

(h) The additional costs payable by the insured under subsection (e) of this section may be allocated between the insured and a qualified secondary beneficiary by reason of having been the insured's spouse or may be reimbursed in full to the insured by such qualified secondary beneficiary by agreement between the parties or, as equity may require, by order of the court under Title 10, Title 11, or Title 12 of the Family Law Article at the time of the applicable change in status or thereafter.

(i) The Commissioner shall:

(1) Publish at least once annually in the Maryland Register and in a newspaper of general circulation in each of the counties of the State and Baltimore City notice apprising the public of the coverage required under this section;

(2) By regulation prescribe the form and content of the termination statement; and

(3) Make termination statement forms available to every employer whose employees are covered by a group contract.

(j) Nothing in this section shall affect or in any way limit a qualified secondary beneficiary's right to conversion privileges under a group contract.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1992.

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May 26, 1992

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

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 78.

Senate Bill 78 allows the local jurisdictions to assume full responsibility for collecting recordation taxes. In fiscal year 1993 only, the bill provides that the State be held harmless by requiring that those amounts which the clerks of the courts are currently authorized to retain be remitted to the Comptroller.

Except in Prince George's County, the clerks are required to collect recordation taxes and are authorized to retain an administrative fee. The amount of the fee ranges from 2.5 percent to 5 percent of the tax and generates approximately \$4 million statewide.

I have been advised that certain jurisdictions experienced a decline in recordation tax receipts during the recession and as a result believed that this function could be performed more efficiently by their own revenue collectors. In response to those concerns, my staff reviewed actual recordation tax receipts over a five-year period. Their findings indicate that the decrease in recordation tax receipts in certain counties was