

budget be reduced to fully fund Thornton, the most recent unfunded mandate. House Bill 1188 would increase the severity of these already necessary reductions, and signing it would, in subsequent legislative sessions, encourage other vital interests of the State to lobby for mandated spending legislation. Accordingly, this legislation is not only irresponsible but also damaging to our legislative and budgetary processes.

It also should be noted that businesses provide much-needed jobs in our State, and they will help sustain our economic recovery. By attracting businesses to Maryland and encouraging the businesses we have to expand, we can produce more jobs for working Marylanders. If our economy is not producing quality jobs when these students graduate from Maryland higher education institutions, the students will leave to pursue careers in other states. In effect, Maryland taxpayers will be subsidizing the workforce for other states and countries. College graduates and our business community have a mutually beneficial relationship, which is in the general public's best interest to continue.

Through close collaboration with higher education leaders and the shared goal of improved higher education, I am confident that Maryland will continue to take steps forward in higher education. My recent signature on Senate Bill 738, *Higher Education - University System of Maryland - Governing Authority* (Chapter 239 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2004) and Senate Bill 430, *Higher Education - Morgan State University - Coordination and Governance* (Chapter 273 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2004) will allow USM and MSU to be more autonomous and possess tools they want and need to be more efficient during these difficult economic times. I look forward to the implementation of these laws, and my Administration will continue to work in partnership with the leadership of Maryland's higher education system to find greater efficiencies while maintaining the quality of our outstanding institutions.

For the above stated reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 1188.

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

### **House Bill No. 1188**

AN ACT concerning

### **Higher Education Affordability and Access Act of 2004 - Supplementary Appropriation**

FOR the purpose of limiting, to no more than a certain percent for certain academic years, the amount of the annual increase in tuition that may be charged each academic year to a resident undergraduate student at certain public senior higher education institutions in Maryland; providing that a certain tuition limitation only applies if certain appropriations in certain fiscal years have increased a certain amount over the preceding fiscal year; requiring the Governor to include a certain increase in the annual budget submission for certain fiscal years for the University System of Maryland and Morgan State