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Charleston, WV 25305	March 28, 2007	www.wv.gov.org

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Betty Ireland
Secretary of State
State of West Virginia
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Secretary Ireland:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section Fourteen, Article Seven of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 641.

Enrolled Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 641 was passed on March 6, 2007 and would amend West Virginia Code §61-2-10b to include "Public Service Commission weight enforcement officers" to the list of public safety officials, against whom an unlawful assault is explicitly prohibited by code.

Although I support the substantive intent of this Bill, a veto is proper insofar as another bill subsequently approved by the Legislature, Enrolled House Bill No. 2770, also amended W. Va. Code § 61-2-10b. Fortunately, in addition to adding "court security personnel" to this statutory provision, House Bill No. 2770 incorporated comparable language adding PSC weight enforcement officers to the applicable list of public safety officials. Regardless, having been passed after this Bill, the provisions of House Bill No. 2770 would control, making my approval of this Bill of little import. For this reason, I veto this legislation.

With warmest regards,

Joe Manchin III
Governor

cc: The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin
President, West Virginia Senate
The Honorable Richard Thompson
Speaker, West Virginia House of Delegates