

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 481.

This bill would add household member and family member to the class of persons who may be found guilty of child abuse.

House Bill 402, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on April 30, 1991, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 481.

Sincerely,  
William Donald Schaefer  
Governor

**Senate Bill No. 481**

AN ACT concerning

**Child Abuse – Definition**

FOR the purpose of adding household member and family member to the class of certain persons who may be found guilty of child abuse; defining certain terms; and generally relating to child abuse.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments

Section 35A

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1987 Replacement Volume and 1990 Supplement)

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

**Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments**

35A.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Abuse" means:

(i) The sustaining of physical injury by a child as a result of cruel or inhumane treatment or as a result of a malicious act by any parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of a child, OR BY ANY HOUSEHOLD OR FAMILY MEMBER, under circumstances that indicate that the child's health or welfare is harmed or threatened thereby; or

(ii) Sexual abuse of a child, whether physical injuries are sustained or not.