

STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD, 62706GEORGE H. RYAN
GOVERNOR

August 1, 2001

To the Honorable Members of the
Illinois House of Representatives
92nd General Assembly

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor by Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, and re-affirmed by the People of the State of Illinois by popular referendum in 1974, and conforming to the standard articulated by the Illinois Supreme Court in People ex Rel. Klinger v. Howlett, 50 Ill. 2d 242 (1972), Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Co. v. Zagel, 78 Ill. 2d 387 (1979), People ex Rel. City of Canton v. Crouch, 79 Ill. 2d 356 (1980), and County of Kane v. Carlson, 116 Ill. 2d 186 (1987), that gubernatorial action be consistent with the fundamental purposes and the intent of the bill, I hereby return House Bill 279, entitled "AN ACT concerning emergency medical dispatches," with my specific recommendations for change.

House Bill 279 amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act. It requires emergency medical dispatchers to use the Department of Public Health's approved emergency medical dispatch priority reference system (EMDPRS) protocols to dispatch aid, including non-discretionary pre-arrival support instructions in emergency situations. The bill further provides that the Department of Public Health shall issue certificates to persons who meet the training and other requirements of an emergency medical dispatcher. The Department is also responsible for establishing an annual recertification requirement for emergency medical dispatchers, including continuing education requirements.

It is my understanding that this legislation represents the outcome of considerable efforts by various parties including the Illinois Department of Public Health, to improve the statutory process for EMS dispatcher certification and education. However, House Bill 279 contains two technical defects that must be corrected.

For this reason, I return House Bill 279 with the following specific recommendations for change:

on page 1, line 30, by replacing "non-discretionary" with "non-discriminatory"; and

on page 2, line 33, by replacing "EMD and EMD agency" with "EMS Medical Director".

With these specific recommendations for change, House Bill 279 will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,
s/GEORGE H. RYAN
Governor