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*Michael L. Parson*

GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MISSOURI

July 14, 2020

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI  
100<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Herewith I return to you Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 718, entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal sections 36.020, 168.021, 192.2305, 208.151, 210.109, 210.150, 379.122, 620.2005, 620.2010, and 650.005, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof fourteen new sections relating to military affairs, with an existing penalty provision and a contingent effective date for certain sections.

I disapprove of Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 718. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

While I recognize and applaud the General Assembly in their effort to improve the laws governing our military families and military affairs of this state, I cannot approve this bill as presented to me.

Following the state government reorganization of 1974, the Adjutant General and the state militia, including the Missouri National Guard, were assigned to the Department of Public Safety. Sections 41.065 and 650.005 of Senate Bill 718 create a new state department, the Department of Military Forces, headed by the Adjutant General to administer the militia and state programs related to military forces, and rescinds the assignment to the Department of Public Safety. However, as recognized in the bill, the creation of a new department would require a constitutional amendment approved by Missourians.

Under Article IV, Section 12 of the Missouri Constitution "there shall not be more than fifteen departments and the office of administration" in addition to the elected officers. There are currently fifteen executive departments and the office of administration, therefore a new department would exceed the constitutional limit. The bill includes a Part B stating that the provisions in sections 41.065 and 650.005 become effective only upon approval by the people of

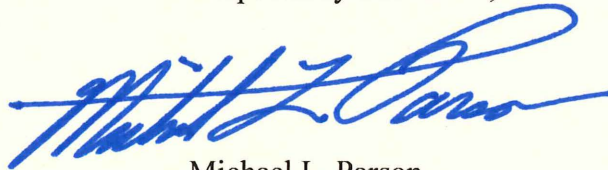
an amendment to the Constitution. Unfortunately, a corresponding resolution was not approved. While I support the creation of a state department dedicated to defense, the enactment of this law without a corresponding resolution prevents the creation of the new department.

In furtherance of improving government for the benefit of citizens, I am also concerned about the effect of modifying sections 620.2005 and 620.2010 of the Missouri Works Program to allow for part-time jobs. One of the primary goals of economic development incentive programs is to provide meaningful and gainful employment to citizens, and to encourage and support full-time positions that benefit families for the long term. Inclusion of part-time jobs without further requirements or definitions adversely impacts and dilutes these existing programs.

There are many provisions contained within this bill of which I approve and fortunately also appear in Senate Bill 656 and House Bills 1682 and 1414, which I have signed. Unfortunately, three other provisions I support only appear in Senate Bill 718 and will, therefore, not become law as a result of my disapproval. I support Section 9.291, which designates November as the Military Family Month, and section 379.122, which protects service members from increased auto insurance premiums when a lapse in coverage is due to a deployment, honors the sacrifices made by our military families and protect service members when they return home. I also believe the clarification to the definition of surviving spouse in section 36.020 is necessary to effectuate the intent of 2018 merit reform bill. I look forward to working with the General Assembly next session on such beneficial provisions.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 718 without my approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Parson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael L. Parson  
Governor