

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 161 - *Governors Appointments Office and Appointing Authorities - Duties*.

This bill prohibits the Governors Appointments Office from directing or overruling specified decisions of specified appointing authorities in the Executive Branch of State government, the Secretary of Budget and Management, or a unit of the Department of Budget and Management.

Senate Bill 50, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 161.

Sincerely,

Martin O'Malley
Governor

House Bill 161

AN ACT concerning

Governor's Appointments Office and Appointing Authorities - Duties

FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Governor's Appointments Office from ~~superseding or interfering with any function~~ directing or overruling certain decisions of certain appointing authorities in the Executive Branch of State government and the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management ~~with respect to the Secretary's functions regarding the State's personnel systems as assigned by law; prohibiting the Governor from delegating to the Appointments Office or any other unit, officer, official, or employee in the Office of the Governor or the Executive Branch any function or duty with respect to the hiring and termination of at-will and special appointments in the principal departments of the Executive Branch and other units in the Executive Branch; providing a certain exception, or a unit of the Department of Budget and Management;~~ providing that appointing authorities in the Executive Branch of State government have certain exclusive powers and duties, including the power to appoint, transfer, reassign, discipline, and terminate employees under their jurisdiction; prohibiting an appointing authority from delegating final decisions on the termination of an employee; defining certain terms; and generally relating to gubernatorial appointments and appointing authorities in the Executive Branch of State government.