

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

RECEIVED
NOV 12 2020

House of Representatives
Clerk's Office

10:15 am

RE: Veto of House Bill 94 of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Dear Speaker Schexnayder:

Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill 94 of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session.

The intent of this bill is to provide financial relief to businesses that ceased operations or suffered a business interruption due to one of the COVID-19 public health emergency proclamations. While the author of the bill was well-intentioned in his attempt to provide assistance to certain businesses, the legislation as finally adopted by both chambers is extremely vague and fraught with unknowns that may have been addressed in a more thorough manner than that which happened during the Special Session. For example, an affected business is one that ceased operations or suffered an interruption of business due to a COVID-19 proclamation, but there is no length of time ascribed to the interruption of business. Does that mean that if a business was not able to operate for a two-week period due to its employees being required to quarantine that the business would then be eligible to be exempt from paying license renewal fees throughout the pendency of the public health emergency and the six-month period following the end of the public health emergency? The legislation limits eligibility to those businesses that did not receive a SBA Paycheck Protection Program loan or Economic Injury Disaster Loan Emergency Advance, funding through the Main Street Recovery Program, or compensation from an insurance company for interruption of business, but there is no verification process provided for that agencies and local government can use to ensure that applicants meet this eligibility requirement. The legislation contemplates occupational license fees and renewals being included in those fees that an affected business is exempt from paying. But while these are required by local governments, the legislation would require the Division of Administration to submit a report to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget that contains the list of agency fees that were exempted pursuant to this provision. It is unclear whether the Division would also be required to submit each local government occupational license fee that was exempted.

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There are too many questions that remain to be answered that are certain to cause confusion in administration and that is why this bill will not become law

Sincerely,



John Bel Edwards
Governor

cc: Honorable Patrick Page Cortez
Louisiana Senate President