



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 720
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July 13, 2009

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you Senate Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 544 entitled:

AN ACT

To amend chapters 8, 33 and 37, RSMo, by adding thereto three new sections relating to the oversight of public funds.

I disapprove of Senate Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 544. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

Senate Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 544 contains many provisions that I strongly support. The Missouri Accountability Portal was codified by my approval of Senate Substitute No. 2 for Senate Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 191. In addition, the "Joint Interim Committee on Recovery Accountability and Transparency" was separately established by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27.

While I support these provisions in Senate Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 544, and with knowledge that these provisions have become effective by separate action, due to my concern that a provision in this bill could pose potential harm to legislators, their constituents and our historic capitol building, I must disapprove of this legislation.

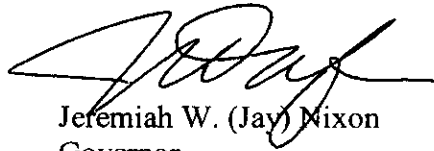
The Office of Administration, the Capitol Police and the Missouri Department of Public Safety have expressed serious concerns and reservations with the requirement that keys to the capitol dome area be issued to each member of the General Assembly. My concern is not with the legislators who would receive these keys, but simply with the increased access to more than a hundred additional keys which could be stolen and misplaced. The concerns of those responsible for the safety and security of our capitol building and its occupants and visitors are very serious and range from the inaccessibility of the capitol dome area in the event of a medical emergency to the potential for security threats.

I note that nothing in current law prohibits legislators from seeking an additional key from the Office of Administration and working with Capitol Police and the Office of Administration to ensure that their safety and the safety of our visitors in the capitol is put first.

Although the Missouri State Capitol belongs to all Missourians, we must heed the warnings of the agencies tasked with providing a safe environment for those who work in and visit this great building.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning Senate Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 544 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon", written in a cursive style.

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor