

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SAINT PAUL 55155

April 3, 1996

The Honorable Irv Anderson  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The State of Minnesota

Dear Speaker Anderson:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 432, House File No. 2101, a bill that would expand the ability to use mail ballots for elections in Minnesota.

Chapter 432 would allow a creeping spread of an unwise policy instituted under a previous administration. By one estimate, this bill would allow up to fifteen percent of the state's voters to ignore an important and relatively easy obligation of citizenship, that being to join fellow citizens at the polling place to cast their ballots.

There is simply no good public policy for this proposed expansion. Minnesota's current law adequately addresses those voters who reside in remote locations. Monetary savings touted for mail balloting do not match other state's experiences, since unlike those jurisdictions, return postage in Minnesota is paid for by the taxpayers.

Minnesota has always been a national leader in voter turnout. It is a record that all Minnesotans should be proud of, and it comes from an informed and involved citizenry.

As policy makers, we should consciously work to improve voter involvement in shaping those policies. Instead this bill would take us in the other direction. While election day is the culmination of a campaign, this would allow a significant number of voters to cast their ballots without the benefit of observing the events of and policies advanced in the last two weeks of the campaign. We should not promote casting of ballots by less than fully informed citizens.

Finally, democracy is not supposed to be easy. We have a duty not to cheapen what our forbearers dreamed of and fought for. We need to teach our children that it is a sacred duty to come together with our neighbors, wait in line if we must, and protect our freedom with our vote.

Warmest regards,

ARNE H. CARLSON  
GovernorSTATE OF MINNESOTA  
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The Honorable Irv Anderson  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The State of Minnesota

Dear Speaker Anderson:

It is my honor to inform you that I have received, approved, signed and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State Chapter 412, House File No. 2156, the Omnibus Education bill (with the exceptions of Article 1, Section 34, subdivision 3, on page 32 lines 1 through 6; Article 2, Section 18, on page 46 lines 23 through 35; and Article 4, Section 28, on page 94 lines 6 through 19; and Article 4, Section 34, subdivision 3, on page 100 lines 28 through 33).

I have line item vetoed the \$79,000 appropriation for ISD no. 186, Pequot Lakes. This appropriation is unfair because it favors one school district. This type of political "pork" does not belong in a bill that impacts the education of all students in the state.

I have line item vetoed the \$150,000 appropriation for a grant to ISD no. 625, Saint Paul. School districts receive transportation funding which is available for contracts such as this. Districts should not be encouraged to believe that extra funds are available for such programs.

I have line item vetoed the \$100,000 appropriation for "Family Connections." In the administration's budget recommendations we recommended discontinuing the program because it was underutilized. The only change to the program in this bill was a name change.

I have also line item vetoed the \$300,000 appropriation for "Grants to Implement Constructive School Discipline Policies." Although solid discipline policies are a growing concern for school districts, I have grave concern with providing additional funding for a program that is already required by law.

The remainder of the 1996 Education Omnibus bill contains needed appropriations for technology, after-school programs, and additional funding for the graduation standards. The administration would have liked to see additional reforms in teacher tenure, school choice, PELRA changes, and accountability measures. Until the legislature is willing to take a look at comprehensive reform in the K-12 education system, this administration will be forthright in exercising the needed containment of reckless spending.

Warmest regards,  
ARNE H. CARLSON  
Governor

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Dear Speaker Anderson:

It is my honor to inform you that I have received, approved, signed and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State the following House Files:

H. F. No. 3052, relating to insurance; clarifying that existing law prohibits insurers from terminating agents as a result of contacts with any branch of government.

H. F. No. 2402, relating to motor vehicles; abolishing vehicle registration tax exemption for representatives of foreign powers; allowing special license plates for certain persons to be issued to owner of certain trucks; removing restriction on time to apply for disability plates; changing fee and certain administrative procedures relating to the registration program for fleet vehicles; abolishing requirements to keep records of motor vehicles not using the highways and to prepare certain unnecessary reports; defining motorized bicycles to include electric-assisted bicycles; providing for operation of electric-assisted bicycles; making various technical changes.

H. F. No. 2417, relating to retirement; various Minnesota public pension plans; making various benefit and coverage modifications; redirecting various state pension aids to certain first class city teachers retirement fund associations; requiring certain school district employer contribution increases; making various administrative modifications; establishing a special task force to evaluate potential modifications in various investment performance reporting programs.

Warmest regards,  
ARNE H. CARLSON  
Governor