STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1900 KANAWHA BOULEVARD, EAST
CHARLESTON, WV 25305
(304) 558-2000

EARL RAY TOMBLIN
GOVERNOR

April 1, 2016

VIA HAND DELIVERY

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

Re: Enrolled Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 102

Dear Secretary of State Tennant:

Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return the Enrolled Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 102. This bill provides county prosecutors with, among other things, limited arrest powers and the right to carry a concealed firearm for self-defense purposes. The proper role of prosecutors, however, is to represent the state in criminal proceedings; their job should not entail arresting suspects in county courthouses and being conflicted out of prosecuting them.

Further, the concealed carry right that would be afforded by this bill is duplicative of the Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 4145. House Bill 4145 generally authorizes the concealed carry of a deadly weapon with or without a license. Because the Legislature overrode my veto of House Bill 4145, it will become law in May, 2016. Consequently, this May the general public (including prosecutors) will have the right to carry a concealed deadly weapon with or without a license, although that right may be qualified in a courthouse. In these circumstances, the Enrolled Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 102 is unnecessary and hereby vetoed.

Sincerely,

Earl Ray Tomblin

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

cc: The Hon. Tim Armstead
Speaker of the House of Delegates

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