



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
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EARL RAY TOMBLIN
GOVERNOR

April 1, 2015

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State
Building 1, Suite 157-K
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0770

Re: Enrolled House Bill No. 2674


Dear Secretary Tennant:

Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove House Bill No. 2674.

This bill modifies the eligibility requirements for home school students to receive the PROMISE scholarship. The PROMISE scholarship is a merit-based financial aid program for West Virginia residents who meet certain academic requirements, including graduating from high school with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher or earning a general equivalency degree ("GED"). This bill eliminates the GED requirement.

Eliminating the requirement that home school students show mastery of certain subjects, rather than simply complete a course of study, provides an unfair advantage for those students to receive a PROMISE scholarship. It could also create an incentive for some students to drop out of the public school system if their performance does not meet the required GPA standard to be eligible for the PROMISE scholarship. I believe this type of advantage was not intended when the Legislature created this merit-based program. Therefore, I disapprove the bill.

Sincerely,


Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

cc: The Hon. William P. Cole III
President of the Senate

The Hon. Tim Armstead
Speaker of the House of Delegates