

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 544.

This bill would prohibit a person from knowingly possessing any visual representation depicting an individual under the age of 18 engaged in certain sexual acts. It exempts parents possessing visual representations of the parent's own child from the provisions of this Act unless the visual representations depict the child in certain sexual acts. Finally, penalties are provided.

Senate Bill 38, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 26, 1992, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 544.

Sincerely,
William Donald Schaefer
Governor

House Bill No. 544

AN ACT concerning

Crimes – Possession of Child Pornography – Prohibitions

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from knowingly possessing certain matters depicting an individual under a certain age engaged in certain sexual acts; exempting parents possessing visual representations of the parent's own child from the provisions of this Act unless the visual representations depict the child in certain sexual acts; providing penalties for a violation of this Act; ~~altering a certain definition~~; clarifying and altering the provisions of law exempting certain acts from certain prohibitions; and generally relating to the possession of child pornography.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments

Section 416A(c), (d), and (e)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1987 Replacement Volume and 1991 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments

Section ~~416A(d)~~ and 423

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1987 Replacement Volume and 1991 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments

Section 419B

Annotated Code of Maryland