

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed Senate Bill 664 – *Family Law – Court-Appointed Lawyer for Child*.

This bill authorizes the court to appoint a lawyer to represent a minor child in specified actions as a child advocate attorney or a best interest attorney; and requires a lawyer appointed under the Act to exercise ordinary care and diligence in the representation of a minor child.

House Bill 700, 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 664.

Very truly yours,
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Senate Bill No. 664

AN ACT concerning

Family Law - Court-Appointed Lawyer for Child —~~Immunity from Civil Liability~~

FOR the purpose of authorizing the court to appoint a lawyer to represent a minor child ~~in an action in which the court has reason to be concerned about the welfare of the child; authorizing the court to specify the role and duties of a child's lawyer in accordance with certain standards; authorizing the court to impose against either or both parents fees for services rendered at the request of the child's lawyer; establishing that a child's lawyer is immune from civil liability for certain acts or omissions, except under certain circumstances; establishing that a child's lawyer is immune from civil liability to any party other than a represented child; making this Act an emergency measure in certain actions as a child advocate attorney or a guardian ad litem; providing that an appointment to represent a minor child under this Act does not modify, alter, or amend the duty that a lawyer owes a client in accordance with certain Maryland Rules~~ best interest attorney; requiring a lawyer appointed under this Act to exercise ordinary care and diligence in the representation of a minor child; and generally relating to the appointment of a lawyer to represent a minor child.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Family Law

Section 1–202

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: