



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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EARL RAY TOMBLIN
GOVERNOR

March 31, 2015

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State
Building 1, Suite 157-K
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0770

Re: Enrolled Senate Bill No. 582

Dear Secretary of State Tennant:

Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove Enrolled Senate Bill No. 582.

The Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs ("HHOMA") was created to fulfill a statewide mission; that is, to provide a forum to discuss the issues affecting West Virginia's minorities and to recommend strategies to lawmakers and community leaders for addressing those issues. This bill would require HHOMA, which has limited financial resources and consists of one executive director and her assistant, to establish a four year, comprehensive community-based pilot project focusing on public health in one neighborhood of the state.

I cannot fault the Legislature for wanting HHOMA to guide efforts for reviving Charleston's West Side neighborhood. It certainly has the energy and expertise. However, HHOMA lacks sufficient financial resources, human resources, and time to devote itself to the considerable local undertaking outlined in this bill. Further, its focus on minority issues should not be local; it should be general and statewide. For these reasons, I disapprove Enrolled Senate Bill No. 582.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earl Ray Tomblin".

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

cc: The Hon. William P. Cole III
President of the Senate

The Hon. Tim Armstead
Speaker of the House of Delegates