



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia

April 25, 2017

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Mac Warner
Secretary of State
Suite 157-K
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Re: Enrolled House Bill 2446

Dear Secretary Warner:

Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled House Bill 2446.


This bill is very broad in its application, requiring "contact information of each staff member, including office location". Some state employees work in undercover positions and their office locations are in their personal homes or in locations that are confidential for their safety. Requiring that their complete contact information be disclosed on an agency's website could put their safety and the safety of their coworkers in jeopardy. Allowing personal location information to be published on agency websites, especially for law enforcement officers, could act as a valuable resource for criminals who wish to do harm to the officers or their families.

Although I understand the importance of providing the public with easy access to the information required by this bill, I believe the spirit and intent of this legislation can be accomplished administratively by simply working with all our state agencies. I plan to direct these agencies to publish the relevant contact information on their websites just as soon as possible.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

For the foregoing reasons, I disapprove and return the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Justice", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name "Governor Jim Justice".

Governor Jim Justice

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

The Hon. Mitch Carmichael
President of the Senate