

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 591 – *Criminal Procedure – Defendant with an Alcohol or Drug Dependency – Commitment Procedures*.

This bill requires that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, on receiving an order to treat a defendant with an alcohol or drug dependency, order a report of the defendant's pending cases, warrants, and detainers; requires the Department to forward a copy of the report to the court, the defendant, and the defendant's attorney; and provides that a court may not order a defendant delivered to the Department until specified conditions are met.

House Bill 656, 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 591.

Very truly yours,  
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor

**Senate Bill No. 591**

AN ACT concerning

**Criminal Procedure – Defendant with an Alcohol or Drug Dependency –  
Commitment Procedures**

FOR the purpose of removing a limitation that a certain commitment made by a court for treatment for a defendant with an alcohol or drug dependency applies only to certain defendants for whom no sentence of incarceration is currently in effect or detainer is currently lodged; requiring that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, on receiving an order to treat a defendant with an alcohol or drug dependency, order a certain report of pending cases, warrants, and detainers of the defendant; requiring the Department to forward a copy of the report to the court that committed the defendant, the defendant, and the defendant's last attorney of record; providing that a court may not order a defendant delivered to the Department for treatment until any detainer based on an untried indictment, information, warrant, or complaint is removed and any sentence of incarceration is no longer in effect; and generally relating to commitment procedures for defendants with an alcohol or drug dependency.

BY repealing

Article – Health – General  
Section 8–507(a)  
Annotated Code of Maryland