



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

ERIC R. GREITENS
GOVERNOR

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June 30, 2017

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

Herewith I return to you Conference Committee Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 5 entitled:

AN ACT

To appropriate money for the expenses, grants, refunds, and distributions of the Office of Administration, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Conservation, the Department of Public Safety, the Chief Executive's Office, 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, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018.

Section 5.181

I hereby veto \$1 General Revenue for MOHEFA debt service and all related expenses associated with the Kansas City Music Conservatory project bonds.

This decision is consistent with my veto message of June 29, 2017 returning House Committee Substitute for House Concurrent Resolution 19 without my approval.

The Section vetoed relates to the General Assembly's decision to commit the State of Missouri to additional bond debt to fund 50% of a new conservatory building for the University of Missouri-Kansas City's music and dance programs. This would have put Missouri taxpayers on the hook for \$48 million in debt over the next decade. The interest on these bonds is estimated to be between \$7 million and \$10 million. Furthermore, there was no definite plan to cover the facility's operating expenses; therefore, the taxpayers were at risk for an estimated \$19 million in operating expenses in the next 10 years.

I came into office as a conservative outsider. I pledged to act as a budget hawk and protect the people's money. My administration asked leaders across government to do more with less taxpayer money, and to get better results for the people of Missouri. I urged the leaders of Missouri's universities to think and act differently, to prioritize, and to make tough decisions. In a sign of their commitment to heeding this call, the President and the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri System announced that they will reject any additional taxpayer money to pay for the UMKC conservatory. Instead, university leaders have committed to develop a real, detailed plan to pay for the building with alternative means: either through private funds or by reprioritizing their current resources.

Accordingly, I veto this section to protect Missouri taxpayers and to signal my support for the need for a real plan before the State makes any major capital investment. I cannot support a legislative maneuver that blindly pledges taxpayer dollars, and certainly not when leaders in the university system have publicly acknowledged that no state funds should be used for this project.

Said section is vetoed in its entirety from \$1 to \$0 in total from General Revenue Fund.
From \$1 to \$0 in total for the section.

On June 30, 2017, I approved said Conference Committee Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 5, except for those items specifically vetoed and not approved.

Sincerely,



Eric R. Greitens
Governor