

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

August 2, 2002

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 2117 entitled "AN ACT concerning medical districts," with my specific recommendations for change.

Senate Bill 2117 creates the Illinois Medical District of Springfield (IMDS) Act which provides that the district be governed by the Illinois Medical District at Springfield Commission, a 16-member board with seven appointments made by each the Governor and Mayor, and two members appointed by Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Senate Bill 2117 further defines boundaries of the District and outlines various provisions concerning grants, loans, contracts, property acquisition, eminent domain, construction, sale or lease of property, hearing and rules.

By providing a framework for the IMDS, Senate Bill 2117 creates a major economic development tool for the City of Springfield and the State of Illinois. The authority granted by Senate Bill 2117 to IMDS would enhance the City of Springfield's ability to attract and expand medical services, research and business development within the District. The new Medical District will encourage private investment and high tech job creation and retention in Springfield.

Although Senate Bill 2117 was designed to mirror the Illinois Medical District Act (70 ILCS 915), which created the Illinois Medical District at Chicago, Senate Bill 2117 provides for a substantially different board structure, fully double the size of the board governing Chicago's Medical District. The Chicago Medical District Commission consists of seven members, four of whom are appointed by the Governor, two by the Mayor of Chicago, and one by the President of the Cook County Board. This seven-member board effectively represents the interests of the State and local stakeholders in the development of the Medical District.

While the authors of Senate Bill 2117 made great efforts to include representation from local interest groups, the 16-member board created in Senate Bill 2117 for Springfield's Medical District would be unwieldy and overly bureaucratic. The Springfield District should follow the structure that has already proven to be so successful at the Medical District in Chicago and create a streamlined, efficient governing board while still ensuring local representation.

I also recommend a stated effective date of January 1, 2003, so that the General Assembly's acceptance of my recommendations will not delay the effective date of this legislation.

For this reason, I hereby return Senate Bill 2117 with the following specific recommendations for change:

On page 2, by replacing lines 19 through 34 with the following:

"(c) The Commission shall consist of the following 7 members: 4 members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate; 2 members appointed by the Mayor of Springfield, with the advice and consent of the Springfield City Council; and one member appointed by the County Board of Sangamon County."; and

On page 3, by replacing lines 1 through 25 with "All members of the"; and

On page 3, lines 26 and 27, by replacing "public members appointed by the Governor" with "members"; and

On page 3, line 29, by deleting "public"; and

On page 3, line 32, by replacing "Thereafter, the public" with the following:

"The initial members appointed by the Mayor of Springfield shall be appointed for terms ending, respectively, on the second and third anniversaries of their appointments. The initial member appointed by the County Board of Sangamon County shall be appointed for a term ending on the fourth anniversary of the appointment. Thereafter, all"; and

On page 3, line 33, by deleting "appointed by the Governor"; and

On page 4, line 6, by replacing "entity" with "authority"; and

On page 4, lines 20 and 22, by deleting "public" each time it appears; and

On page 4, line 25, by replacing "4" with "2"; and

On page 4, by replacing lines 30 through 32 with the following:

"meeting a quorum consisting of at least 4 Commissioners. Meetings may be held by telephone conference or"; and

On page 5, by deleting lines 1 through 8; and

On page 11, line 30, by replacing "10" with "5"; and

On page 17, below line 18, by inserting the following:

"Section 999. Effective date. This Act takes effect on January 1, 2003".

With these changes, Senate Bill 2117 will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,
George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR