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TMA Lobby Killed His Bill, Leland Says

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The Houston Chronicle 5-20-73
p. 30 Sec. 1

TMA Lobby Killed His Bill, Leland Says

Chronicle Austin Bureau

Austin — Rep. Mickey Leland of Houston has accused the Texas Medical Assn. of defeating by lobbying his bill to authorize the formation of health maintenance organizations.

HB 1418 to let individuals and groups contract for comprehensive health care for a set monthly fee as well as the customary fee for services is scheduled for House debate Monday.

Leland Saturday said he considers his bill dead and plans a personal privilege speech against the TMA Monday when the bill is considered.

TMA lobbyists Ace Pickens and Sam Stone worked until midnight Friday against the bill, he said.

TMA strategy is to contact individual legislators' family doctors and get the doctors to call the lawmakers, he said.

"The TMA had 10 or 15 doctors contacting each legislator," Leland said. "They put out the alert to doctors all over the state and are using scare tactics. Doctors threaten legislators with political repercussions if they vote for my bill."

Leland charges Texas physicians with wanting a monopoly on the health care system.