



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 720
(573) 751-3222

April 3, 2015

TO THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute No. 2 for House Bill No. 63 entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal sections 162.481 and 162.491, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to persons seeking public office, with an emergency clause.

I disapprove of Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute No. 2 for House Bill No. 63. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

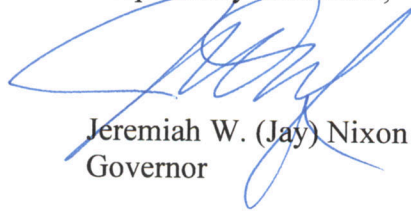
Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute No. 2 for House Bill No. 63 makes changes to laws relating to elections and school board membership. While many of these provisions are well-intentioned modifications or provide clarification to existing law, the legislation imposes an unwarranted limitation on the ability of former school superintendents to serve on school boards and cannot receive my approval.

Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute No. 2 for House Bill No. 63 prohibits former school superintendents from being a candidate for election to the school board in the district they previously served. This provision was inserted into the bill without the benefit of a public hearing and will have a direct and immediate impact. Due to the emergency clause, this legislation would disqualify at least four former superintendents who are currently candidates in school board races that appear on the April 7, 2015 ballot and would further prohibit at least three former superintendents who currently serve on school boards from seeking reelection upon the expiration of their current terms. In addition to the impact to those candidates and currently serving former superintendents, the provision would erect a permanent barrier to all former school superintendents from being candidates for school board in their former districts.

The law should encourage – not prohibit – those who aspire to serve in public office. In our democratic system, otherwise qualified candidates should not be disqualified simply because of their expertise. Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute No. 2 for House Bill No. 63 would undermine the voters' ability to determine their elected representatives on school boards.

I place my trust in the voters of the school districts across the state to elect the best candidates to their school boards and, as a result, Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute No. 2 for House Bill No. 63 does not receive my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon", is written over the printed name and title.

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor