

date of this Act, but the provisions of this Act concerning the salary or compensation of the Treasurer of Cecil County shall take effect at the beginning of the next following term of office.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2005.

May 26, 2005

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 976 – *Children in Need of Assistance – Custody and Guardianship*.

This bill authorizes a juvenile court to grant custody and guardianship of a child to a relative or nonrelative under provisions of law relating to children in need of assistance after certain conditions are met. The bill also authorizes the court to order specified reviews after granting custody and guardianship, and requires specified assurances before the court grants custody and guardianship. The court is required to see a specified child in person before the court concludes a permanency plan review hearing.

Senate Bill 746, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 976.

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

House Bill No. 976

AN ACT concerning

Children in Need of Assistance – Custody and Guardianship

FOR the purpose of authorizing a juvenile court to grant custody and guardianship of certain children to certain individuals; providing for the effect of an order granting custody and guardianship; authorizing the court to order certain reviews after granting custody and guardianship to an individual; requiring certain considerations before the court grants custody and guardianship; prohibiting the court from entering an order granting custody and guardianship before a certain time; requiring the court to see a certain child in person before the court concludes a permanency plan review hearing; making clarifying changes; altering the purpose of the Court-Appointed Special Advocate Program; altering the permanency plans that a local department of social