

Honorable Alfred W. Speer
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1106 BY REPRESENTATIVE THORNHILL

To amend and reenact R.S. 51:2605(C)(1)(a) and to enact R.S. 51:2613(I), relative to the Louisiana Open Housing Act; to revise the definition of "housing for older persons"; to provide for enforcement by private persons and the awarding of attorney fees and cost to ensure substantial equivalency with federal law; and to provide for related matters.

Dear Mr. Speer:

Present law provides significant inducements to encourage a plaintiff to file suit under the Louisiana Open Housing Opportunity Act, R.S. 51:2601, et seq., including commencement of the civil action without payment of costs, fees, or security, and authorization to award attorney fees to a prevailing plaintiff but not to a prevailing defendant. A Senate committee amendment changed House Bill No. 1106 from a bill that merely updated a definition to a bill which significantly increases the ability of a plaintiff to collect greater attorney fees and costs from local governments for prevailing on even minor claims. Consequently, since the passage of this bill, I have received requests from local governments and others urging the veto of this bill.

For this reason I am vetoing and returning House Bill No. 1106 to you.

Sincerely,

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.

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