

May 16, 2013

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 278 – *Children in Need of Assistance – Rights of Preadoptive Parents, Foster Parents, and Caregivers of Child*.

This bill expands the proceedings for which a local department of social services is required to provide specified notice to pre-adoptive parents and foster parents of a child under specified circumstances and at which pre-adoptive parents and foster parents have the right to be heard. The bill repeals a requirement that a local department of social services provide specified notice to specified relatives of a child and substitutes a requirement that the local department provide specified notice to caregivers of a child.

Senate Bill 265, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 278.

Sincerely,

Governor Martin O'Malley