



State of West Virginia
Joe Manchin III
Governor

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March 20, 2008

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Betty Ireland
Secretary of State
State of West Virginia
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Secretary Ireland:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section Fourteen, Article Seven of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled Senate Bill No. 337.

Unfortunately, I must object to this Bill because its proposed title does not reflect the amendments it purports to make to the Code of West Virginia. According to the title, Enrolled Senate bill No. 337 relates to "the removal of obsolete language concerning the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Appeals." However, the Bill's proposed amendments to the Code are somewhat more substantive in nature and would modify the Court's statutory authority to appoint employees in the Clerk's office. As a result, a reasonable person would not be able to discern the proposed changes to the Code without reading the entire text of the Enrolled Senate Bill No. 337. Accordingly, I find the title inconsistent with the substance of the Bill so as to render the Bill constitutionally defective. For this reason, I must veto this legislation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin III".

Joe Manchin III
Governor

cc: The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin
President, West Virginia Senate
The Honorable Richard Thompson
Speaker, House of Delegates