

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 225.

This bill requires a lawyer to wait at least 30 days before writing to a person involved in an accident, disaster, or crime to solicit professional employment. This bill does not apply to contact initiated by a prospective client.

Senate Bill 14, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on this date, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 225.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

House Bill No. 225

AN ACT concerning

Lawyers – Written Solicitation of Clients – Limited Prohibition

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a lawyer from sending a written communication, directly or through an agent, to a certain prospective client during a certain period of time; providing a certain exception; making provisions of this Act severable; and generally relating to written solicitations by lawyers.

BY adding to

Article – Business Occupations and Professions
Section 10-605.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1995 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

Article – Business Occupations and Professions

10-605.1.

(A) A LAWYER MAY NOT SEND A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION, DIRECTLY OR THROUGH AN AGENT, TO A PROSPECTIVE CLIENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT IF THE COMMUNICATION CONCERNS:

(1) AN ACTION FOR PERSONAL INJURY OR WRONGFUL DEATH, OR OTHERWISE RELATES TO AN ACCIDENT OR DISASTER INVOLVING THE PERSON TO WHOM THE COMMUNICATION IS ADDRESSED OR THE PERSON'S RELATIVE, UNLESS THE ACCIDENT OR DISASTER OCCURRED MORE THAN 30 DAYS BEFORE THE DATE THE COMMUNICATION IS MAILED; OR