

VETOES

Chapter 655 provides a flexible and workable mechanism to both the Governor and the General Assembly for appropriating funds for essential needs, the precise scope and amount of which may not have completely jelled by the time the budget is approved by the General Assembly. In every appropriation made to the Dedicated Purpose Account, the General Assembly has the opportunity to specify the purpose for which the funds are to be used, and may also, if it chooses, specify conditions which have to be met before the Governor may transfer the funds by budget amendment. Further, the General Assembly may also specify, subject to certain constitutional limitations, that any transfer of funds by budget amendment with respect to any particular appropriation be reviewed and, where appropriate, receive the prior approval of the Legislative Policy Committee.

This flexibility is foreclosed by House Bill 1516 which requires prior approval by the Legislative Policy Committee for every transfer of funds from the Dedicated Purpose Account by budget amendment. My veto of House Bill 1516 does not prevent the General Assembly from imposing this condition on specific future appropriations to the Dedicated Purpose Account, subject to constitutional limitations. My veto does allow, however, the General Assembly to authorize the Governor to transfer funds from the Dedicated Purpose Account when the circumstances justify this procedure.

Therefore, for the above reasons, I have decided to veto House Bill 1516.

Sincerely,
William Donald Schaefer
Governor

House Bill No. 1516

AN ACT concerning

State Reserve Fund - Dedicated Purpose Account

FOR the purpose of requiring approval by the General Assembly's Legislative Policy Committee for the transfer of funds by the Governor from the Dedicated Purpose Account of the State Reserve Fund.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - State Finance and Procurement
Section 7-310
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1985 Volume and 1986 Supplement)