

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 591.

This bill would eliminate the requirement that hospitals have a utilization review program that requires a second opinion before a nonemergency admission; alter the type of information a private review agent must submit to Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and alter the requirements placed on private review agents with regard to making determinations, providing notification, and charging fees.

House Bill 987, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 26, 1992, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 591.

Sincerely,  
William Donald Schaefer  
Governor

**Senate Bill No. 591**

AN ACT concerning

**Utilization Review**

FOR the purpose of eliminating the requirement that a hospital, as a condition of licensure, have a utilization review program that includes the requirement of an objective second opinion before a nonemergency admission; altering the information that a private review agent must submit to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene in conjunction with an application for a certificate to conduct utilization review in this State; providing for certain exceptions; requiring a private review agent to submit certain revisions and modifications to the Secretary under certain circumstances; requiring private review agents to submit the policies and procedures to ensure that the private review agent has a certain program for the orientation and training of certain personnel to the Secretary; requiring private review agents to submit to the Secretary a certain list and certification that certain criteria and standards meet certain requirements; requiring private review agents to make certain determinations within a certain time period and to promptly notify certain attending health care providers and patients under certain ~~circumstance~~ circumstances of those determinations; requiring a private review agent to provide certain information on written request to certain persons and facilities; authorizing a private review agent to charge a certain fee to certain persons and facilities; requiring certain private review agents to meet certain conditions when making certain adverse decisions; requiring certain private review agents to meet certain conditions in the event a patient or health care provider seeks reconsideration or appeal of certain adverse decisions by a private review agent; prohibiting a private