

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14 of the Texas Constitution, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 2656 of the 81st Texas Legislature, Regular Session, due to the following objections:

House Bill No. 2656 decreases the number of Teacher Retirement System (TRS) board members with financial expertise, an inappropriate adjustment in these uncertain economic times.

The TRS board is responsible for developing the investment policy and making other pension investment decisions on behalf of Texas teachers whose retirement security rests almost entirely with TRS. Because the majority of Texas school districts do not participate in Social Security, many teachers rely on their pension benefits as their sole source of retirement income. The significance and ramifications of the board's decisions on the futures of those who steward our children's education make it imprudent to dilute the board's financial expertise with House Bill No. 2656.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this the 19th day of June, 2009.

RICK PERRY

Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:

COBY SHORTER, III

Deputy Secretary of State