

April 6, 2007

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 83

The Honorable Ben D. Altamirano  
President Pro Tempore  
New Mexico Senate  
State Capitol Bldg.  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Honorable President Pro Tempore:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return SENATE BILL 680, as amended, which was enacted during the Forty-Eighth Legislature, First Session, 2007.

Senate Bill 680 proposes to change the manner by which pension levels are set for retiring legislators in order to ensure the highest average payment possible. While I, as a former legislator, respect members' service and understand the intent in providing some compensation for that service, "legislative retirement" was never meant to provide a stand-alone retirement package for legislators. In fact this would contradict the institutional notion of an unpaid "citizen legislature" that exists in New Mexico until such time as the citizens of the state elect to change the nature of legislative service. I further believe the legislative retirement package as it currently stands is sufficient.

Accordingly, signature of this bill is not appropriate at this time.

Respectfully yours,



Bill Richardson  
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2007

by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the Senate

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2007

by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State