



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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(304) 558-2000

EARL RAY TOMBLIN
GOVERNOR

May 3, 2013

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Ms. Tennant:

Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled Senate Bill No. 331. This bill provides the West Virginia Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority (the "Authority") with the ability to issue bonds to raise funds for paying the costs of approved modifications or construction of courthouse facilities. Under this bill, the debt payments on the bonds would be made from funds deposited into a special revenue account known as the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Fund (the "Fund"). The Fund is comprised solely of special fees charged at county courthouses including a certain portion of marriage license fees, civil action filing fees, and fees for licenses to carry a concealed weapon. As I understand it, the amount of fees deposited into the Fund has remained steady at approximately \$2 million annually.

While I applaud the general intent of the bill to provide additional funding for our aging courthouses, I am concerned about the prospect of encumbering all or part of the fees that the Authority receives, for a period of up to thirty years, to pay debt service. The Authority already utilizes these fees to run its daily operations and to provide grants to renovate courthouse facilities. Absent any additional appropriations from the Legislature, I believe that the potential long-term funding issues facing the Authority significantly outweigh the positive attributes of this bill.

For the aforementioned reasons, I hereby veto Enrolled Senate Bill No. 331.

Very truly yours,

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

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

cc: The Honorable Richard Thompson
Speaker, West Virginia House of Delegates
The Honorable Jeffrey V. Kessler
President, Senate of West Virginia