

to Study the Mentoring and Monitoring of Children in the Custody of or Under the Supervision of the Department of Juvenile Justice would be duplicated by the requirement in House Bill 979 for another report on this issue from the Department of Juvenile Services.

As a legislator and now as Governor, I have consistently supported efforts to ensure that our juvenile services provide the best opportunities for prevention and intervention as well as treatment for youths faced with challenges to growing into productive citizens. Ultimately, I believe this legislation would not advance these efforts and would create duplicative bureaucracies that would hamper the efficient operation of the Department of Juvenile Services and the juvenile justice system.

For the above stated reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 979.

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

### House Bill No. 979

AN ACT concerning

**~~Juvenile Services — Detention and Committed Facilities — Maintenance and Operation~~**  
**Department of Juvenile Services Reform Act of 2005**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Juvenile Services to appear in court to explain why a certain child, detained in a certain facility for a certain period of time after a court has made a disposition on a petition about the child, remains in the facility; requiring the Department to appear in court in subsequent hearings, after certain periods of time, to explain the reasons for the child's continued detention; establishing the Joint Oversight Committee on the Department of Juvenile Services; establishing the composition of the Committee; providing for the appointment of co-chairs and for staff assistance for the Committee; establishing certain powers and duties of the Committee; requiring the Committee to submit a certain annual report to the General Assembly on or before certain dates; requiring the Department to provide to the Governor and certain members of the General Assembly by a certain date a report on certain specific action taken by the Department in response to certain recommendations of the Office of the Independent Juvenile Justice Monitor; requiring the Department to provide to the Governor and certain members of the General Assembly by a certain date an inventory of all facilities used by the Department to place certain children under the Department's jurisdiction in out-of-home placement; requiring the inventory to contain certain information concerning each facility; requiring the Department, by a certain date, to report to the Governor and certain members of the General Assembly on the feasibility of establishing a volunteer mentoring program for certain children; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; , by a certain date, maintain and operate certain detention and committed facilities to meet certain requirements; requiring certain facilities to be maintained and operated so that