

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
CHARLESTON

March 18, 2011

The Honorable Jeffrey V. Kessler  
Acting President, West Virginia Senate  
State Capitol  
Charleston, West Virginia

Dear Acting President Kessler:

Enrolled Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 238 is an important piece of legislation that recognizes the important role our veterans play in guiding the executive department of this state. By redesignating the Division of Veterans' Affairs as the Department of Veterans' Assistance, and creating a new cabinet secretary therein, West Virginia's veterans are assured a more prominent role in state government. While I appreciate the Legislature's effort in passing this important piece of legislation, I must object to this Bill because it appears that it overrode a provision in Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 2879 that increased the salary of another important leader of our Armed Forces, the Adjutant General of the West Virginia National Guard. Additionally, it appears that the internal effective date for the transition of the Veteran's Council to be administered under the newly created Department of Veterans' Assistance should be amended to take effect July 1, 2011 to ensure

a smooth transition.

For these reasons, I must veto the legislation and encourage the Legislature to reconsider this matter in the future and return it to my desk for approval.

Very truly yours,

Earl Ray Tomblin,

*Governor.*