

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

shall be deemed to provide additional, alternative and supplemental authority for borrowing money and shall be regarded as supplemental and additional to powers conferred upon the County by other laws and shall not be regarded as in derogation of any power now existing; and all previously enacted laws authorizing the County to borrow money are hereby continued to the extent that the power contained in them is continuing or has not been exercised, unless any law is expressly repealed by this Act, and the validity of any bonds issued under previously enacted laws is hereby ratified, confirmed and approved. This Act, being necessary for the welfare of the inhabitants of the County, shall be liberally construed to effect its purposes. All Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed to the extent of any inconsistency.

SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1988.

May 27, 1988

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 847.

This bill would require the Department of Human Resources to adopt certain standards for the protection of children in foster care. The bill would establish a maximum caseload for foster care staff, require the Department to obtain the medical record of each child in foster care, and require the local department to visit a foster home at least once each week until a report of suspected child abuse is ruled out. It was introduced in response to the Legal Aid litigation against the State in L.J., et al v. Massinga, et al and attempts to codify the consent decree in this case.

The Department of Human Resources has requested a veto, because it represents an attempt at "legislative micro-management" of the State's foster care program. Although the Department is supportive of the legislative intent behind SB 847, i.e. to assure minimum standards for the protection of children in foster care, the Department argues that this bill sets restrictive and superficial requirements.