

July 11, 2003

The Honorable Alfred W. Speer
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: House Bill No. 138 by Rep. Triche
Provides relative to LASERS members' retirement; requires vacated positions to be abolished generally

Dear Mr. Speer:

House Bill No. 138 reenacts the provisions of Act 844 of the 2001 Regular Session, which has sunset. Act 844 was used very effectively by this administration to lower, as well as manage, the number of state employees, but proved to be a cumbersome tool. House Bill No. 138 requires the immediate abolishment of any civil service position vacated by early retirement and only provides for the reestablishment of those positions with the concurrence of the commissioner of administration and the director of Civil Service. This legislation further limits the number of positions that can be reestablished to only ten percent of the number abolished over any five-year period. A review of the Division of Administration's current employment indicates that the provisions of this bill could affect as many as 70 positions in that department alone, many of which are high level management positions with significant responsibility. If enacted, this legislation would only allow for the reestablishment of seven of those positions over a five-year period. I think to continue this procedure further would unduly create an administrative burden for the executive branch and will be very difficult to administer due to the significant number of employees that will soon be eligible to retire.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill No. 138 and am returning it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.

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