



OFFICE OF

No. SB 637

**THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

May 2, 2017

TIME SIGNED: 3:12pm

TO THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE  
AND MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA SENATE  
FIRST SESSION OF THE  
FIFTY SIXTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED SENATE BILL NO. 637:

This is to advise you that on this date, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to approve or object to legislation presented to me, I have VETOED Senate Bill 637.

Senate Bill 637 would create what the authors titled, "The Governor's Transparency Act of 2017." I continue to maintain the concerns I have voiced throughout the years with my messages on Senate Bill 346 in 2015, and Senate Bill 2080 in 2014. Senate Bill 637 would require state agencies provide the relevant appropriate legislative committee with a copy of any Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement (MOU) entered into during that legislative session. This requirement does not exist for state agencies when the legislature is not in session.

The Bill also mandates state agencies publish a "detailed accounting" regarding every MOU within fifteen (15) days of an MOU's effective date on the agency's website and *documents.ok.gov* website. Despite the fact that every MOU which is the subject of this bill is already available through the provisions of the Oklahoma Open Records Act, Senate Bill 637 places an enormous administrative burden on these state agencies by requiring this lengthy and cumbersome accounting for every MOU, whether significant or insignificant. Senate Bill 637 imposes a burdensome and needless administrative mandate on state agencies, which diminishes a state agency's ability to achieve its core mission and delays delivery of important services.

Consistent with my continued support of government transparency, I encourage all state agencies and entities, appropriated and non-appropriated, to post all significant MOU's on their websites and to make them available to the public upon request, but I will not impose cumbersome reporting mandates. Such a requirement is not consistent with the principles of efficient and better government.

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

Mary Fallin

By [Signature]

Date/Time 5-2-17, 5:00p.m.

**RECEIVED**

MAY 02 2017

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY  
OF STATE

@ 5:13 pm