

March 27, 2019

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Mac Warner
Secretary of State
Building 1, Suite 157-K
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Re: Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 2674

Dear Secretary Warner:

Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 2674. This bill purports to establish a student loan repayment program for mental health providers residing in West Virginia and practicing in underserved areas of the state, and to allow two nonresident students per year, in each cohort, to attend each of the state's medical schools at the in-state tuition rate.

The aim of this bill is laudable: to get mental health providers into practice in underserved areas throughout the state. The bill, however, is technically flawed because its title is defective. *See State ex rel. Davis v. Oakley*, 156 W.Va. 154, 191 S.E.2d 610 (1972) (requiring bill titles to provide notice of a bill's contents). Specifically, the title notes that the bill authorizes legislative rules to be promulgated, but the bill authorizes the Commissioner of the Higher Education Policy Commission to promulgate rules.

As a result of this flaw, I disapprove and return Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 2674, but welcome a similar bill in a subsequent legislative session to achieve its purposes.

Sincerely,

Jim Justice
Governor

cc: The Hon. Roger Hanshaw
Speaker of the House of Delegates
The Hon. Mitch Carmichael
President of the Senate