

VETOES

~~(2)--STATE--THE--REASONS--FOR--ANY--DELAY--IN--THE--PETITION
FOR--TERMINATION--OF--THE--NATURAL--PARENT'S--RIGHTS.~~

~~(E)--ON--RECEIPT--OF--A--CHILD--PLACEMENT--AGENCY'S--REPORT--OF--A
DELAY--IN--A--PETITION--FOR--TERMINATION--OF--A--NATURAL--PARENT'S--RIGHTS,
THE--COURT--SHALL:~~

~~(1)--REVIEW--THE--REPORT,~~

~~(2)--AFTER--THE--NOTICE--REQUIRED--UNDER--THIS--SECTION,
HOLD--A--HEARING,--AND~~

~~(3)--TAKE--ANY--ACTION--THE--COURT--CONSIDERS--APPROPRIATE
IN--THE--CHILD'S--BEST--INTEREST.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1987.

June 2, 1987

The Honorable R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 961.

House Bill 961 addresses an extremely serious problem - violations of alcoholic beverages laws by minors. Under existing law, a fine for a violation may not exceed \$100, although repeat offenders are subject to fines not exceeding \$200. House Bill 961 amends Article 27, Section 403B(c)(3) and (4) and (f) of the Code to provide for fines "not less than \$100 nor more than \$500", but does not address the subject of prepayment of fines.

The problems of alcohol abuse in society, and particularly by underage individuals, are a major concern. Issues ranging from drunk driving to alcoholism and education are involved. Senate Bill 458 is also intended to address those problems. This bill raises the maximum fine for repeat violations to \$500. It also specifically repeals the provisions of law that allow the prepayment of fines for alcoholic beverages offenses. This latter provision is extremely important to efforts to put an end to violations by minors of alcoholic beverages laws.