

May 22, 1997

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 71.

This bill makes it a separate offense for a person to bring into the State more than five kilograms (11 pounds) of marijuana, but less than 45 kilograms (99 pounds). Upon conviction, violators are guilty of a felony and subject to a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for up to ten years. The bill also alters current law by changing the amount of marijuana from 100 pounds to 45 kilograms (99 pounds) necessary to charge a person with felony possession. Upon conviction, these violators are subject to the applicable felony penalties (fine of up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for up to 25 years).

House Bill 240, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 8, 1997, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 71.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Senate Bill No. 71

AN ACT concerning

Controlled Dangerous Substances – Marijuana – Penalties

FOR the purpose of altering a prohibition against bringing a certain quantity of marijuana into the State; making a separate offense of bringing into the State a certain amount of marijuana under certain circumstances; providing certain penalties; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to the penalties for offenses involving the possession of marijuana.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments
Section 286A
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1996 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments