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GOVERNOR

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July 14, 2005

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you House Bill No. 524 entitled:

“AN ACT”

To repeal section 105.473 RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to lobbyist duties.

I disapprove of House Bill No. 524. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

This bill amends §105.473 RSMo in a manner that would remove a provision requiring a lobbyist or lobbyist principal to file information with the Missouri Ethics Commission that discloses which legislative initiatives that the lobbyist or lobbyist principal supports or opposes. Further, the required disclosure identifies who retained the lobbyists' services for the listed legislative initiatives.

Current law enables the Ethics Commission to amass this important information and create a useful repository of lobbyists' and lobbyist principals' activities for Missouri citizens. This provides all Missourians, including journalists and other news organizations, with a valuable resource that allows them to determine what legislative initiatives their elected officials are being asked to consider by special interest groups, corporations and other interested parties.

It is important for citizens to be aware of the activities of well organized and well funded special interests groups and other entities.

For all of the reasons mentioned above, I am returning House Bill No. 524 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Blunt".

Matt Blunt  
Governor