



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY
65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 720
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July 8, 2011

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI:

Herewith I return to you Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 184, entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal sections 233.280, 537.620, and 537.635, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to political subdivisions.

I disapprove of Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 184. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 184 allows public entity risk associations, significantly reliant on taxpayer dollars, to "close meetings, records and votes as authorized in chapter 610 to the extent that such meetings, records and votes pertain to actuarial analysis, loss history, claims, data, reports and similar information relating to the determination of member rates and contributions." Chapter 610 does not provide for closure of meetings, records and votes for the purposes stated. Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 184, therefore, creates a new exception to chapter 610, diminishing government transparency, contrary to the public policy of this state. The closure of these meetings, records and votes effectively places a significant portion of the operations of these public entity risk associations beyond public scrutiny. Further, the closure of this information may limit the members of these entities from obtaining information needed to make informed decisions about their membership.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 184 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon", written over a horizontal line.

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor