

Office of the Governor  
State of Louisiana

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November 11, 2020

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Clay J. Schexnayder  
Speaker of the House  
Louisiana House of Representatives  
Post Office Box 94062  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9062

RE: Veto of House Bill 37 of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Dear Speaker Schexnayder:

Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill 37 of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session.

This bill would have established an income tax credit for restaurants and bars affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, I have already signed into law Senate Bill 72 of the Second Extraordinary Session, which became Act 60 and provides a one-time refundable income tax credit based on permit amounts for those businesses enumerated in House Bill 37. House Bill 37, as enrolled, is extremely broad in that any restaurant or bar that suffered an interruption in business due to COVID-19 would be eligible to receive the credit if their sales from the 2020 calendar year are less than sales from the 2019 calendar year. More simply put, restaurants have had the ability to remain open to the public throughout the COVID response, whether through take-out or most recently through dine-in service, would be eligible for this income tax credit if the restaurant had to close because employees were quarantined. Furthermore, there are aspects of each piece of legislation that cannot co-exist. For example, Act 60 authorizes a one-time, refundable tax credit, whereas House Bill 37 would have authorized a one-time credit that could have been carried forward for three years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards".

John Bel Edwards  
Governor



cc: Honorable Patrick Page Cortez  
Louisiana Senate President