

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Charleston, WV 25305

April 7, 2010

VETO MESSAGE

The Honorable Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Secretary of State Tennant:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section Fourteen, Article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 4652.

This Bill would mandate a process for school calendar scheduling in each county. The process would include the appointment of a school calendar committee, the selection of multiple school calendar options by the committee, and a vote by county school employees. If approved, the Bill would require each county board of education to adopt a calendar that was approved by the majority of school employees. The deadline for adoption a calendar would be June 1.

My objection to this bill stems from the idea that county boards of education should have more flexibility and autonomy when it comes to decisions relating to the school calendar. This Bill would restrict the method by which a county board may choose its school calendar. Several counties may wish to adopt this method, and indeed many have already adopted a similar process. Other counties, however, may have different needs and those county boards of education should be afforded the freedom to adopt specifically tailored procedures.

I truly believe that decisions affecting the school calendar are best made at the county level. That is why I requested legislation to provide more flexibility to county boards when selecting the beginning and ending dates of the school term. County boards would have less authority over the school calendar if this Bill were approved. Therefore, I must veto Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 4652.

Very truly yours,

JOE MANCHIN, III,
Governor.