

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

May 27, 1988

The Honorable R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr.  
Speaker of the House of Delegates  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 300.

House Bill 300 would establish in the Department of State Planning a repository and clearinghouse for information on federal and State grants, loans, and other financial and technical assistance. Under the legislation, the Department would be statutorily mandated to adopt regulations that require all State agencies to submit this information to the Department, and to publish grant application requirements in the Maryland Register at least "60 days before the grant deadline." The Department would also be required to annually publish a catalog or catalogs of State assistance programs.

With the cooperation of each State agency, the Department of State Planning already publishes a catalog of state assistance programs. In addition, grant announcements and application procedures are already routinely published in the Maryland Register. While I do have concerns about the process becoming too bureaucratized as mandated by HB 300, my objection to this legislation is based on the 60 day advance publication requirement for financial assistance.

Three State agencies have raised objections to the advance publication requirement. I understand that there have been a number of federal programs where the State has not been given 60 days to award grants or where the State was notified that a grant had to be fully encumbered within a relatively short period. A recent example of this involved the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Permanent Housing Program for the Handicapped Homeless, which received materials in the last week of February for a March 31, 1988 application deadline. The rigidity of the 60 day provision could have prevented Maryland from benefiting from its share of this \$15 million federal program, certainly an undesirable result.

In other cases, the advance publication requirement could interfere with programs administered by the State that were specifically designed for emergency responses. Among these are programs administered by the Community Development Administration, the Emergency Shelter Grant Program, the Small Cities Improvement Program, and the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant - Imminent Threat and Emergency Grants Program.