

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 1225 – *Juvenile Causes – Child in Need of Assistance – Court Hearings and Findings*.

This bill requires a juvenile court in a child in need of assistance hearing to make a finding whether a local department of social services made reasonable efforts to prevent placement of the child into the local department's custody. The bill also requires the court in specified review hearings to make a finding whether the local department made reasonable efforts to finalize the child's permanency plan and meet the child's needs and requires the court to consider specified factors in making a finding.

Senate Bill 696, 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 1225.

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

#### House Bill No. 1225

AN ACT concerning

#### **Juvenile Causes – Child in Need of Assistance – Court Hearings and Findings**

FOR the purpose of authorizing a court, in certain proceedings concerning a child in need of assistance, to direct the local department of social services to provide certain services to a child, child's family, or child's caretaker to a certain extent and for the purpose of protecting and advancing a child's best interests; requiring a juvenile court in a certain hearing concerning a child in need of assistance to make certain findings whether reasonable efforts were made by a local department of social services to prevent placement of the child in the local department's custody; requiring the court in certain review hearings to make certain findings whether reasonable efforts were made by a local department to finalize a permanency plan and provide for certain needs of the child; authorizing a court to require a local department to produce certain evidence in a certain hearing; requiring the court to consider certain actions of a local department in making certain findings; requiring a court to consider certain factors in making a certain finding; requiring a court to make written findings if the court determines reasonable efforts were made but that a local department did not take certain actions; requiring a court that finds reasonable efforts were not made to send the written findings to certain persons; defining a certain term; and generally relating to children in need of assistance hearings.