

May 17, 2007

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 879 - *Forensic Laboratories - Standards and Oversight*.

This bill requires the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt regulations that set standards and requirements for forensic laboratories. It also requires a laboratory that examines or analyzes forensic specimens to demonstrate satisfactory performance in a specified proficiency testing program and mandates that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene review proficiency tests and proficiency testing programs.

Senate Bill 351, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 879.

Sincerely,

Martin O'Malley
Governor

House Bill 879

AN ACT concerning

Forensic Laboratories - Standards and Oversight

FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt regulations that set certain standards and requirements; specifying the required contents of certain regulations; requiring ~~an individual who a~~ laboratory that examines or analyzes forensic specimens ~~on behalf of a certain laboratory~~ to demonstrate satisfactory performance in a certain proficiency testing program; requiring the Secretary to adopt certain regulations for a certain proficiency testing program; requiring ~~a certain employee~~ the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to review certain proficiency tests and proficiency ~~test results at certain times~~ testing programs; requiring the Secretary to conduct certain inspections for a certain purpose; authorizing the Secretary to conduct certain investigations and surveys; providing that certain