

March 27, 2019

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

The Honorable Mac Warner  
Secretary of State  
Building 1, Suite 157-K  
State Capitol  
Charleston, WV 25305

Re: Enrolled House Bill 2992

Dear Secretary Warner:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section fifty-one, Article VI of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled House Bill 2992.

Two years ago, I vetoed HB 2446, a bill with the same language. This bill is overly broad in its application, requiring “contact information of each staff member, including office location.” There is no exception for employees who are engaged in undercover law enforcement operations, for employees whose office location is their personal residence, or for employees whose safety would be at risk by publishing their office location.

I understand the importance of providing the public with readily accessible information about state and local government, as intended by this bill. However, the bill should provide some flexibility for those employees to protect their safety, the safety of their coworkers or the integrity of law enforcement operations. I encourage the Legislature to revisit this bill and present it for signature with the exemptions necessary to protect certain employees.

For these reasons, I disapprove and return Enrolled House Bill 2992.

Sincerely,

Jim Justice  
Governor

cc: The Honorable Mitch Carmichael  
President of the Senate  
The Honorable Roger Hanshaw  
Speaker of the House of Delegates