



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia

March 27, 2019

VIA HAND DELIVERY

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

Re: Enrolled House Bill 3044

Dear Secretary Warner:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section Fourteen, Article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled House Bill 3044, which is intended to require the Commissioner of Highways to develop a formula for the effective and efficient allocation of state and federal road funds among the districts and counties of the state, which formula must include factors including county population, county population growth projections, total lane miles, heavy truck use, and bridge numbers and bridge conditions in a given county.

The West Virginia Division of Highways is a maintenance organization first and foremost, dedicated to keeping the roads and highways of this state in good working order and repair. While a formula may prove useful in predicting where federal and state road money should be spent over a long period, I believe being required to follow a formula for the actual dollar allocation would limit the Division's ability to dedicate funds to maintenance projects where and when needed around the state.

For these reasons I must disapprove and return Enrolled House Bill 3044.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Justice".

Jim Justice
Governor

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



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia
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 Senate Bill 522

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 Senate Bill 522.

The purpose of the bill, while well-intentioned, is problematic because it represents a legislative encroachment into executive functions. The bill would have the county supervisor, with consultation of the county commission and the legislators representing that county to compile a list of secondary roads projects in the county and prioritize those projects.

Maintaining our state and secondary roads system, including assigning priority to particular projects, is without question an executive function. "The separation of powers provision of the State Constitution, which prohibits any one department of the State government from exercising the powers of the others, is not merely a suggestion; it is part of the fundamental law of the State, and as such, it must be strictly construed and closely followed." *State ex rel West Virginia Citizens Action Group v. West Virginia Economic Development Grant Committee*, 213 W.Va. 255 (2003). Much like the authority of presiding officers of both houses to appoint members to the Economic Development Grant Committee, which the court found to be a legislative assertion of post-enactment control over executive branch decisions, allowing sitting legislators to assume an executive role and assist in making decisions about which roads deserve attention and in what order certainly violates the separation of powers.

For these reasons, I disapprove and return Enrolled Senate Bill 522.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Justice".

Jim Justice
Governor

cc: The Honorable Mitch Carmichael
President of the Senate
The Honorable Roger Hanshaw
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State Capitol | 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East, Charleston, WV 25305 | (304) 558-2000