

July 15, 2003

Mr. Alfred W. Speer  
Clerk of the House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Mr. Michael S. Baer, III  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

RE: **House Bill No. 1** of the 2003 Regular Session of the Legislature  
An Act making appropriations for the ordinary expenses of the executive branch of state government, pensions, public schools, public roads, public charities, and state institutions and providing with respect to the expenditure of said appropriations.

Dear Gentlemen:

As authorized by Article III, Section 18(B), and more particularly, Article IV, Section 5(G)(1) of the Constitution of Louisiana, I have exercised my right to veto 6 items or provisions of the general appropriation bill.

**VETO MESSAGE NO. 1:**  
Page 17, Lines 1 through 6

This language requires that the Division of Administration transfer \$10,000 to the Department of Natural Resources through Interagency Transfers for development and implementation of the Integrated Statewide Information Systems (ISIS) upload utility program for entry of the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 budget into the Advantage Financial System. The Division of Administration is responsible for providing ISIS support. However, the Division of Administration will not be involved in the development of this utility program, nor will the Division of Administration be able to provide IT support for the program. This project may also conflict with other IT projects involving ISIS. If funded, it should be the responsibility of the user agencies to fund the project.

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**VETO MESSAGE NO. 2:**

Page 153, Lines 7 through 11

This amendment provides \$152,506 in additional state general fund support for salaries and related benefits for two additional tax commissioners for the Louisiana Tax Commission. Funding for this amendment is contingent upon passage of House Bill No. 987 during the 2003 Regular Session. Since House Bill No. 987 failed to pass, there is no need for this appropriation.

**VETO MESSAGE NO. 3:**

Page 166, Lines 44 through 45

This amendment in the Office of Fisheries provides that \$100,000 of the funds appropriated to this agency shall be expended on aquatic weed control at Bayou Desiard in Ouachita Parish. This would provide excess funding for treating aquatic weeds in Bayou Desiard. Increased funding for eradicating noxious aquatic weeds in Louisiana waterways was provided in the 2003-2004 executive budget recommendations, and should be adequate to cover Bayou Desiard cost.

**VETO MESSAGE NO. 4**

Page 241, Lines 20-27

This item is language that authorizes and directs the commissioner of administration to unallot, in certain circumstances, funds appropriated for High Stakes Remediation and LEAP 21 Tutoring per the review and approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. Funds appropriated for these purposes are used by local school districts to improve the passage rate on the high stakes LEAP tests and are not intended to be unallotted using a per pupil formula. Using such a formula to unallot funds as directed in this language conflicts with the original intent of this funding which is to provide both additional assistance to those students who may be at risk of failing the LEAP test on their first try and the most effective summer school remediation efforts possible. In fact, rather than unallot funds from districts that have outperformed their projected failure rates, we should reward them with flexibility to re-invest saved funds into further enhancing the effectiveness of tutoring and remediation programs.

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**VETO MESSAGE NO. 5:**

Page 243, Lines 15 through 23

This item would provide \$65,174,952 to the Disadvantaged or Disabled Student Support Program from Title I and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) federal funds. Analysis of federal funds in Subgrantee Assistance indicates a history of excess budget authority averaging \$100.2 million per year over the last three fiscal years - meaning approximately 15 percent of the appropriated amount in this category has been left unspent. Based upon this analysis, this additional budget authority is not needed and unnecessarily increases the overall size of the state's budget. In fact, this type of excess budget authority has led to a situation in which state budget authority has exceeded expenditures by an average of over \$500 million per year over the past three years.

**VETO MESSAGE NO. 6:**

Page 264, Lines 28 through 33

This amendment provides \$200,000 from statutory dedications for the New Orleans Business and Industrial District for cleaning of district properties. Funding for this amendment is contingent upon passage of House Bill No.1817 during the 2003 Regular Session. Since House Bill No. 1817 failed to pass, there is no need for this appropriation.

Sincerely,

M. J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.

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