



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

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JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

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July 11, 2013

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 43 entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal sections 302.302, 302.700, 302.720, 302.735, 302.740, 302.755, 304.180, 304.820, 476.385, 577.041, RSMo, section 302.060 as enacted by conference committee substitute for senate substitute for senate committee substitute for house committee substitute for house bill no. 1402, ninety-sixth general assembly, second regular session, merged with conference committee substitute for house committee substitute no. 2 for senate committee substitute for senate bill no. 480, ninety-sixth general assembly, second regular session, section 302.060 as enacted by conference committee substitute for senate substitute for senate committee substitute for house committee substitute for house bill no. 1402, ninety-sixth general assembly, second regular session, section 302.304 as enacted by conference committee substitute for house committee substitute no. 2 for senate committee substitute for senate bill no. 480, ninety-sixth general assembly, second regular session, section 302.304 as enacted by conference committee substitute for house committee substitute for senate committee substitute for senate bills nos. 930 & 947, ninety-fourth general assembly, second regular session, section 302.309 as enacted by conference committee substitute for senate substitute for senate committee substitute for house committee substitute for house bill no. 1402, ninety-sixth general assembly, second regular session, section 302.309 as enacted by conference committee substitute for house committee substitute no. 2 for senate committee substitute for senate bill no. 480, ninety-sixth general assembly, second regular session, section 302.525 as enacted by conference committee substitute for house committee substitute no. 2 for senate committee substitute for senate bill no. 480, ninety-sixth general assembly, second regular session, and section 302.525 as enacted by conference committee substitute for house committee substitute for senate committee substitute for senate bills nos. 930 & 947, ninety-fourth general assembly, second regular session, and to enact in lieu thereof nineteen new sections relating to

transportation, with penalty provisions, an emergency clause for certain sections and an effective date for certain sections.

I disapprove of Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 43. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 43 would designate a portion of Interstate 70 in Montgomery County as the “Graham’s Picnic Rock Highway,” despite the fact that the referenced rock has also been known as “Slave Rock.” Accordingly, this bill does not receive my approval.

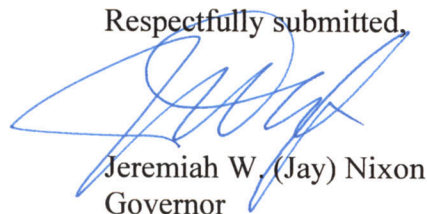
The apparent purpose of the designation proposed in Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 43 is to officially recognize as a landmark the large sandstone rock visible in the median of Interstate 70 when driving eastbound near Mineola, Missouri. The rock has been called “Graham’s Picnic Rock” in reference to Dr. Robert Graham, the former owner of the farm where the rock was located. According to local history, a popular outing in the 1880s was to drive with horse and buggy over the old Boone’s Lick Road to the Mineola Spring and Graham Cave for a picnic on Graham’s Picnic Rock.

However, in sharp contrast to the idyllic images of picnicking travelers conjured by the name “Graham’s Picnic Rock” are the shameful scenes of human bondage represented by the rock’s other name—“Slave Rock.” The rock’s name as “Slave Rock” comes from the widely held belief that slave auctions occurred at the site, perhaps related to Graham’s slave ownership prior to abolition.

By designating this stretch of highway as “Graham’s Picnic Rock Highway,” Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 43 has the effect, whether intentional or not, of elevating one history of the site above all others, thereby defining this landmark and its historical significance for generations to come. A step of such magnitude requires a robust public debate so that all interested parties’ voices can be heard. However, because the provision was never in an introduced bill, was added as a floor amendment, and never had a public hearing, interested members of the public, including those who have extensively researched the rock’s history, were given no opportunity to provide input and information to assist the legislature in its deliberations. Without a full public debate on this important issue, this bill cannot receive my approval.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 43 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor