

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 277.

This bill would add certain diseases or conditions to the list of infections required to be reported by medical laboratories, and would generally relate to reporting identifying information to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene when an individual has tested positive for the presence of HIV infection and low CD 4+ count.

House Bill 460, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 5, 1992, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 277.

Sincerely,
William Donald Schaefer
Governor

Senate Bill No. 277

AN ACT concerning

Reporting of HIV Infection and Low CD 4+ Count

FOR the purpose of adding certain diseases or conditions to the list of infections required to be reported by certain medical laboratories; ~~requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to designate anonymous HIV test sites; making an exception to the requirement that physicians, institutions, and laboratories send certain reports about HIV infection to county health officers when the individual has been tested for HIV in certain anonymous test sites designated by the Department; repealing a prohibition against the director of a medical laboratory in which serum samples are tested for human immunodeficiency virus disclosing the identity of any individual tested for HIV in any report submitted to the Department; repealing the prohibition against an institution that obtains or processes semen, blood, or tissue for use in the human body and receives a positive HIV antibody test result on a potential donor identifying the potential donor in any report to the Department; clarifying that a confidential patient identifying number be used under certain circumstances; clarifying that the identity of a patient may not be revealed under certain circumstances notwithstanding certain other provisions of law; clarifying the information to be contained in certain reports; clarifying that a laboratory may not disclose the identity of certain individuals to certain health officers; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to develop a unique patient identifying number system for testing for HIV and low CD 4+ count; requiring the Department to consult with certain groups, consider the use of certain identifiers in developing the system, make a certain report by a certain date, and review certain statutes and regulations for a certain purpose; providing for the effective dates of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to reporting of certain identifying information to the Department when an individual has tested positive for the presence of HIV infection and low CD 4+ count.~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,