

July 12, 2007

Mr. Alfred W. Speer
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Mr. Glenn Koepp
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

RE: House Bill No. 1 of the 2007 Regular Session of the Legislature
An Act making appropriations for the ordinary expenses of the executive branch of state government, pensions, public schools, public roads, public charities, and state institutions and providing with respect to the expenditure of said appropriations.

Dear Gentlemen:

As authorized by Article III, Section 18(B), and more particularly, Article IV, Section 5(G)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana, I have exercised my right to veto ten (10) items or provisions of the General Appropriation Bill.

VETO MESSAGE NO. 1

Page 107, Lines 41 through 43:

This language amendment provides that out of the monies herein appropriated to the Contract Services Program, \$750,000 shall be used for operational support of the Christian Acres Group Home in Tallulah, Louisiana. This entity currently contracts with Office of Youth Development (OYD) for a negotiated per diem and average number of beds. Accordingly, any increase in allocations should be negotiated with OYD based on the need for beds in that area. Therefore, I am vetoing this item.

VETO MESSAGE NO. 2

Page 108, Lines 1 through 3:

This language amendment provides that out of the funding appropriated herein to the Contract Services Program, \$200,000 shall be allocated to the Johnny Gray Jones Youth Shelter in Bossier Parish for additional beds. This entity currently contracts with Office of Youth Development (OYD) for a negotiated per diem and average number of beds. Accordingly, any increase in allocations should be negotiated with OYD based on the need for beds in that area. Therefore, I am vetoing this item.

Mr. Speer and Mr. Koepf
Page Two
July 12, 2007

VETO MESSAGE NO. 3

Page 129, line 47 through 51:

This amendment requires \$500,000 state General Fund to be transferred from the Office of Public Health (OPH) to the Executive Office for the Governor's Program on Abstinence in the event that no federal funding is available for the program. This language amendment forces OPH to cut its funding from other programs to provide funds to the Governor's Program on Abstinence. Removing \$500,000 from this Office will have a negative impact on programs such as Maternal Child Health, Immunizations, Nutrition Services, Genetic Disease, Children's Special Health Services, School-Based Health, and Tuberculosis, all of which have been proven to improve the health of Louisiana citizens. This budget cut will have negative impact to OPH's Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget. Therefore, I am vetoing this item.

VETO MESSAGE NO. 4

Page 160, lines 52 through 56:

This amendment provides \$46,000,000 state General Fund by Statutory Dedication out of the Barrier Island Stabilization and Preservation Fund for purposes of the barrier islands and shorelines stabilization and preservation program. I strongly support restoration of Louisiana's barrier islands. A separate amendment providing for the deposit of \$46,000,000 into the Barrier Island Stabilization and Preservation Fund is not vetoed and that deposit will occur in the event of the tobacco assets securitization, sale, or refinancing. However, the amount of tobacco proceeds that would be generated from the securitization of the tobacco assets is unknown at this time. The appropriation out of the Barrier Island Stabilization and Preservation Fund counts against the expenditure limit cap. In the event of securitization, only the amount of funding required to meet the cash needs for projects in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 should be budgeted, rather than the entire fund balance which will be spent over multiple years. There is a mechanism via mid-year adjustment (BA-7) for providing these funds to the agency once the amount of that cash need is determined. Therefore, I am vetoing this item.

VETO MESSAGE NO. 5

Page 161, lines 9 through 13:

This amendment provides \$18,000,000 state General Fund by Statutory Dedication out of the Barrier Island Stabilization and Preservation Fund for purposes of the barrier islands and shorelines stabilization and preservation program. I strongly support restoration of Louisiana's barrier islands. A separate amendment providing for the deposit of \$18,000,000 into the Barrier Island Stabilization and Preservation Fund is not vetoed and that deposit will occur in the event of the tobacco assets securitization, sale, or refinancing. However, the amount of tobacco proceeds that would be generated from the securitization of the tobacco assets is unknown at this time. The appropriation out of the Barrier Island Stabilization and Preservation Fund counts against the expenditure limit cap. In the event of securitization, only the amount of funding required to meet the cash needs for projects in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 should be budgeted, rather than the entire fund balance which will be spent over multiple years. There is a mechanism via mid-year adjustment (BA-7) for providing these funds to the agency once the amount of that cash need is determined. Therefore, I am vetoing this item.

Mr. Speer and Mr. Koeppe
Page Three
July 12, 2007

VETO MESSAGE NO. 6

Page 184, Lines 21 through 23:

This amendment, starting on line 21, limits the authority of any higher education management board to involve itself in the day-to-day management operations of those institutions within their respective jurisdictions. This attempt to redefine the role of management boards is contrary to constitutional and statutory authority. Specifically, the University of Louisiana System, the Louisiana State University System and the Southern University System are each authorized to manage and supervise the institutions and programs within their systems. Further, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System has the authority to manage their institutions and programs. Therefore, I am vetoing this item.

VETO MESSAGE NO. 7

Page 200, Lines 41 through 50:

This language amendment requires that monies appropriated to the Southern University Agricultural Program Fund be used for the financing, construction, and operation of agricultural facilities. The language amendment further requires the Southern University Board of Supervisors to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the construction of such facility in Opelousas, Louisiana. This language conflicts with R.S. 27:392(B)(6)(b), which requires that the \$750,000 appropriated each fiscal year to the Southern University AgCenter Program Fund be used to support the various Southern University Agricultural programs. Additionally, it is the position of the Southern University Board of Supervisors that the language conflicts with their statutory authority to spend these monies in support of agricultural programs. The removal of this amendment does not prohibit the Board from entering into a cooperative endeavor agreement for the construction of an agricultural facility. Therefore, I am vetoing this item.

VETO MESSAGE NO. 8

Page 202, Lines 47 through 51:

This amendment provides \$75,000 payable out of state General Fund to the Southern University Board of Supervisors for Southern University - Agricultural & Mechanical College for marching band scholarships at Southern University - Baton Rouge. Many of our public universities have marching bands. It is not equitable to provide additional funding for just one marching band. Southern University is funded, as is all of higher education, at historical levels. An increase in flexible funds of 3% is available to the university to target specific investments on campus, such as scholarships, and new need-based aid to support students is also available. Therefore, I am vetoing this item.

VETO MESSAGE NO. 9

Page 286, Lines 23 through 24:

This amendment provides \$40,000 state General Fund to the Iberia Parish SugArena for purchase of a tractor. As one of the largest multi-purpose events facilities in South Louisiana, the SugArena should have the capacity to generate revenues necessary for maintenance and upkeep of its facility and grounds. Therefore, I am vetoing this item.

Mr. Speer and Mr. Koepp
Page Four
July 12, 2007

VETO MESSAGE NO. 10
Page 293, Lines 8 through 10:

This amendment provides \$25,000 state General Fund to the Natural Resources Conservation Agency - Iberia Parish Office for purchase of equipment. The Natural Resources Conservation Agency is a federal agency with its own substantial revenue source. Therefore, I am vetoing this item.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor

jw