

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 808 – *Juvenile Law - Competency – Services*.

This bill authorizes the juvenile court to order the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene or a qualified expert to conduct an evaluation of a child's competency to proceed in specified juvenile delinquency hearings; repeals provisions relating to a finding of incompetency to proceed; and specifies the procedures for a finding of incompetency to proceed.

House Bill 1257, 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 808.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor