

House Bill No. 1340 - Health Services Cost
Review Commission

AN ACT concerning

Health Services Cost Review Commission

FOR the purpose of including State and university hospitals within the jurisdiction and powers of the Health Services Cost Review Commission.

May 17, 1976.

Honorable John Hanson Briscoe
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 1340.

This bill places the State hospitals, including the University of Maryland Hospital, under the general jurisdiction of the Health Services Cost Review Commission, and requires in particular that they utilize the systems of accounting and reporting adopted by the Commission.

My objection to the bill is that it is unnecessary, and would involve considerable expenditures for no useful purpose.

Existing law authorizes the Commission to request expenditure reports from and to review and approve charges by all hospitals, health care and related institutions. The law exempts neither the University Hospital nor other State hospitals, and, in fact, the University Hospital and other state hospitals submit expenditure reports to the Commission. The Commission also reviews and approves charges of the University Hospital.

The procedure with respect to approval of charges by the State hospitals differs because of the enactment of Chapter 377, Acts of 1975, by which the General Assembly recognized the rather unique status of the State hospitals and their patients and provided a specific, detailed manner and procedure for determining these charges. Codified as Section 601 of Article 43, the law provides for the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish, on an annual basis, charges for the State hospitals by rule and regulation. These charges are