

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article - Financial Institutions**

13-234.3.

(d) (1) The Authority may execute and perform bid, performance, and payment bonds as a surety for the benefit of a principal in connection with any contract, the majority of the funding for which is provided by the federal government or a state government, a local government, or a utility regulated by the Public Service Commission.

(2) The bonds:

(i) May not exceed [\$250,000] \$750,000 each; and

(ii) Shall be subject to the approval of the Authority, based on the bond worthiness of the principal as determined by the Authority on review of an application.

(3) The monetary limit in this subsection does not apply if the sources of funding for the bonds are grants.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1995.

May 24, 1995

The Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.  
Speaker of the House of Delegates  
State House  
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 256.

This bill establishes a certification program administered by the Board of Optometry for "therapeutically certified optometrists" (TCO). A certified TCO is authorized to administer and prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents and remove superficial foreign bodies from the eye. The bill requires additional continuing education requirements for TCOs, allows certified TCOs to use the title of "therapeutically certified optometrist" and specifies that certified TCOs are held to the same standard of care applied to a licensed physician who provides similar services. The bill also defines a "diagnostically certified optometrist" (DCO) and specifies that the board must keep a current list showing all certified DCOs and TCOs. It alters the definition of "practice optometry" to include the visual system.

Senate Bill 454, which was passed by the General Assembly and will be signed by me on May 25, 1995, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 256.