

July 12, 2004

The Honorable Glenn Koepp  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Senate Bill No. 40 by Senator McPherson  
PUBLIC CONTRACTS: Provides for a small business program for information technology.

Dear Mr. Koepp:

Senate Bill No. 40 requires the commissioner of administration to designate a goal of awarding to small businesses a portion of the total state procurement of data processing equipment and software. This goal is a good one and I am committed to doing everything reasonable to encourage participation by small businesses in the state procurement process in all areas through appropriate administrative means.

As amended in the legislative process, the bill applies to any business having fifty or fewer employees regardless of the state or country of origin and does not delegate rule-making authority to target businesses nor does it allow for the flexibility for revising the definition of businesses included. Also, as enacted, the bill could have a significant fiscal impact while at the same time cause a significant fiscal and administrative impact on the division of administration. The author has agreed to work with the commissioner to develop legislation for next year to achieve the above goal and relieve the above concerns.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill No. 40 and am returning it to the Senate.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco  
Governor

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