

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 343 – *Health Facilities – Nursing Homes – Family Council*.

This bill provides for the composition of a family council, and authorizes a family council to be created or led by the owner, operator, or staff of a nursing home under specified circumstances. It requires a nursing home to give new and prospective residents specified information about a family council in the nursing home, and requires the nursing home to respond in writing to any written grievance or other communication from the family council within 14 calendar days, after receiving a communication.

House Bill 484, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 11, 2004, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 343.

Very truly yours,
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Senate Bill No. 343

AN ACT concerning

Health Facilities – Nursing Homes – Family Council

FOR the purpose of providing for the composition of a family council for a nursing home; ~~prohibiting a family council from being created or led by certain persons;~~ authorizing a family council to be created or led by certain persons under certain circumstances; requiring a nursing home to give certain persons certain information about a family council in the nursing home; requiring the nursing home to respond in writing to certain communications from the family council within a certain time frame; requiring a nursing home to create and to maintain certain correspondence files; providing for the contents of certain files; requiring records in regulatory files to be unedited; requiring records in public files to delete certain information; providing the times for the review of public files by certain persons; requiring a nursing home to promptly comply with a request by a licensing authority to review certain files; requiring the Secretary of Aging to adopt certain regulations; defining a certain term; and generally relating to a family council in nursing homes.

BY renumbering

Article – Health – General
Section 19–1415
to be Section 19–1416