

after which it shall be abrogated; prohibiting the expenditure of future State Capital Project Funds for the purpose of converting any part of the existing Prince George's County Detention Center into a juvenile detention or correctional facility whether or not it is being used for the detention of juveniles as of the effective date of this Act and which funds are to be used solely for the purposes of implementing this Act; and correcting an error.

May 29, 1979

Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 1263.

This bill provides that in Prince George's County a child sixteen or seventeen years of age, if adjudicated delinquent for having committed an act which would constitute a crime punishable by imprisonment of one year or more if committed by an adult, may, on order of the court, be detained in an adult penal institution as long as the child is confined in a section which is separate from that maintained for adults and as long as the term of detention does not exceed fourteen days. Inter alia, the bill also provides:

... if a federal agency determines that this Act contravenes any requirement under federal law in a manner that would terminate the right of this State to receive from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration any juvenile delinquency grant or award for this State, this Act shall be null and void without the necessity of further action by the General Assembly.

I understand that this measure, if approved, would authorize the detention of such persons in the Prince George's County Jail only.

In a May 11, 1979 letter to the Executive Director of the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, Thomas J. Madden, Assistant Administrator and General Counsel, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, United States Department of Justice, advised:

At your agency's request, in order to assess the potential impact of House Bill 1263, representatives of OJJDP made a visit to the Prince George's County Jail