



Patrick Morrissey
Office of the Governor

April 30, 2025

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Kris Warner
Secretary of State
State Capitol Complex
Building 1, Suite 157-K
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

RE: Enrolled House Bill 2120

Secretary Warner:

Pursuant to Section Fourteen, Article VII of the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled House Bill 2120. This bill makes several modifications to the makeup and function of the Ethics Commission, and creates new requirements to comply with its regulations.

The Ethics Commission is recommending a veto of this legislation. They have advised me that the implementation of this bill would create significant hardship by increasing the cost of the monthly meetings, and by decreasing the likelihood that qualified individuals will be willing to serve as members. The Ethics Commission already operates on a tight budget, and the Legislature did not increase their budget to account for the effects of this bill, resulting in an unfunded mandate. It further modifies its online system and will likely lead to more travel expenses by its nine-person commission, which will place considerable strain on its budget. Its strength is obtained and retained through the appointment and retention of knowledgeable, principled members. The Ethics Commission has expressed concerns that this bill would make serving less desirable, particularly for those residing far from the State Capitol. The intent of this bill is undoubtedly a noble one, but the inadvertent consequences are too great.

I encourage the Legislature to revisit this issue and to meet with representatives from the Ethics Commission and my office to craft a bill which makes meaningful changes in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Accordingly, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled House Bill 2120.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Morrissey", written over the printed name.

Patrick Morrissey
Governor

cc: The Honorable Randy Smith
President of the Senate

Roger Hanshaw
Speaker of the House of Delegates