

August 23, 2010

To the Honorable Members of the  
Illinois Senate,  
97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

I hereby return Senate Bill 2007 with specific recommendations for change.

As Governor, I am committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards throughout state government. In my time as Governor, I am proud to have worked with the members of the General Assembly on aggressive measures to improve transparency, maintain public confidence in our procurement systems, and limit campaign contributions. Together, we have taken great strides towards reforming state government in Illinois. Still, there is more to be done. The people of our State deserve a government that operates in the public interest and not as a vehicle towards personal enrichment.

Recently, the Legislative Inspector General called for stronger provisions related to conflict of interest voting. For over three decades, I have supported ending conflict of interest voting by members of the General Assembly. In 1976, the people of Illinois signed a petition containing 635,158 signatures demanding a prohibition on conflict of interest voting. Today, the people of Illinois demand no less.

Therefore, pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return Senate Bill 2007, entitled "AN ACT concerning State government.", with the following specific recommendations for change:

on page 1, immediately below line 3, by inserting the following:

"Section 3. The Illinois Governmental Ethics Act is amended by changing Sections 3-202 and 3-206 as follows:

(5 ILCS 420/3-202) (from Ch. 127, par. 603-202)

Sec. 3-202. When a legislator must take official action on a legislative matter as to which he has a conflict situation created by a personal, family, or client legislative interest, he shall eliminate ~~should consider the possibility of eliminating~~ the interest creating the conflict situation if that is feasible. If that is not feasible, he shall abstain ~~should consider the possibility of abstaining~~ from such official action. In making his decision as to abstention, the following factors should be considered;

- a. whether a substantial threat to his independence of judgment has been created by the conflict situation;
- b. the effect of his participation on public confidence in the integrity of the legislature;
- c. whether his participation is likely to have any significant effect on the disposition of the matter;
- d. the need for his particular contribution, such as special knowledge of the subject matter, to the effective functioning of the legislature.

~~He need not abstain if he decides to participate in a manner contrary to the economic interest which creates the conflict situation.~~

If he does abstain, he should disclose that fact to his respective legislative body.  
(Source: Laws 1967, p. 3401.)

(5 ILCS 420/3-206) (from Ch. 127, par. 603-206)

~~Sec. 3-206. Sections 3-201 through 3-205 shall are intended only as guides to legislator conduct, and not as rules meant to be enforced by disciplinary action, including fines and censure as determined by the Legislative Inspector General.~~  
(Source: P.A. 77-1806.)”.

With this change, Senate Bill 2007 will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,

Pat Quinn

Governor