



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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EARL RAY TOMBLIN  
GOVERNOR

April 1, 2016

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

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

Re: Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 4171

Dear Secretary of State Tennant:

Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove the Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 4171. This bill makes several revisions to the statute governing the public school calendar. Two revisions are particularly problematic. Specifically, this bill deletes the requirement that the calendar shall provide 180 "separate" days of instruction. It also sets an inflexible instructional term that "shall begin no earlier than August 10 and end no later than June 10," unless the school operates on a balanced calendar.

To be college or career ready, West Virginia's students need to be in the classroom receiving instruction and learning for at least 180 separate days a year—even if this means making up lost time due to weather or emergencies. With proper planning, a county school system should be able to achieve 180 separate days of instruction without encroaching on summer vacation to a great degree. Because this bill retreats from the comprehensive education reforms I championed in 2013, including the flexible school calendar concept, it is hereby vetoed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earl Ray Tomblin".

Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor

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cc: The Hon. Tim Armstead  
Speaker of the House of Delegates

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