GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY
65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

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July 7, 2014

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you Conference Committee Substitute for Senate Substitute for House Bill No. 1707 entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal sections 174.709, 174.712, 178.862, 300.320, 304.154, 610.120, and 610.122, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof seven new sections relating to the operation of motor vehicles.

I disapprove of Conference Committee Substitute for Senate Substitute for House Bill No. 1707. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

Conference Committee Substitute for Senate Substitute for House Bill No. 1707 would impose new regulations on the towing industry. These new regulations, contained in section 304.154.1 of the bill, attempt to augment the regulations currently contained in that same provision. Additional regulation in this area is appropriate and would receive my approval if not for a drafting problem that would create a period of more than four months where none of the regulations—present or future—found in section 304.154.1 would apply to the towing industry.

Conference Committee Substitute for Senate Substitute for House Bill No. 1707 would repeal the current section 304.154.1 and replace it with the amended section 304.154.1 on August 28, 2014. However, the new section 304.154.1 specifically states that the regulations set forth in that provision become effective "[b]eginning January 1, 2015." As a result, the towing industry would not be subject to any of the regulations found in section 304.154.1 between August 28, 2014 and January 1, 2015.

It is unfortunate that this drafting problem will prevent other worthwhile provisions in Conference Committee Substitute for Senate Substitute for House Bill No. 1707 from becoming law today. However, I will not approve legislation designed to more stringently regulate an industry that instead would leave it temporarily unregulated.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning Conference Committee Substitute for Senate Substitute for House Bill No. 1707 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor