have the potential to learn, indeed to prosper. The dire academic situation demands quick action and any delay will accomplish nothing. The Maryland State Board of Education's actions were not precipitous; they were based on years of solid data and provide us with a carefully drawn blueprint for building a future for thousands of children too long ignored.

How many more generations of future nurses, teachers, elected officials, and successful citizens will live lives of unrealized dreams and should we condemn to despair by our failure to act? I urge the Maryland General Assembly to allow the Maryland State Department of Education to do its job on behalf of our children.

For the above reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 1215.

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

House Bill No. 1215

AN ACT concerning

Baltimore City Public School System —Debt Authorization

FOR the purpose of *prohibiting the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Schools from imposing a certain restructuring of a governance arrangement of certain schools in Baltimore City or removing a public school from the direct control of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners;* increasing the maximum aggregate principal amount of bonds issued by the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners of the Baltimore City Public School System which may be outstanding on certain dates; *providing for the interpretation and application of certain provisions of this Act; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act;* and generally relating to the debt authorization for the Baltimore City Public School System.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
    Article – Education
    Section 2–205(a) and (c)
    Annotated Code of Maryland
    (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
    Article – Education
    Section *2–205(b) and* 4–306.2(b)
    Annotated Code of Maryland
    (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

BY adding to
    Article – Education
    Section 4–309(d)