

March 12, 2008

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

Re: House Bill No.90 by Representative Dixon
BOARD OF ETHICS: Relating to enforcement procedures and requiring the Board of Ethics
to provide certain information to the accused

Dear Mr. Speer:

Under current law, the Board of Ethics is required to provide an individual accused of misconduct with a “certified copy of the vote [to investigate] and an explanation of the matter or a copy of the sworn complaint if one has been submitted to the board.” (R.S. 42:1141B). House Bill No. 90 by Representative Dixon would require the Board to disclose additional information to an individual accused of misconduct once the Board has decided to pursue formal charges. The Bill would also mandate that the Board further disclose the “name of any complainant and the name of any other person providing information that the board has considered” prior to the required “private investigation” and the Board’s vote on whether to pursue formal charges. While I understand and support the right of an accused public servant to defend him/herself from formal charges, I am concerned that portions of the Bill would have the unintended consequence of potentially impeding legitimate complaints.

For this reason, I have vetoed House Bill No. 90 and am returning it to the House of Representatives.

Very truly yours,

Bobby Jindal
Governor

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