



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

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July 10, 2014

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you House Bill No. 1359 entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal section 8.007, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to contracts for the sale of certain items at events held in state-owned buildings.

I disapprove of House Bill No. 1359. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

For the next ten years, House Bill No. 1359 would allow alcohol sales inside the Missouri State Capitol at events commemorating the anniversaries of the state capitol and the Missouri Bicentennial, and at events held at the Missouri State Penitentiary site.

While I acknowledge the purpose of the legislation articulated by its proponents – to generate additional funds for Capitol restoration and maintenance – I do not agree with the means of accomplishing that purpose. The Capitol is and should remain a place that thousands of children and their families feel comfortable visiting every year. These children and their families come to the Capitol to learn more about this historic symbol of our great state. They come to experience what two authors accurately describe as its “architectural elegance and artistic excellence.”¹ They come to see our system of government in operation, and they come to make their opinions known. They do not come to see the sale of liquor by the drink. Moreover, the introduction of alcohol sales in the Capitol is particularly troubling because the bill does not restrict sales in the presence of minors, nor does it limit sales to certain hours of operation.

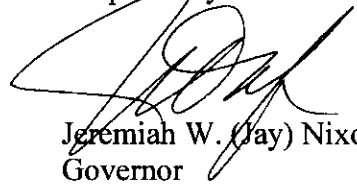
Of the many issues that taxpayers expect their elected representatives to address, selling alcohol in the Capitol is not one of them. The additional revenues for Capitol restoration and maintenance that proponents assert would result from House Bill No. 1359 becoming law are

¹ Priddy, B. and Ball, J., The Art of the Missouri Capitol: History in Canvas, Bronze, and Stone, University of Missouri Press (Columbia and London 2011), at Preface xii.

outweighed by the message it sends to children and families. We should not sell alcohol in the Capitol.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning House Bill No. 1359 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon", is written over the printed name and title.

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor