

May 28, 1985

The Honorable Melvin A. Steinberg  
President of the Senate  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 549.

This bill provides that in a criminal trial the age of a child may not be the reason for precluding a child from testifying.

House Bill 1343, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 28, 1985, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 549.

Sincerely,  
Harry Hughes  
Governor

Senate Bill No. 549

AN ACT concerning

Child-Abuse-- Competency of a Child Victim to Testify

~~FOR the purpose of providing that in a case of alleged child abuse--certain--crimes--against--children--the age or mental capacity of a child victim who is a minor may not preclude the child victim from testifying.~~

FOR the purpose of providing that in a criminal trial the age of a child may not be the reason for precluding a child from testifying.

BY adding to

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
Section 9-102  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1984 Replacement Volume and 1984 Supplement)