

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 94004
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9004
(225) 342-7015
GOV.LA.GOV

June 12, 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



House of Representatives
Clerk's Office

RE: Veto of House Bill 597 of the 2020 Regular Session

Dear Speaker Schexnayder:

Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill 597 of the 2020 Regular Session.

The intent of House Bill 597 is to overrule the 1991 Louisiana Supreme Court decision of *Housley v. Cerise*, 539 So.2d 937 (1991). This case established a presumption of causation of an injury if a party can prove that, before an accident, he or she was in good health, but that after the accident, symptoms of an injury appear and continuously manifest themselves. This presumption is simply an equitable rule that provides for a common sense way for a judge or jury to determine if an injury was caused by an accident. The rule does not relieve the party from proving that an injury occurred or that the defendant in a case was at fault. It further does not prevent the defendant from presenting evidence to rebut the presumption. This jurisprudential rule has stood the test of time and need not be changed.

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