

House Bill 649

Governor Ted Strickland vetoed HB 649, which proposed requiring the Director of Veterans Services to implement and administer a compensation program for active duty armed services members who served the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts through the use of Budget Stabilization Funds.

Governor's veto message:

“Under Section 16, Article II of the Ohio Constitution, when the General Assembly adjourns sine die, preventing return of a bill to the General Assembly, the bill becomes law unless, within ten days after such adjournment, it is filed by the Governor with the Governor's objections in writing, in the office of the Secretary of State. The 127th General Assembly adjourned sine die on Tuesday, December 30, 2008. House Bill 649 was subsequently presented to me on Wednesday, December 31, 2008. The adjournment of the 127th General Assembly has prevented my return of the bill and written objections to the house of origin. As such, this statement of my decision to veto House Bill 649, along with my written objections to it, below, will be filed with the Secretary of State.

I disapprove of the enactment of House Bill 649 and have the following objections to it. Although bonuses have certainly been earned by our Ohio veterans who have served in the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan military operations, financing them with the Budget Stabilization Fund in the state's current economic climate is simply not fiscally sound. The people of Ohio have a long history of providing bonuses to Ohio veterans through bonding and this symbol of support, and the more responsible method of financing it, should be continued today. I remain committed to working with the Ohio General Assembly and the Treasurer of State to bond this important benefit for our Ohio veterans.”