

actual experience with Medicaid reimbursements justifies the adjustment.

Therefore, for the above reasons, I have decided to veto Senate Bill 1061.

Sincerely,
Harry Hughes
Governor

May 6, 1986

The Honorable Harry Hughes
Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

RE: Senate Bill 1061

Dear Governor Hughes:

The above mentioned bill requires the Governor to include certain funds in the operating budget for the Mental Hygiene Administration for Fiscal Year 1988. Although the bill does not prescribe a dollar amount, it does include a proposed formula for computing this minimum level. The bill further provides that the calculated amount is in addition to the amount of non-Title 19 monies appropriated in Fiscal Year 1987 for community residential and support services for persons with mental disorders under the age of 21. There are a number of problems with the computation of the amount; in fact, it is not clear that a meaningful calculation could be made.

The bill requires the inclusion in the Fiscal Year 1988 Budget of an "amount of funds at least equivalent to the calculated amount of funds to be collected in Fiscal Year 1987" in certain Federal reimbursement funds, less an amount equivalent to the State's obligation of General Funds in Fiscal Year 1987 for in-patient, private psychiatric care for persons under 21.

The bill specifies a calculation for the first amount but only refers to "obligation of General Funds" without being clear as to what constitutes an obligation. If obligation refers to amounts billed to the State, then the calculated amount requires a number which will not be available, at the earliest, until the first quarter of Fiscal Year 1988 while the calculations to arrive at the amount is required by the bill must be made in the second quarter of Fiscal Year 1987.

The formula arrives at the first amount by multiplying the number of bed days for each eligible person in a Department of Health and Mental Hygiene facility by the product of the number of persons under 21 in the census of these facilities at some undefined time during September of 1986 times \$100. The effect is to multiply the total bed days of all those under 21 by the number of clients under 21. This clearly overstates the actual