



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY
65102

ERIC R. GREITENS
GOVERNOR

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July 14, 2017

TO THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you House Bill No. 850 entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal section 40.435, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to military complaints against a commanding officer.

I disapprove of House Bill No. 850. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

House Bill No. 850 would no longer allow Missouri National Guard soldiers to forward a complaint lodged against a commanding officer to the Governor, who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Missouri National Guard. *See* MO. CONST., art. IV, § 6; RSMo, § 41.120. Although there are other grievance procedures available to our soldiers, there are situations in which the State's Commander-in-Chief should be on notice of soldiers' grievances. Moreover, this procedure has been available to our service men and women since 1984, and there is no evidence of substantial need to amend this long-standing process. I am committed to keeping as many resources as possible available to our soldiers; therefore, I must veto House Bill No. 850.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning House Bill No. 850 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric R. Greitens", written over a horizontal line.

Eric R. Greitens
Governor