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Mike Kehoe
GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI

June 30, 2025

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Herewith I return to you Conference Committee Substitute for Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 9 entitled:

AN ACT

To appropriate money for the expenses, grants, refunds, and distributions of the Department of Corrections, and the several divisions and programs thereof, to be expended only as provided in Article IV, Section 28 of the Constitution of Missouri, and to transfer money among certain funds for the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

In the FY 2026 budget approved by the General Assembly, nearly $775 million, including $297 million for the foundation formula, in new general revenue spending was added above what was included in our FY 2026 budget recommendation. Additionally, according to fiscal forecasts, the current trajectory of state-level spending and revenues projects a budget shortfall starting in FY 2027. A course correction in State finances is not only warranted but will be constitutionally required to achieve a balanced budget in future years and safeguard Missouri's financial security and AAA bond rating moving forward. While these may be worthwhile projects, due to the aforementioned reasons, we must control new spending and cannot prudently justify the following expenditures at this time.

This budget includes historic funding for public education, totaling over $4 billion, including half a billion dollars in new funding over the prior fiscal year and a nearly $377 million increase over the next largest annual increase for this iteration of the formula.

Section 9.009

I hereby veto $6,300,000 general revenue for a new offender management system. In the FY 2026 budget approved by the General Assembly, nearly $775 million, including $297 million for the foundation formula, in new general revenue spending was added above what was included in our FY 2026 budget recommendation. Additionally, according to fiscal forecasts, the current trajectory of state-level spending and revenues projects a budget shortfall starting in FY 2027. A course correction in State finances is not only warranted but will be constitutionally required to achieve a balanced budget in future years and safeguard Missouri's financial security and AAA bond rating moving forward. While this may be worthwhile project, due to the aforementioned reasons, we must control new spending and cannot prudently justify this expenditure at this time.

This budget already includes $10 million for updates to the department's electronic health records system. This system project should be completed prior to additional updates to other legacy IT applications.

Said section is vetoed in its entirety from $6,300,000 to $0 from General Revenue Fund.
From $6,300,000 to $0 in total for the section.

Section 9.015

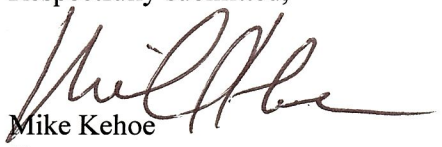
I hereby veto $1,300,000 general revenue for a re-entry navigator pilot program. The introduction of new programs and services supported by State funding should be limited as much as possible at this time.

In the FY 2026 budget approved by the General Assembly, nearly $775 million, including $297 million for the foundation formula, in new general revenue spending was added above what was included in our FY 2026 budget recommendation. Additionally, according to fiscal forecasts, the current trajectory of state-level spending and revenues projects a budget shortfall starting in
FY 2027. A course correction in State finances is not only warranted but will be constitutionally required to achieve a balanced budget in future years and safeguard Missouri's financial security and AAA bond rating moving forward. While this may be worthwhile project, due to the aforementioned reasons, we must control new spending and cannot prudently justify this expenditure at this time.

For a pilot program to fund a re-entry navigator.
From $1,300,000 to $0 from General Revenue Fund.
From $8,259,492 to $6,959,492 in total for the section.

On June 30, 2025 I approved Conference Committee Substitute for Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 9, except for those items specifically vetoed and not approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Kehoe
Governor