

CS/S 715 STUDENT RETENTION OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE

April 10, 1997

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 46

I have this day VETOED and am returning SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 715, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Third Legislature, First Session, 1997.

This bill establishes a thirteen member "student attendance oversight task force" which would exist until December 1, 1997. The composition of this task force would be six legislators, six public advisory members appointed by the Governor, and one from the State Department of Education. The task force would oversee the implementation of legislative directives relating to student attendance and graduation, and develop a method to allocate funds received by each school district under the funding formula.

While school attendance is a necessary element of a good education, the function of this proposed task force should be carried out by the State School Board through the State Department of Education. This additional layer of government is not necessary, and would be a duplicative and inefficient use of government resources.

S 718 AMEND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

April 11, 1997

SENATE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 63

I have this day VETOED and am returning SENATE BILL 718, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Third Legislature, First Session, 1997.

This bill would increase fees the Department of Health can charge to license health care facilities from \$100 to \$500 for a facility and from \$8 to \$50 for a surgical suite, in order to hire approximately 12 more state employees to do inspections. The potential impact of these fee increases, for a 129 bed facility could increase from \$442 to \$1,582 and for a 9 bed facility from \$30 to \$500. These significant increases are too much at one time.

This administration supports the adequate inspection of health care facilities to protect the well-being of our citizens. However, the size of these increases and the doubling of the state employee workforce dedicated to this program is excessive.