

VETO MESSAGE - No. 235

TO THE SENATE:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bill:

Senate Bill Number 5189, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to the payment of interest due to not-for-profit organizations"

NOT APPROVED

I agree with the sponsors of this bill that late payments by the State to nonprofit service providers are undesirable. Nonprofit providers play a unique and vital role in serving New Yorkers.

To that end, since my veto of the same legislation last year (Veto No. 188), the State has comprehensively reformed and streamlined the grant application, monitoring and payment processes, reducing the likelihood that contracting interest will be owed. I have implemented: (1) the new Master Grant Contract, which standardized contract terms across agencies; and (2) prequalification for nonprofits. I have also initiated multi-year contracting, thereby shortening the time required for registering and processing grants. This Administration has also inaugurated a new Grant Opportunity Portal which provides a single connection for nonprofits interested in contracting with the State and lists release dates for all upcoming agency RFPs. Soon-to-be-introduced additional improvements include fully electronic application processing, online tracking for contract development and approval, and online reporting and payment mechanism.

Given this Administration's commitment to reforming the contracting process and the changes I have implemented, I disapprove this bill.

The bill is disapproved.

(signed) ANDREW M. CUOMO

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