

subtitle shall be construed to prohibit reasonable punishment, including reasonable corporal punishment, in light of the age and condition of the child, from being performed by a parent or stepparent of the child.

(3) If the person for whom relief is sought is a vulnerable adult, "abuse" may also include abuse of a vulnerable adult, as defined in Title 14, Subtitle 1 of this article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2005.

May 26, 2005

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 264 - *Workers' Compensation - Evaluation of Permanent Impairments*.

This bill requires that a licensed psychologist or a qualified physician perform an evaluation of only the mental or behavioral portion of a permanent impairment in a workers' compensation case and report the results to the Workers' Compensation Commission in accordance with the regulations of the Commission.

House Bill 384, 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 264.

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

**Senate Bill No. 264**

AN ACT concerning

**Workers' Compensation - Evaluation of Permanent Impairments**

FOR the purpose of requiring that a licensed psychologist or a qualified physician perform an evaluation of only the mental or behavioral portion of a permanent impairment in a workers' compensation case under certain circumstances; requiring that the report of an evaluation in a case that involves a behavioral or mental disorder be submitted to the Workers' Compensation Commission in accordance with the regulations of the Commission; and generally relating to the evaluation of a permanent impairment under workers' compensation law.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,