

SB 2008

This is to advise you that on this date, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 and 12 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to approve or object to legislation presented to me, I have VETOED Senate Bill 2008. To ensure that voters have the best possible information to make a decision, it is critical to have a clear, concise and unbiased ballot title in the consideration of a state question. At a time when the Oklahoma Legislature is submitting more and more questions to voters for their decisions, the ballot title has become even more important. For many years, an entity independent of the legislative process, the attorney general's office, has effectively and efficiently performed the task of writing ballot titles without the concern or appearance of bias for or against any particular question. By essentially transferring this authority to the legislative leadership, Senate Bill 2008 removes the independent arbiter from this process and allows lawmakers who have already cast a ballot for or against a particular proposal to craft the ballot language that will ultimately help voters decide its fate. This change will undoubtedly lead to the appearance of and possible charges of bias in the ballot title process. Because the current system is functioning appropriately, there is no reason to change it.