

April 17, 2017

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 2861

I am returning Senate Bill 2861: "AN ACT TO CREATE THE "MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE CHARGES STUDY COMMITTEE" FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING ALL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE CHARGES LEVIED IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE COLLECTION, DISTRIBUTION, USE AND OVERSIGHT OF SUCH CHARGES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES," and assign the following reasons for my veto.

Senate Bill 2861 creates a 7-person committee "for the purpose of studying all emergency telephone service charges levied in the State of Mississippi." The Mississippi Emergency Telephone Service Charges Study Committee has a perpetual duration and is silent on the question of compensation for members.

Senate Bill 2861 takes effect on July 1, 2017. Subsection (3) requires appointments be made within 30 days after the sine die adjournment of the 2017 Regular Session, and then requires the Study Committee to meet within 30 days thereafter. This language requires the appointing authorities to make appointments by April 28, 2017, and the Study Committee to meet by May 28, 2017, even though the act does not take effect until July 1, 2017.

Compliance with Senate Bill 2861 is impossible because of this conflict between the effective date of the act and the earlier deadlines to appoint members and hold the first meeting. As Governor, I have a duty to see that the laws are faithfully executed. Sometimes, fulfilling that duty requires me to block proposed laws that cannot be faithfully executed.

Accordingly, I am vetoing Senate Bill 2861.

Respectfully submitted,

PHIL BRYANT  
GOVERNOR