

July 10, 2008

Honorable Glenn Koepp  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Senate Bill No. 262 by Senator Jackson  
Veto Message

Dear Mr. Koepp:

Senate Bill No. 262 requires a report be included in the executive budget that identifies adjustments made as a result of “policy changes”. As a starting point, I have concern about the bill’s broad definition of “policy changes”:

(49) “Policy changes” means a narrative explanation of changes that result in increases or decreases in the level of funding, the level of services, or the scope of services expressed in policy terms as follows: legislative policy changes that result from changes in state or federal laws and related rules or regulations; judicial policy changes that result from court rulings and decrees; and administrative policy changes resulting from executive orders or prioritization of funding to meet specific goals and objectives of the executive branch. The narrative shall also include a citation of the relevant provision of law, judicial decision or order, or executive order or administrative action associated with each change in funding level.

Based on this definition, the Division of Administration would have to prepare and produce the required narrative reflecting every state and federal administrative, legislative, and/or judicial policy implication impacting each and every adjustment made to the budget. The full extent of this obligation is unclear.

Second, to a large extent, much of this information is already included, which makes this bill redundant to the requirements of existing law. Under R.S. 39:36, the executive budget is required to include an array of summaries, comparative statements, reports, tables, estimates, projections and

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other performance information and indicators of both expenditures and revenues. In addition, representatives from the Division and other members of the executive branch work closely with the legislature and are available to testify concerning their understanding of the policy implications.

For these reasons, I am vetoing SB 262 and hereby return it to the Senate.

Very truly yours,

Bobby Jindal  
Governor

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