



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 720
(573) 751-3222

June 17, 2011

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you House Committee Substitute No. 2 for Senate Bill No. 3 entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal section 115.427, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to elections, with a contingent effective date.

I disapprove of House Committee Substitute No. 2 for Senate Bill No. 3. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

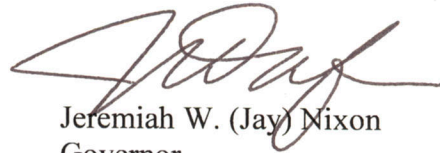
Pending approval of a constitutional amendment, House Committee Substitute No. 2 for Senate Bill No. 3 would require a government-issued photo identification to vote. This new mandate would disproportionately impact senior citizens and persons with disabilities, among others, who are qualified to vote and have been lawfully voting since becoming eligible to do so, but are less likely to have a driver's license or government-issued photo ID. Disenfranchising certain classes of persons is not acceptable.

House Committee Substitute No. 2 for Senate Bill No. 3 imposes unnecessary burdens on senior citizens and persons with disabilities, for example, who do not have a government-issued photo ID, with no guarantee that, in the end, their vote will count. House Committee Substitute No. 2 for Senate Bill No. 3 first requires them to execute a legally-binding affidavit explaining why they lack a government-issued photo ID. After executing the affidavit, the senior citizen, person with a disability and anyone else who lacks a government-issued photo ID for the reason identified in the affidavit is not permitted to cast a regular ballot and is instead given a provisional ballot. Even after meeting these requirements mandated by House Committee Substitute No. 2 for Senate Bill No. 3, their vote will not be counted unless the election authority compares their signature on the affidavit with their signature on file – a signature that may bear little resemblance to their current signature because it was written decades before – and determines that the two signatures match. Placing a cloud of uncertainty over ballots cast by

qualified voters is inconsistent with an individual's right to vote and have that vote counted. In addition, for those citizens wanting to avoid the uncertainty of a provisional ballot, House Committee Substitute No. 2 for Senate Bill No. 3 would require them to navigate a costly and time-consuming process to obtain a government-issued photo ID. House Committee Substitute No. 2 for Senate Bill No. 3 does not meet with my approval, because it is unacceptable to impede or discourage citizens from voting who have lawfully cast ballots their entire adult lives.

In accordance with the reasons for disapproval stated above, I am returning House Committee Substitute No. 2 for Senate Bill No. 3 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon", written in a cursive style.

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor