

May 17, 2007

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, today I have vetoed Senate Bill 579 - *Children with Disabilities - Voluntary Placement Agreements*.

This bill requires the juvenile court, before determining whether a child with a developmental disability or a mental illness is a child in need of assistance, to make a finding as to whether the local department of social services made reasonable efforts to place the child in accordance with a voluntary placement agreement.

House Bill 1226, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 579.

Sincerely,

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Senate Bill 579

AN ACT concerning

Children with Disabilities - Voluntary Placement Agreements

FOR the purpose of requiring the juvenile court to make a certain finding in certain hearings involving a child with a developmental disability or mental illness; authorizing the juvenile court, in making a disposition on a child in need of assistance petition involving a child with a developmental disability or mental illness, to ~~make a certain finding and~~ hold a certain finding in abeyance, require a local department of social services to take certain actions, and hold a certain hearing; requiring each local department of social services to designate a certain staff person to administer requests for voluntary placement agreements for children with developmental disabilities or mental illnesses; requiring each local department of social services to make a certain annual report to the Social Services Administration; requiring a local department of social services to take certain actions on receipt of a request for a voluntary placement agreement for a