



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
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June 20, 2024

The Honorable Cameron Henry
President of the Senate
900 N. 3rd St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The Honorable Yolanda Dixon
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
900 N. 3rd St., Basement
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

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JUN 20 2024

SENATE
SECRETARY'S
OFFICE

RE: Senate Bill Number 185 of the 2024 Regular Session by Senator Alan Seabaugh

Dear President Henry and Secretary Dixon:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 185 of the 2024 Regular Session. Louisiana Revised Statute 13:4163 currently allows a member of the legislature and a legislative employee to file an ex parte motion for a legislative continuance or extension of time in a civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding. Senate Bill 185 expands this law. It mandates that a court award attorney fees and court costs in favor of the legislator's client or employer when an opposition is filed to a motion for legislative continuance. I oppose further expansion of legislative continuances at this time.

Some legal proceedings warrant immediate relief, and judicial delay is not possible. Attorneys advocating for their clients in these unique cases should not have to do so under the threat of being sanctioned with attorney fees and court costs. Additionally, there is no oversight in Louisiana over legislative continuances. Attorney-legislators provide much-needed expertise to the Legislature, and therefore, I am not opposed to legislative continuances in general. Nonetheless, an attorney-legislator can simply enroll as counsel of record or place his or her name on a pleading to qualify for a continuance or extension in any case. By way of comparison, Texas allows legislative continuances, and the attorney seeking the continuance must file a copy of the continuance with the Texas Ethics Commission. Unless or until Louisiana provides similar oversight, the courts provide a check in the event a legislative continuance is simply not possible.

For these reasons, Senate Bill 185 will not become law. I trust you will understand and appreciate the rationale behind this decision.

Sincerely

Jeff Landry
Governor

Enclosure: Returned Senate Bill 185