

State of Illinois  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

George H. Ryan  
GOVERNOR

August 23, 2001

To the Honorable Members of  
The Illinois Senate  
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 Senate Bill 1493 entitled "AN ACT in relation to senior citizens and disabled persons," with my specific recommendations for change.

Senate Bill 1493 amends the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief and Pharmaceutical Assistance Act to reduce confusion over the expiration of pharmaceutical assistance cards and to assist the State in accessing money owed to other health benefits providers by requiring such providers to identify recipients of medical assistance for purposes of third party reimbursement.

The provisions of Senate Bill 1493 are similar to those included in House Bill 2438, Public Act 92-131, which I signed into law on July 23, 2001. The primary difference between these two bills is the implementation date. Both bills are effective upon becoming law; however, the provisions of House Bill 2438 are to be implemented on January 1, 2002. Senate Bill 1493 does not make this important distinction which will provide the Illinois Department of Revenue the necessary implementation time.

In order to be in compliance with Senate Bill 1493, the Department of Revenue would have to convert coverage for current participants receiving pharmaceutical assistance from a calendar year basis to a fiscal year basis immediately. Obviously, this does not allow the Department sufficient time to accommodate the change. However, there are provisions in both bills that need to be signed into law.

For this reason, I hereby return Senate Bill 1493 with the following recommendation for change:

On page 8, by replacing lines 4 through 6 with the following:

"On and after January 1, 2002, however, to enable the Department to".

With this change, Senate Bill 1493 will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,  
George H. Ryan  
GOVERNOR