

THE GOVERNOR

Notice of Veto

November 29, 2006

To the Honorable, the House of Representatives
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:


I am returning House Bill 471 without my approval. I regret doing so as there are provisions in the bill—the continuing education requirements for renewal of licenses for volunteer health services and the extension of the application and expiration date for the Merchant Marine World War II bonus—that I do support.

However, this bill, which amends The Administrative Code of 1929, places unreasonable and unnecessary restrictions on the transfer of appropriations and on inter-fund transfers and loans that are just not good policy. The General Assembly in several statutes has already recognized the need for this flexibility and the Pennsylvania Constitution acknowledges that loans from the Motor License Fund may be necessary from time to time.

The provisions of House Bill 471 that seek to limit transfers between appropriations are especially troubling. The Executive Branch is charged with the day-to-day operation of state government. To carry out that charge effectively, and to do so in a timely manner, it is from time to time necessary to transfer appropriated funds between agencies so long as the original purpose of the appropriation is adhered to. For example, it may be more efficient and cost effective for a department or agency to help administer a program that initially was the responsibility of a different department or agency. Losing that flexibility could result in the delay or denial of the delivery of services to our citizens.

In addition, the requirement in the bill that transfers must be approved by the Attorney General would unnecessarily complicate the efficient administration of state government even further—for example, it would significantly impair the process established in The Fiscal Code that allows for the transfer of funds between several Department of Public Welfare appropriations to provide child care for low income families. These families are not in a position to suffer the delay in payments that this requirement could cause.

For these reasons I must withhold my signature from House Bill 471.



Governor

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