

April 29, 2009

The Honorable Linda McCulloch
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Secretary McCulloch:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto Senate Bill 249, **“AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO ISSUE A LIMITED-USE DRIVER'S LICENSE, UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, TO A PERSON WHOSE LICENSE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED OR REVOKED BY ANOTHER STATE; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-5-103 AND 61-5-105, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.”**

Senate Bill 249, sponsored by Senator Curtiss, creates an exception to current law, which prohibits the Department of Justice from issuing a driver's license to an individual whose license or driving privilege is currently suspended, revoked, or canceled by another state, as indicated by an “ineligible” status on the national driver register.

My objection to the bill is that I do not believe it is appropriate to carve out a specific exception to the longstanding public policy of this state that the decision by a sister state to suspend, revoke, or cancel an individual's drivers' license will be respected by Montana.

Sincerely,

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

cc: Legislative Services Division