5168 VETOES

children may be placed at risk as a result of a local department of social services' inability to introduce such evidence in court, the Department of Human Resources and other proponents of the veto believe the number is substantial.

The Department of Human Resources and Office of the Attorney General have further considered the anomaly in the law whereby the testimony of licensed social workers would be subject to the privilege but the testimony of unlicensed social workers -- who do exactly the same "counseling" in protective services cases -- would not. The Attorney General has expressed the view that "such an anomaly in the law will undoubtedly lead to litigation, particularly in view of the large percentage of social workers who have chosen to be licensed."

Under these circumstances the need to veto this bill and avoid its negative impact on the welfare of children and others is unfortunate but unavoidable. I have, however, been assured by the Secretary of Human Resources that a priority effort will be made to assist the proponents of this measure to structure legislation for the 1983 session that corrects the deficiencies of the present bill. My Administration supports the enactment of an appropriate privilege between social workers and their clients that recognizes and safeguards such a professional counseling relationship.

Sincerely, Harry Hughes Governor

Senate Bill 921

AN ACT concerning

Landlord and Tenant - Failure to Pay Rent
- Summary Ejectment

FOR-the-purpose-of-providing-that-when-a-complaint-is-filed;
judgment-is-made;-and-summons--is--issued--in--a--court
action--by--a--landlord-to-collect-past-due-rent-from-a
tenant;-the-total--amount--of--rent--due--includes--the
amount--of--each--periodic--rent--payment-as-it-accrues
together-with-the-determination-of-the--amount--of--all
late--fees--and--court-costs;-requiring-that-an-express
statement-of-the-effect-of-these-provisions-be--printed