

State of Louisiana
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May 24, 2024



The Honorable Phillip R. DeVillier Speaker of the House Louisiana House of Representatives Box 94062 Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The Honorable Michelle Fontenot Clerk of the House State Capitol 900 N. 3rd St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: House Bill 884 of the 2024 Regular Session by Representative Jason Hughes

Dear Speaker DeVillier and Clerk Fontenot:

Please be advised I have vetoed House Bill 884 of the 2024 Regular Session.

This bill purports to revise procurement of social services and consulting services for public postsecondary education management boards. Notably, this bill allows postsecondary education management boards to enter into "master service" contracts for social services for amounts that do not exceed \$250,000 per year and for consulting services that do not exceed \$75,000 per year, per institution serviced, all without the necessity of competitive bidding or competitive negotiation.

Current law already allows exceptions for such social service contracts for \$250,000 per year and consulting service contracts for \$75,000 per year. R.S. 39:1619(B)(7); R.S. 39:1621(A). These existing laws provide adequate and sufficient safeguards regarding the competitive bid process for postsecondary education institutions, and they are both already exceptions to the general rules governing such contracts. I find this bill unnecessary and duplicative.

For these reasons, House Bill 884 will not become law.

Sincerely,

Governor

Enclosure: Returned House Bill 884