

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 463 – *Public Assistance – Eligibility for Residents Convicted of a Felony Involving a Controlled Dangerous Substance*.

This bill alters a definition to allow residents who have been convicted of felonies relating to controlled dangerous substances to be eligible for public assistance. Such individuals are subject to substance abuse testing for two years starting from the benefit application date. The bill also retains eligibility for custodial parents so convicted to obtain cash assistance and food stamps.

House Bill 1024, 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 463.

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

Senate Bill No. 463

AN ACT concerning

Public Assistance – Eligibility for Residents Convicted of a Felony Involving a Controlled Dangerous Substance

FOR the purpose of allowing certain individuals who have been convicted of certain felonies relating to controlled dangerous substances to be eligible for certain public assistance; altering a certain defined term; and generally relating to public assistance for individuals who have been convicted of certain felonies.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article 88A – Department of Human Resources
 Section 65A
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

Article 88A – Department of Human Resources

65A.

(a) In this section, [“custodial parent”] “RESIDENT” means a [resident