

July 1, 2008

The Honorable Alfred W. Speer
Clerk of the House
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: House Bill No. 906 by Representative Hutter
Ethics: Requires the Board of Ethics to send information regarding the complaint immediately to the accused

Dear Mr. Speer:

House Bill No. 906 by Representative Hutter would require that the Board of Ethics send the following to the accused by certified mail: "a copy of any complaint received by the Board, which includes the name of the complainant and the name of any other person providing information that the Board has considered in the matter." While I understand and support the right of an accused public servant to defend him/herself from formal charges, I am concerned that this requirement may discourage citizens from reporting misconduct for fear of reprisal.

Other substantive components of HB 906 were included in HB 290 by Representative Dixon, which I signed on June 6, 2008, such as the requirement that the Board send the accused a certified copy of the vote, a detailed explanation of the matter, factual allegations upon which the Board based its decision to investigate, and a copy of the complaint. However, Representative Dixon's bill made specific provisions to redact the name of the complaint and protect his/her identity.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill No. 906 and hereby return it to the House of Representatives.

Very truly yours,

Bobby Jindal
Governor

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