

(ii) Cooperation with the Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene and Human Resources;

(iii) Annual review of all ombudsman activities by the Department;

(iv) Complaint review, investigation, and resolution procedures including provisions which assure the confidentiality of complaints and the right of privacy of any complainant or resident of a related institution;

(v) Maintenance by the local ombudsman of a recordkeeping or information system which assures the confidentiality of records or files and the right of privacy of any complainant or resident of a related institution; and

(vi) Access, review, and copying of medical records to the extent authorized by § 4-305(b)(3) of the Health - General Article when the local ombudsman is the person in interest or as otherwise provided by law.

~~(4)~~ (3) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH AND SUBMIT A BUDGET FOR MINIMUM STAFFING RATIOS FOR THE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM AT THE HIGHER OF:

(I) ONE FULL-TIME OMBUDSMAN PER 1,000 LONG-TERM CARE BEDS;

(II) 20 HOURS OF OMBUDSMAN TIME PER WEEK PER AREA AGENCY;
OR

(III) 10 HOURS OF OMBUDSMAN TIME PER WEEK PER NURSING HOME.

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

May 18, 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 866 - Medical Assistance - Expedited Eligibility.

This bill clarifies that the expedited eligibility standard for children applying for the Maryland Children's Health Program and on pregnant women includes individuals with associated food stamp, cash assistance or medical assistance cases, to the extent permitted by federal law and regulations.

Senate Bill 395, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 11, 2000, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 866.

Sincerely,