



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House

Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196

401-222-2080

Donald L. Carcieri

Governor

July 3, 2007

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

In accordance with the Provisions of Section 14, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Section 43-1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I transmit, with my disapproval, 2007-H 6419, Substitute A, "An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Prizes and Gifts."

This bill requires all fishing tournaments in Rhode Island that charge a fee for participation and offer cash prizes to comply with a new set of provisions, including provisions on alleged "fairness" of the rules and the use of polygraph tests. Specifically, the bill requires that polygraph must be conducted in Rhode Island at the time of the tournament or within several hours after the end of the tournament.

This is a classic case of overregulation. These tournaments are extremely popular to Rhode Island's fishermen and are conducted on a multi-state basis over a large geographic area in the Northeast. I am concerned that this legislation will have a chilling effect on tournaments offered to Rhode Islanders. If persons are not satisfied with the management of a private tournament, they are not required to participate. The state should not be in the business of micromanaging this type of sporting event.

For these reasons, I disapprove of this legislation and respectfully urge your support of this veto.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Carcieri  
Governor