

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 335.

This bill requires health insurers, nonprofit health service plans and HMOs (carriers) that provide coverage for prescription drugs to include coverage for any prescription contraceptive drug or device that is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration. In addition, the bill requires carriers to provide coverage for the insertion, or removal and any medically necessary examination associated with the use of the contraceptive drug or device. The bill also prohibits carriers from imposing a different copayment/coinsurance for a contraceptive drug or device than is imposed for any other prescription. A carrier may exclude a religious organization from the specified coverage if the coverage conflicts with the religious organization's bona fide religious beliefs and practices and the exclusion is requested by the religious organization.

House Bill 457, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on April 28, 1998, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 335.

Sincerely,  
Parris N. Glendening  
Governor

**Senate Bill No. 335**

AN ACT concerning

**Health Benefit Plans - Coverage for Prescription Contraceptive Drugs or Devices**

FOR the purpose of requiring certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage under certain circumstances for contraceptive drugs ~~or~~ *and* devices approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use as contraceptives; ~~providing for an exception from the requirements of this Act; and providing a certain exception; imposing a certain limitation on administration of the coverage; and generally relating to requiring certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for contraceptive drugs and devices.~~

BY adding to

Article - Insurance  
Section 15-826  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1997 Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Health - General  
Section 19-706(i)