes an Advisory Committee that will provide guidance to the State Administrator concerning the evaluation of independent verification systems. The Advisory Committee is comprised of members who would be appointed by the Speaker