

(c) The Governor shall designate 1 member as chairman.

(d) The terms of the members shall be staggered and shall not exceed 3 years.

(e) Each member of the Task Force:

(1) Serves without compensation; and

(2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses in accordance with the Standard State Travel Regulations.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1985.

May 28, 1985

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 949.

House Bill 949 would require the Maryland Veterans Commission to provide, without charge, a grave liner for each burial plot in a State veterans cemetery. Grave liners are concrete vaults into which caskets are placed for burial. The rationale for using a grave liner is that it reduces the amount of soil sinkage of the grave site over the years and thereby decreases the cost to maintain the cemetery plot.

In the past year, there have been two State studies of the desirability of supplying grave liners in Maryland veteran cemeteries. A study by the State Cemetery Program Manager at the direction of the Maryland Veterans Commission concluded that the use of grave liners would not save the State money nor would it improve the appearance of the cemetery. The study noted that there has been very little difference in sinkage between graves with or without grave liners and attributed this to the use of soil tamping techniques. In the five cemeteries operated by the Maryland Veterans Commission, the soil is compacted by compressed air tampers as the grave is closed. Three weeks later the grave is tamped again and top soil is added before a layer of sod is placed on the grave. Since veteran interment began in State veteran cemeteries 8 years ago, there has been no significant