



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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EARL RAY TOMBLIN  
GOVERNOR

March 31, 2014

The Honorable Natalie Tennant  
Secretary of State  
State Capitol  
Building 1, Suite 157-K  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0770

Re: Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 4254

Dear Secretary of State Tennant:

Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return the Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 4254.

The aim of this bill—granting certain state employees a temporary leave of absence with pay and benefits to assist emergency aid providers during a declared State of Emergency—is admirable. However, the bill lacks critical details. For example, it authorizes and pays an employee to render aid in a disaster area where he or she could be exposed to danger, but fails to shield the state from liability. It also fails to address insurance coverage issues. Further, it does not provide the employees' immediate supervisors with guidance or criteria to consider in their assessment of whether to approve requests for paid leave. In these circumstances, the Legislature may wish to reconsider this bill in the future with an eye toward clarifying the details of Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 4254.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Earl Ray Tomblin".

Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor

cc: The Hon. Jeffrey Kessler ✓  
President of the Senate  
The Hon. Timothy R. Miley  
Speaker of the House of Delegates