



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON  
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 720  
(573) 751-3222

June 26, 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. 51 entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal sections 34.040, 64.196, 135.710, 136.055, 137.010, section 301.140 as enacted by conference committee substitute for senate substitute for senate committee substitute for house committee substitute for house bill no. 1402 merged with conference committee substitute for house committee substitute for senate substitute for senate committee substitute for senate bill no. 470 merged with conference committee substitute for house committee substitute for senate bill no. 568 merged with conference committee substitute for senate bill no. 611, ninety-sixth general assembly, second regular session, section 301.140 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, 301.301, 301.449, 302.132, 302.700, as enacted by conference committee substitute for senate substitute for senate committee substitute for house committee substitute for house bill no. 1402, merged with conference committee substitute for house committee substitute for senate substitute for senate committee substitute for senate bill no. 470, merged with conference committee substitute for house committee substitute no. 2 for senate committee substitute for senate bill no. 480, merged with conference committee substitute for house committee substitute for senate bill no. 568, ninety-sixth general assembly, second regular session, 302.720, 302.735, 302.740, 302.755, 304.154, 304.180, 304.820, and 307.400, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof twenty new sections relating to regulation of motor vehicles, with existing penalty provisions.

I disapprove of Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 51. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 51 would authorize new fees and raise the existing fees charged by license offices. Missourians should not have to pay more than \$22 million in additional fees to renew their driver's license or get their vehicle registered without any improvement in the services they receive.

Since 2009, Missouri's license offices have been subject to an open, competitive bidding process designed to provide the most efficient and effective service for taxpayers. The current license office contracts were bid under the current fee structure. If the private contractor with the winning bid has since failed to manage the contract to turn a profit, then the solution lies in the hands of the bidder and not in the pockets of Missourians.

Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 51 would cost Missourians an estimated \$22 million in additional fees on top of the more than \$31 million in fees they paid last fiscal year. Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 51 would double the fees charged for each driver's license, nondriver's license, learner's permit, chauffer's license, and operator's license issued or renewed. The bill would increase the fee to register or renew registration on a vehicle or trailer by 43%. Fees for each application or transfer of title would also double. Likewise, fees would double for each notice of lien processed for a bank, although this increase would undoubtedly be passed along to the bank's customers.

In addition to raising the fees license offices already charge, Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 51 would also create new fees where fees cannot currently be imposed. For example, under Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 51, a simple address change would now cost Missourians \$5.00, while a new \$2.00 fee would apply to any "electronic transmission," such as the license office checking insurance information or verifying personal property taxes. Indeed, Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 51 would subject residents of the City of St. Louis, and the counties of St. Louis, Franklin, St. Charles, and Jefferson to an additional \$2.00 fee—paid by no one else in the state—for the license office to electronically verify whether the vehicle passed or failed an emissions inspection.

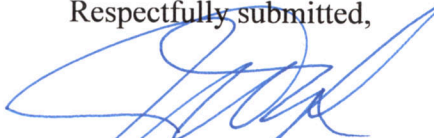
Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 51 would also require the Department of Revenue to "reimburse" the private contractors who operate the license offices for all "reasonable costs" associated with the offices. In other words, taxpayers would be saddled with providing private contractors additional subsidies for everything from wages, to rent, to printer toner. It is hard to fathom why these additional taxpayer subsidies would be necessary on top of the increased fees the private contractors would receive if this bill were to become law.

Finally, Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 51 would prohibit the Department of Revenue from awarding additional points for bidders who elect to return to taxpayers a percentage of the fees they collect. Since 2009, the private contractors operating the license offices have returned more than \$3 million in fee revenue, which not only provides additional funding for education and other vital public services it also

believes any argument by the private contractors that the current fee structure is inadequate to support license office operations throughout the state.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 51 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon  
Governor