

July 6, 2001

Mr. Alfred W. Speer
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Mr. Michael S. Baer, III
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Re: House Bill No. 1 of the 2001 Regular Session of the Legislature

An Act making appropriations for the ordinary expenses of the executive branch of state government, pensions, public schools, public roads, public charities, and state institutions and providing with respect to the expenditure of said appropriations.

Dear Gentlemen:

As authorized by Article III, Section 18, and more particularly, Article IV, Section 5(G) of the Constitution of Louisiana, I have exercised my right to veto 4 items or provisions of the General Appropriation Bill.

VETO MESSAGE NO. 1:

Page 5, Lines 1 through 4

This language amendment to the Preamble Section 6.E. provides that, "[e]xcept as otherwise provided for in this Act, any salary increase for an employee in the unclassified service, except for college faculty and medical practitioners, that exceeds ten percent of the salary for that employee in the prior fiscal year shall require prior approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget." As a practical matter of daily operations, the administration must have the ability not only to hire but also to maintain its staff. To maintain staff, the administration must be able to match salary offers made by competitors. For these reasons, I am vetoing this item.

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VETO MESSAGE NO. 2:

Page 69, Line 22 through 26

The intent of this amendment is for research that monitors correctional activities at various state prisons (i.e., the Impact Program, recidivism rates, etc.), and is reported to the LSU Office of Social Services and Research Development. With the size of the Department of Correction's and LSU's budget this amount can be absorbed within the departments. Additionally, Article IV, Section 5 (G), 2 requires me to veto line items or use means provided in the bill so that total appropriations for the year shall not exceed anticipated revenues for that year. For these reasons, I find it necessary to veto this item.

VETO MESSAGE NO. 3:

Page 156, Lines 51 through 54

The intent of this amendment, in the Department of Revenue's appropriation, was to transfer funding to the Department of Public Safety to provide for additional utility expenses associated with centralization of data processing efforts. The Department of Public Safety has sufficient funds available to absorb this expenditure. Additionally, Article IV, Section 5 (G), 2 requires me to veto line items or use means provided in the bill so that total appropriations for the year shall not exceed anticipated revenues for that year. For these reasons, I find it necessary to veto this item.

VETO MESSAGE NO. 4:

Page 157, Lines 28 through 31

The intent of this amendment, in the Office of Revenue in the Department of Revenue, was to allow the agency to disassemble, transport, and reassemble mobile shelving in the Excise and Income Divisions. This agency has been appropriated an additional \$2.5 million in Fees and Self-generated Revenues from prior year collections which could be used to cover these moving expenses. Additionally, Article IV, Section 5 (G), 2 requires me to veto line items or use means provided in the bill so that total appropriations for the year shall not exceed anticipated revenues for that year. For these reasons, I find it necessary to veto this item.

Sincerely,

M. J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.

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