



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY
65101

MATT BLUNT
GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 216
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July 10, 2008

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI:

Herewith I return to you Senate Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1689 entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal sections 286.200, 286.205, and 286.210, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to the office of administration.

I disapprove of Senate Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1689. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

Although I acknowledge and respect that our state capitol belongs uniquely to the members of the Missouri General Assembly and their constituents, I believe that this legislation could pose potential harm and danger to legislators, their constituents and our historic capitol building.

The Capitol Police and the Missouri Department of Public Safety have expressed serious concerns and reservations with the requirement that keys to the capitol dome area be issued to each member of the General Assembly by the Office of Administration. My concern and their concern is not with the legislators who would receive these keys, but simply with the increased access to more than a hundred additional keys which could be stolen and misplaced. The concerns of those responsible for the safety and security of our capitol building and its occupants and visitors are very serious and range from the inaccessibility of the capitol dome area in the event of a medical emergency to the potential for unseen homeland security threats.

Currently, five keys have been issued to the Senate administrator and six keys to the House administrator for access to the capitol dome area. Although my disapproval of this bill will not require the Office of Administration to provide keys to each legislator, nothing in current law prohibits current legislators from seeking an additional key from the Office of Administration and working with Capitol Police and the Office of Administration to ensure that their safety and the safety of our visitors in the capitol is put first.

For the above stated reasons, I am returning Senate Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1689 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Blunt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The "M" is large and loops around the "a", and the "B" is also large and loops around the "l". The "t" is small and loops around the "t". The "n" is small and loops around the "n". The "t" is small and loops around the "t". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Matt Blunt