

May 26, 2006

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed Senate Bill 591 – *Criminal Procedure - Defendant with an Alcohol or Drug Dependency - Commitment Procedures*.

This bill requires that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, on receiving an order to treat a defendant with an alcohol or drug dependency, order a report of the defendant's pending cases, warrants, and detainers; requires the Department to forward a copy of the report to the court, the defendant, and the defendant's attorney; and provides that a court may not order a defendant delivered to the Department until specified conditions are met.

House Bill 656, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 591.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor