

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 184 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

Courts of inquiry are criminal proceedings initiated by a local district judge. Current law appropriately requires the costs of these proceedings to be borne by the county where they take place, just as the costs of other criminal proceedings are largely borne by counties. Because the decision to conduct a court of inquiry rests with a local district judge, it makes sense for the costs of the proceeding to be borne at the local level. House Bill 184 would inappropriately shift these costs to the State in certain cases.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2015.




GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:



CARLOS CASCOS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2pm O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2015

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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 499 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

House Bill 499 unnecessarily limits the field of candidates available for appointment to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House. The bill also guarantees committee members a term of six years, which eliminates the appointing officers' ability to replace members at any time for poor performance. The appointment limitations in House Bill 499 would impede the appointing officers' ability to provide effective committee members to serve Texas.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 1363 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

House Bill 1363 provides useful tools for courts when distinguishing between the offenses of prostitution and soliciting the services of a prostitute. This is a supportable goal, however this bill also reduces penalties for individuals convicted of prostitution on multiple occasions. Reducing penalties for willful repeat offenders is not in the best interest of the offender or the people of Texas. A better option for addressing the difference between prostitution and soliciting the services of a prostitute is Senate Bill 825, which does more to protect the victims of human trafficking and forced prostitution.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 1628 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

The Texas Constitution authorizes raffles to be conducted only for charitable purposes. When non-charitable businesses conduct drawings, they typically allow entry with “no purchase necessary,” which generally exempts the drawing from the constitutional restrictions on raffles or lotteries. House Bill 1628 authorizes banks and credit unions to conduct raffles in which raffle tickets are offered only in exchange for opening a savings account. Opening an account and paying any customary fees associated with the account amounts to consideration paid for the raffle ticket and places such a raffle squarely within the gambling prohibitions of the Texas Constitution and Penal Code. The bill would therefore require a conforming constitutional amendment in order to be effective. No such constitutional amendment was proposed by the Legislature.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 1633 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

Oil and gas companies are already required to report the location of their wells to the State, via the Texas Railroad Commission. The problem House Bill 1633 seeks to solve is that the Texas Railroad Commission and the Texas Department of Transportation do not communicate effectively with one another when an oil and gas producer asks the Railroad Commission for a permit to drill near a right-of-way owned by TxDOT. Instead of requiring these two state agencies to work more effectively together, House Bill 1633 thrusts a new and unnecessary hurdle onto oil and gas producers to solve the State's internal communication challenges. It is within the existing power of the two state agencies to solve this problem, and they should do so.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.

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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 1855 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

Texas rightly holds its state correctional officers to the highest standards of professional excellence. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice meets those standards through numerous training and continuing education programs, including training for mental health crisis intervention. TDCJ must continue those efforts. House Bill 1855 unnecessarily micromanages the state prison system by requiring officers to meet rigid and arbitrary training and education quotas. TDCJ should retain the flexibility to adjust its training and education methods and requirements to meet the prison system's evolving needs.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.

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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 2068 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

House Bill 2068 provides for the automatic enrollment of hospital district employees in a retirement plan at a contribution level of one percent unless the employee elects not to participate. Studies have shown, however, that automatic enrollment at a very low contribution percentage actually ends up reducing employees' overall retirement savings. This is because automatically enrolled employees are unlikely to voluntarily elect to contribute more than the automatic contribution. If required to choose a contribution amount, many employees will select an amount much greater than the automatic contribution. See Ryan Bubb & Richard H. Pildes, *How Behavioral Economics Trims Its Sails And Why*, 127 HARV. L. REV. 1593, 1609 (2014) (“[I]n practice these programs appear to reduce overall retirement savings.”); see also Eleanor Laise, *Automatic 401(k) Plans Might Not Save Enough*, WALL STREET JOURNAL (Jan. 8, 2008). One of the largest retirement plan administrators in the country has reported that between 2007 and 2011, the percentage of plans using automatic enrollment—usually with a default contribution of three percent—nearly doubled, while overall retirement savings rates declined. VANGUARD, HOW AMERICA SAVES 2012, at 29 fig.31 (2012) (attributing this decline in part “to the growing use of automatic enrollment and the tendency of participants to stick with the default deferral”). Thus, House Bill 2068 would likely undermine its stated goal of increasing retirement savings and investment returns.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 2084 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:


Managed care organizations (MCOs) are paid by the taxpayers to insure Texas's Medicaid population. The rate the State pays MCOs per Medicaid recipient is determined in large part by federal law, but there is substantial room for negotiation. Both the state and the MCOs conduct internal actuarial analyses that are critical to the rate-setting process.

The Texas Health and Human Services (HHSC) represents the taxpayer in rate negotiations with MCOs. House Bill 2084 would require HHSC to reveal the details of the internal actuarial analysis it uses when negotiating rates on behalf of the State. This would hamper HHSC's ability to negotiate for the best possible rate. Billions of dollars in taxpayer funds are at stake. Where there is room for negotiation, HHSC should have all available tools at its disposal to protect Texas taxpayers.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 2100 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

Determining the boundaries of new taxing districts should be a fair and transparent process. The boundaries of the management district created by House Bill 2100 received particular attention during legislative deliberations. In particular, questions were raised regarding the exclusion of certain large parcels from the district.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 2282 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

The Texas Tax Code allows all property owners in Texas to bring an appeal in district court to challenge an appraisal district decision regarding their property. These appeals are important matters for property owners, who deserve a fair and predictable process by which to challenge the actions of appraisal districts.

House Bill 2282 departs from the uniform, statewide rules governing appraisal appeals by allowing property owners in just one of the State's 254 counties to file their appeals with a justice of the peace instead of a district court. Unlike district courts, justices of the peace generally do not serve an entire county; instead they serve a particular geographic district within the county. Yet House Bill 2282 would allow property owners to choose any justice of the peace in the county to hear their appeal. This would invite forum shopping and would allow a justice of the peace to make rulings about property in a part of the county he or she does not represent.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 2381 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

The Election Code allows the county chairs of each major political party to select election judges to represent the political party at polling places, subject only to the county commissioners court's review of the legal eligibility of the county chairs' selections. House Bill 2381 would enable partisan county clerks to override the selection of the party county chair in some cases. The selection of a political party's representative at a polling place should be left to party leadership and should not be subject to any influence by elected county clerks whose interests may not align with the party's interest. Other sections of House Bill 2381 contain reforms that would be worthy of reconsideration by the next Legislature.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 2466 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

One way for government to grow is by the addition of large, high-profile new state programs. That kind of government growth is easy to spot and relatively simple to guard against. Perhaps more often, however, government growth takes place through the accumulation over time of many small additions to the bureaucratic state. Each one may seem like a benign, low-cost effort to address discrete problems thought to be facing society. But when viewed together, they amount to a massive expansion of the size, scope, and cost of government. Once in place, these programs tend only to get bigger and more costly. Many people come to rely on or become financially interested in the program's continued existence, which makes it difficult to reduce in size, much less eliminate.

House Bill 2466 creates just such a program. Texas has been doing pretty well without a safety reimbursement program run by the Department of Insurance. To stay strong, we should resist the needless growth of government even in small ways.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 2647 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

Texas landowners have a constitutionally protected right to access the groundwater under their property. Government action affecting that vested right must be based only on very careful deliberation, which ideally should take place at the local level based on local needs and concerns. Statewide groundwater rules are less able to take vitally important local interests into account.

Under current law, local groundwater conservation districts have the ability to implement specific management strategies, such as curtailment, that prioritize certain users as deemed appropriate after local deliberation. House Bill 2647 eliminates local discretion by mandating the preferential treatment of certain types of groundwater use over other important uses. If one class of landowners is automatically exempt from curtailment, others will have to bear an unequal burden when water is scarce. Enshrining in state law the rule that groundwater conservation districts will give priority to one class of water users could result in the abridgement of other users' groundwater rights. Groundwater management should be based on sound science and public input at the local level, not on one-size-fits-all state mandates like House Bill 2647.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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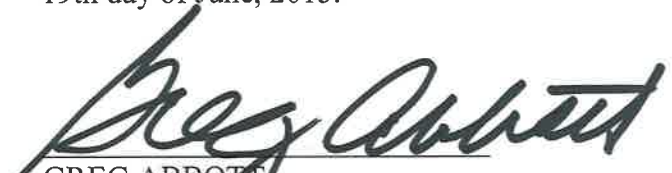
Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 2775 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

The Election Code requires those seeking a place on the ballot for certain races to submit to the Secretary of State a petition containing signatures of registered voters who support the candidacy. House Bill 2775 would allow candidates who submit deficient petitions to update their petitions in a piecemeal fashion, rather than requiring the submission of a single, legally compliant petition. This could increase the risk of erroneous or fraudulent petitions. To the extent there are concerns about the Secretary of State's current policies on candidate petitions, the Legislature should work with the Secretary of State's office to address this issue in the next session.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 2826 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

Chapter 313 of the Tax Code allows for certain businesses to negotiate with school districts for lower appraisal valuations and, as a result, lower school property taxes. While the program may sometimes have a positive impact on local economic development, serious concerns exist about its oversight, its transparency, and its value to the taxpayers. According to a 2013 report by the Comptroller's Office, Chapter 313 cost the taxpayers \$341,363 for every new job created by the program. The Comptroller estimates that House Bill 2826 will ultimately cost State taxpayers \$100 million per biennium. I cannot support expansion of an incentive program that has not been proven to deliver the value taxpayers deserve.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 2830 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

House Bill 2830 allows counties to refuse to refund to taxpayers amounts less than two dollars unless the person owed the refund requests it in writing. Placing this burden on the person owed the money will cause the vast majority of small refunds never to be paid. That is unacceptable. Citizens are legally entitled to any money owed them by the government, no matter how small the amount.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 3043 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

State licensure of occupations in many cases impedes free market competition and drives up the costs of services for consumers. Texas law currently allows for the licensure of journeymen linemen. Only 33 individuals have applied for the license since it was authorized in 2013. Current law does not require a license in order to conduct journeyman lineman work, nor should it. The license serves no imperative public purpose, requires unnecessary government bureaucracy, and creates the potential for unionized workers to artificially increase prices for consumers.

House Bill 3043 is an attempt to increase the number of applicants seeking to be licensed and regulated by the state for conducting lineman work. This would only increase the potential for the license to be used in an anti-competitive manner. Raising the barriers to entry into an occupation should be avoided whenever possible.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 3060 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

Local governments generally should have flexibility to respond to local concerns, including the need to conserve water. House Bill 3060 goes too far, however, by granting broad authority to local enforcement commissions to interfere with private property rights. Lawn-watering restrictions can already be enforced by fines. The additional enforcement authority provided by this bill would allow the government to insert itself too deeply into what a private property owner chooses to do on his or her own land. Local governments already have sufficient tools at their disposal to encourage their residents to use less water.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 3184 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

Mediation is a process available in civil lawsuits by which parties can work out their disputes without using courts. House Bill 3184 imports the civil law process of mediation into criminal law, allowing for mediation between the victim of the crime and the criminal to take the place of prosecution by the State, even in some violent felony cases. This “victim-offender mediation” leaves out a key party in criminal litigation—the State of Texas. Criminal indictments in Texas allege that a crime has been committed “against the peace and dignity of the State.” The State, not the victim of crime, brings criminal litigation against the defendant. And while prosecutors do seek justice for victims, their primary duty is to represent the broader public interest in deterring and punishing crime for the good of all Texans. Making amends with the victim of a crime does not absolve the criminal of his legal debt to the State. Mediation is not well-suited to the criminal context and should be reserved for civil cases.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 3193 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

I previously vetoed Senate Bill 408, explaining that government has an obligation to spend no more of the taxpayers' money than necessary. The practice of competitive bidding forces government officials to put the taxpayers' interests ahead of any temptation to steer the people's business to favored vendors. House Bill 3193 would allow the City of San Antonio, and only that City, to reject the best bid and instead spend more money on a San Antonio-based vendor. Like Senate Bill 408 before it, House Bill 3193 improperly relieves government officials of their duty to seek the best possible value for the taxpayers. The bill is made worse because it creates different rules for different cities without any legitimate reason to do so.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



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Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 3390 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

Under current law, it is already a crime for hunters to fire across a property line unless the hunter owns both plots of land or has a written agreement with the property owner on either side of the property line. House Bill 3390 would require expanded agreements that contain more of the hunter's personal information. These new requirements could result in increased prosecution of hunters who are attempting to comply with the law but are not aware the law has changed. There are already severe criminal and civil penalties for the dangerous discharge of a firearm. Increased regulation of hunters is not necessary.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2015.


GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:



CARLOS CASCOS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2pm O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2015

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:


Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 3511 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

Texans deserve accountability and transparency from their public officials. House Bill 3511 weakens the ethics laws governing officeholder financial disclosures. I cannot allow that.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2015.



GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:



CARLOS CASCOS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2pm O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2015

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 3579 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

I previously signed Senate Bill 1902, which increases the ability of those who have been convicted of misdemeanors to have their criminal records sealed from public disclosure. The purpose of that legislation is to expand the employment prospects of individuals whose minor criminal records may be unduly limiting their ability to pursue an honest living.

House Bill 3579 has a similar goal, but it goes too far by allowing courts to expunge dismissed criminal charges—including serious felony charges—even when the defendant was convicted of other, related charges. This would be problematic for two reasons. First, dismissal of a criminal charge is not necessarily an indicator of the defendant's innocence of that crime, particularly when a multi-charge arrest results in a plea agreement. Second, unlike orders of non-disclosure, which seal records from public view, expunction seals the records even from law enforcement. Under House Bill 3579, even those convicted of serious felonies could have parts of their criminal record expunged. This would deprive law enforcement of information about the offense history of habitual criminals, which may be useful in the investigation of future crimes.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2015.


GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:



CARLOS CASCOS

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2pm O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2015

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

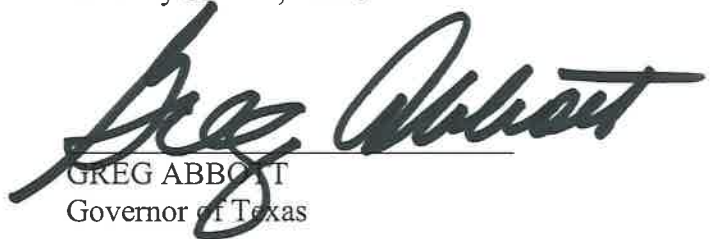
Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 3736 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

At the beginning of this legislative session, I called for meaningful ethics reform. This legislation does not accomplish that goal. Provisions in this bill would reduce Texans' trust in their elected officials, and I will not be a part of weakening our ethics laws. Serious ethics reform must be addressed next session – the right way. Texans deserve better.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2015.



GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:



CARLOS CASCOS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2:25 O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2015

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 4025 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

In the 2011 statewide election, the voters of Texas rejected a constitutional amendment that would have given counties the authority to create tax-increment reinvestment zones. The Legislature's attempts to confer this authority on counties without a constitutional amendment have been found by three separate Attorney-General opinions to violate article VIII, section 1(a) of the Texas Constitution. House Bill 4025, in part, is an attempt to do what the Texas Constitution and multiple Attorney-General opinions prohibit. If the Legislature wants counties to have the authority to create tax-increment reinvestment zones, it must again ask the voters to amend the Constitution.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2015.



GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:



CARLOS CASCOS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2pm O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2015

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 4103 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

The Texas Constitution requires all elected or appointed officers to take the following oath: "I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of _____ of the State of Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State, so help me God." The oath is commonly re-taken when an existing officeholder begins a new term. House Bill 4103 would exempt municipal judges from the need to take the oath for a subsequent term of office. Judges, of all offices, should never be excused from the obligation to swear to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2015.


GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:



CARLOS CASCOS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2pm O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2015

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto Senate Bill No. 130 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

After convicted criminals complete their sentences and repay their debts to society, their criminal records do not disappear. The reality for some individuals who have been charged with relatively minor crimes is that their records can follow them forever, making it difficult for them to find employment and reintegrate into society. That is why I previously signed into law Senate Bill 1902, which authorizes courts in limited circumstances to seal the records of certain first-time misdemeanor offenders, to ensure that a minor criminal record is not a road block to an individual becoming a productive member of society even decades later. But the State's interest in reintegrating one-time, petty offenders must be balanced with an employer's right to know what they are getting when they make a hire. Senate Bill 130 goes too far because it would permit individuals who have committed even serious felonies (including crimes like manslaughter, arson, enticing of a child, and improper photography of a minor) to hide their heinous acts from employers. And it places no limits on the number of times repeat offenders can attempt to erase their past.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2015.


GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:



CARLOS CASCOS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2pm O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2015

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto Senate Bill No. 313 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

While Senate Bill 313 is intended to provide additional flexibility to school districts when purchasing classroom instructional materials, the bill potentially restricts the ability of the State Board of Education to address the needs of Texas classrooms. Portions of Senate Bill 313 may have merit, but serious concerns were raised about other parts of the bill. I look forward to working with the Legislature and other stakeholders to ensure this issue is vigorously evaluated before next Session.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2015.


GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:



CARLOS CASCOS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2PM O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2015

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto Senate Bill No. 496 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

Currently, a school district can apply to the Texas Education Agency and request permission to offer a flexible school day program for the district's at-risk students. As filed, Senate Bill 496 addressed the financing of these programs. I am supportive of the original intent of the legislation; therefore, I have signed the bill's companion legislation, House Bill 2660.

Unfortunately, an objectionable piece of legislation that did not ultimately pass on its own merit was added to Senate Bill 496 and significantly changed the bill's focus. Senate Bill 496 was amended to allow a school district to establish a flexible school day for entire campuses without approval from the Texas Education Agency. Allowing districts to drastically change the school calendar without TEA approval could cause unanticipated and untenable problems.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2015.


GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:



CARLOS CASCOS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2:28 PM O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2015

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto Senate Bill No. 1032 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

Under current law, state employees are authorized to maintain flexible work schedules—including work from home, where appropriate—if the head of their state agency provides written approval. This policy provides flexibility for those employees who need it while imposing management controls that minimize the potential for abuse of these privileges.

Senate Bill 1032 takes this process further and would allow an employee's immediate supervisor, rather than the agency head, to authorize flexible schedules and work from home. This would result in reduced accountability, inconsistent application, and greater potential for abuse. The bill's provisions regarding overtime and compensatory time earned away from the office are also problematic. Authorizing employees to earn overtime or compensatory time for work performed at home raises legitimate record-keeping and management concerns.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2015.


GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:



CARLOS CASCOS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2:02 PM O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2015

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:


Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto Senate Bill No. 1034 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

The integrity of the vote-by-mail process must be strengthened, not called into question. Amendments added to Senate Bill 1034 late in the legislative process would create confusion as to how counties should administer mail-in ballot applications. To ensure this important matter is addressed with the clarity it deserves, the Legislature should reconsider the issue and eliminate the uncertainty and ambiguity contained in this bill.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2015.



GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:



CARLOS CASCOS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2pm O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2015

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto Senate Bill No. 1408 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

Senate Bill 1408 creates new authorities to issue state funds to local units of governments similar to, and in some cases identical to, grants already made under the federal Community Development Block Grant program. The stated intent of the new programs is to offset reductions in federal funding with new state funding. Our federal government's addiction to spending Texas taxpayer dollars must be brought under control, and when it is, the State of Texas should not find ways to tax our citizens to continue funding services our federal elected officials have deemed worthy of curtailing.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2015.


GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:



CARLOS CASCOS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2:02 O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2015

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto Senate Bill No. 1655 as passed by the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board already has the legal authority to perform the services described in Senate Bill 1655. The primary purpose of the bill is to raise more revenue for the Board by creating new fees that will ultimately be paid for by students through increased tuition. These fees would be unnecessary burdens on institutions of higher education and their students. The Board should operate within its existing resources.

Since the Eighty-Fourth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2015.


GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:



CARLOS CASCOS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2pm O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2015