

VETOES

(B) A DOMICILIARY CARE HOME MAY NOT ADMIT OR RETAIN RESIDENTS IN NEED OF 24-HOUR A DAY NURSING CARE BY OR UNDER SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED NURSE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1989.

-----

May 25, 1989

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 755.

House Bill 755 would require a builder to offer a prospective buyer the option of installing a sprinkler system in a new single-family home. If a sprinkler system is installed, the homeowner is then required to report any fire that occurs in the dwelling unit to the 911 emergency telephone exchange.

According to the United States Fire Administration, 6,000 fire deaths and 250,000 civilian injuries are reported annually. Approximately 80% of these deaths and 70% of the injuries occur in residential units. It is argued that a properly installed and operating sprinkler system would effectively help control the spread of fire, and thereby reduce the number of fire related injuries and deaths.

The intent of the legislation is laudable and I commend the sponsor's efforts to reduce the tragic toll caused by fires. Today I have signed into law a companion bill, House Bill 658, which would require a builder to install a sprinkler system in all newly constructed dormitories, hotels, lodging or rooming houses, multifamily residential dwellings, and townhouses. That bill is consistent with the recommendations of the Building Officials and Code Administrators (BOCA) standards.

I am troubled, however, with certain provisions of House Bill 755. In particular, the bill would require a homeowner who installs a sprinkler system to call 911 whenever any fire occurs in the dwelling unit "regardless of: