

THE GOVERNOR

Notice of Veto

October 28, 2016

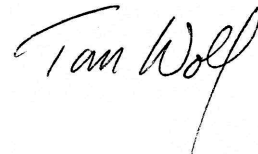
To the Honorable Senate of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 286, Printer's Number 1437.

While the reforms relating to the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA) in this bill are consistent with the goals of my administration and worthy of becoming law, I am concerned with a single provision within this measure that allows for legislative interference with an executive branch prerogative. The requirement that gubernatorial appointments to the DRPA be confirmed by the Senate before the appointees may serve on the board of the Port Authority is unnecessary. Furthermore, this encroachment upon the authority of the Governor does not improve the operation of the DRPA and had this provision been excised from the legislation, I would have signed the bill. Since the provision remains, however, it would not be prudent in my judgment to give it the force of law in this Commonwealth. Nevertheless, even though I am not approving this bill, this rejection will not have a momentous impact on the DRPA since many of the reforms offered in the legislation have already been put into effect. For those not yet undertaken, I will work towards implementing them as they are worthwhile steps towards improving the authority's overall functioning.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from Senate Bill 286, Printer's Number 1437.

Sincerely,



Governor

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 16-1935. Filed for public inspection November 10, 2016, 9:00 a.m.]

Notice of Veto

October 28, 2016

To the Honorable Senate of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 562, Printer's Number 1897.

I cannot approve this bill as it overreaches into executive authority, causes delay in the rulemaking process, and decreases transparency in state government.

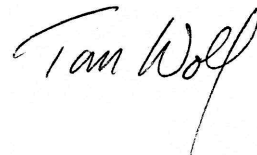
In promulgating regulations, executive agencies are simply exercising legal authority already granted to them by the legislature. Existing law already supplies the legislature with significant influence in the regulatory process. The General Assembly has acted in many instances pursuant to this process to object to and significantly change regulations that members have felt exceeded the authority of the executive branch.

This bill has the potential to grind the regulatory review process to a halt. For example, under this proposed scheme, the process could have been halted on June 20. The bill would allow the General Assembly to stop the process by simply refusing to take final action on any regulatory package for forty legislative days. This year that would extend from June 20th until today. This stoppage would have prevented all agencies from promulgating rules to benefit the citizens of the Commonwealth. This bill would increase delay by the General Assembly putting off final action on a regulatory package, which runs counter to how a government should react in response to the needs of its people.

Finally, this bill decreases the transparency in state government by preventing state agencies from publishing explanations of why regulations are needed. Public notice, which is required by current law, helps inform interested parties of the need and reason behind the changes in the rules. We should be increasing—not decreasing—transparency in our government.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from Senate Bill 562, Printer's Number 1897.

Sincerely,



Governor

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 16-1936. Filed for public inspection November 10, 2016, 9:00 a.m.]

Notice of Veto

October 28, 2016

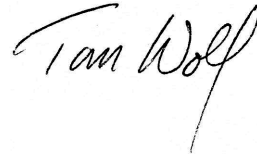
To the Honorable House of Representatives
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill 1618, Printer's Number 4068.

As it is a tool utilized effectively in the private sector, I strongly believe that an internal watchdog is vital to ensuring the proper functioning of the executive branch. Every organization—regardless of public or private sector—benefits from having an internal watchdog who identifies issue or areas of concern before they become larger problems at a later point in time. Therefore, if the Office of Inspector General (OIG) becomes an independent agency, as provided under this legislation, I will be forced to establish a replacement entity to perform the tasks now undertaken by OIG. This would result in wasteful spending as both the Auditor General and Office of Attorney General already perform the functions that an independent OIG would under this legislation. This needless duplication of government services, along with unnecessary expenditures, does not amount to sound government policy. As a result, this bill should not be allowed to become the law of this Commonwealth.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from House Bill 1618, Printer's Number 4068.

Sincerely,



Governor

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 16-1937. Filed for public inspection November 10, 2016, 9:00 a.m.]

Notice of Veto

October 28, 2016

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

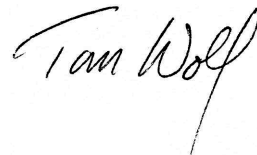
Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill 1998, Printer's Number 3515.

House Bill 1998 further erodes the accountability of the Philadelphia Parking Authority to the people it is intended to serve. The authority was founded on the principle of raising revenue to support the school district of Philadelphia. It has not once in its existence, however, met the financial allocation promised to the school district. In addition to these repeatedly broken promises, recent events have shined a light on the extensive mismanagement of the parking authority.

I cannot in good conscience sign a bill that instead of addressing these ongoing issues with the authority, allows for current management to remain in place and move outside of the City of Philadelphia. Furthermore, I seek more comprehensive legislation concerning the parking authority that contains the various reforms necessary to ensure the authority functions in an appropriate fashion in the future.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from House Bill 1998, Printer's Number 3515.

Sincerely,



Governor

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 16-1938. Filed for public inspection November 10, 2016, 9:00 a.m.]