

May 26, 2006

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
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 517 - *Alcoholic Beverages - Removal of a Partially Consumed Bottle of Wine from a Licensed Premises*.

This bill allows a person who purchases at a licensed premises a meal and a bottle of wine, the contents of which are partially consumed with the meal, to remove the bottle and its contents from the licensed premises under specified circumstances; and states that a bottle of wine under the Act is an "open container" for purposes of a specified provision of law concerning possession of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

Senate Bill 280, 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 517.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor