

Office of the Governor  
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



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June 27, 2022

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  
JUN 27 2022  
4:52 PM  
BMLW

RE: Veto of House Bill 661 of the 2022 Regular Session

House of Representatives  
Clerk's Office

Dear Speaker Schexnayder:

Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill 661 of the Regular Session of 2022.

This bill would limit the authority of a parish president or mayor, during a declared emergency, to have authority over a state building inside their parish or city. While this bill is clearly designed to respond to the COVID mitigation measures put in place in some cities throughout Louisiana over the last several years, the practical effects are much broader. Emergencies, by nature, are inherently unpredictable and the response plans can change literally minute by minute. Local officials, like state officials, need the ability to respond, often with little time and imperfect information, to protect the health and safety of the public. Thus, local officials may need to be able to use state facilities in the height of an emergency. This bill would take away that authority. Should it be determined that the use of a state facility or a restriction placed upon it was inappropriate, the governor, or the legislature by passage of a bill, could always step in to remove the local restriction. However, by limiting all use and restrictions on state facilities in an emergency, this bill is simply too broad.

Sincerely,

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

John Bel Edwards  
Governor

enclosure

cc: Honorable Patrick Page Cortez  
Louisiana Senate President