

President of the Senate
 State House
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 664.

This bill would establish comprehensive procedures by which individuals may make advance health care directives.

House Bill 1243, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 11, 1993, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 664.

Sincerely,
 William Donald Schaefer
 Governor

Senate Bill No. 664

AN ACT concerning

Health Care Decision Act

FOR the purpose of providing that certain individuals may make an advance directive appointing a health care agent or authorizing the providing, withholding, or withdrawing of health care, including life-prolonging life-sustaining procedures; providing that a directive may be written or oral; providing ~~an~~ optional ~~form~~ forms for an advance directive and living will; providing for the revocation of an advance directive; providing for surrogate decision makers in certain circumstances ~~in the absence of an advance directive;~~ providing standards for health care agents and surrogate decision makers; authorizing certain emergency medical services personnel to follow certain "do not resuscitate" orders under certain circumstances; providing for the transfer of patients among health care providers in certain circumstances; authorizing treatment without consent under certain circumstances; requiring a health care provider to petition a court or patient care advisory committee under certain circumstances; providing immunity from liability for certain actions; prohibiting certain actions by life insurers; providing certain expedited proceedings under certain circumstances; providing certain ~~civil and criminal~~ penalties; requiring a health care facility to provide certain information; providing that certain provisions of law governing durable powers of attorney do not apply to certain advance directives; establishing certain standards and procedures for certain determinations by a court regarding life-sustaining procedures for a person under guardianship; providing for the effect and construction of this Act; establishing certain duties of health care providers under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; and generally relating to health care decision making by a patient, or a patient's agent or surrogate.