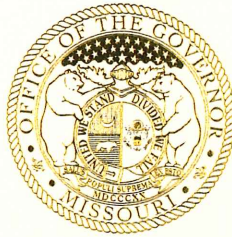


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Michael L. Parson

GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI

July 12, 2019

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI
100th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Herewith I return to you Conference Committee Substitute for Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 399 entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal sections 192.007, 208.909, 208.918, 208.924, 208.930, 376.690, 376.1040, 376.1042, and 376.1224, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof seventeen new sections relating to healthcare, with an emergency clause for a certain section.

I disapprove of Conference Committee Substitute for Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 399. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

Section 192.007 of the bill amends the qualifications of the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services to require that he or she have a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy degree, a Ph.D. in a health-related field, or an equivalent academic degree. While having a health-related academic degree would certainly be beneficial in managing our state's Department of Health and Senior Services, it may limit the appointment of otherwise qualified candidates. For example, an individual with an advanced degree in business or in public policy with decades of experience managing a hospital would be unable to be appointed to the position. Similarly, an attorney who has spent his or her entire career practicing health care law would not be eligible unless he or she also possessed a medical degree. Furthermore, the Senate confirmation process serves as an additional layer of approval for gubernatorial appointees. Limiting the Governor's ability to appoint otherwise qualified candidates in this manner is not in the best interests of the state.

There are many other provisions contained within this bill of which I approve and fortunately also appear in Senate Bill No. 514, which I have signed. Unfortunately, two provisions that only

appeared in House Bill No. 399 will not become law as a result of my disapproval. Sections 208.909, 208.918, and 208.924 relating to consumer-directed services vendor requirements would likely result in improved program quality assurance and decreased fraud. Section 208.935 relating to the development of an interactive mobile assessment tool for MO HealthNet home- and community-based services would likely lead to greater efficiencies for the Department of Health and Senior Services. I look forward to working with the legislature next session on such beneficial provisions.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning Conference Committee Substitute for Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 399 without my approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Parson", with a stylized, flowing script.

Michael L. Parson
Governor