

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1995.

May 24, 1995

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

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 609.

This bill requires a court to consider evidence that a party has committed abuse against the other parent of the party's child, the party's spouse, or any child residing in the party's household as a factor applicable to a child's welfare and best interests in a custody or visitation proceeding. The bill also requires the court to make arrangements that best protect the child and the victim of abuse, and establishes a rebuttable presumption that joint custody is not in the best interests of the child.

House Bill 152, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on April 11, 1995, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 609.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Senate Bill No. 609

AN ACT concerning

Child Custody and Visitation – Abuse

FOR the purpose of requiring, rather than authorizing, a court to consider certain evidence of abuse ~~as a factor bearing on the welfare and best interests of the child in a custody or visitation proceeding~~ when deciding custody or visitation issues; requiring the court to make certain arrangements for custody or visitation if the court finds that a party has committed abuse against certain individuals; ~~establishing a rebuttable presumption that joint custody is not in the best interests of the child if the court finds that a party has committed abuse against certain individuals;~~ defining certain terms; and generally relating to child custody and visitation.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Family Law

Section 9-101.1

Annotated Code of Maryland