

(2) If a violation results in the death of an individual, a person who violates subsection (b) or (c) of this section is guilty of a felony and, on conviction, is subject to a fine of not more than \$200,000 or imprisonment for not more than life or both.

(e) Unless a greater fine is authorized under this section, a person that is not an individual and that violates subsection (b) or (c) of this section is subject to a fine of not more than:

- (1) \$100,000 for each misdemeanor; and
- (2) \$250,000 for each felony.

(f) A person who violates subsection (b) or (c) of this section may be required to make full restitution of the money, or the value of the health care services or other goods or services unlawfully received.】

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2000.

May 17, 2000

The Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.
Speaker of the House
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 356 – District Court – Civil Jurisdiction – Dishonored Checks and Other Instruments.

House Bill 356 provides that the District Court of Maryland has exclusive original civil jurisdiction in an action for damages for a dishonored check or other instrument regardless of the amount in controversy.

Currently, the District Court of Maryland has exclusive original civil jurisdiction in an action for damages that does not exceed \$25,000. The established jurisdictional amounts for our court system are designed to carefully balance the cases considered by the District Court and Circuit Courts in order to protect the rights of the individuals involved in legal actions. Any disruption of this balance created by an exception to the established jurisdictional amount in controversy should be thoroughly supported by substantial evidence that such an exception is warranted. House Bill 356 does not provide the compelling evidence necessary to alter the current law.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 356.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor