

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

41-3001

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 2572 as passed by the Seventy-Ninth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

House Bill No. 2572 is the latest of several efforts over the years to revise the system by which mental health and mental retardation (MHMR) services are provided at the local level. One of the key concerns has been that under the current system, 41 local MHMR authorities have an inherent conflict of interest because they not only control the funds distributed in their local areas, they also provide services. Consumers of MHMR services contend that arrangement has limited their ability to select providers and services.

House Bill No. 2572 fails to adequately address the conflict, but more importantly it undermines the goals of more effectively delivering services, providing greater options for persons who need services, and creating more opportunity for private providers to participate in the system.

Current law, (Section 533.035 Health and Safety Code) addresses this same concern in a manner that provides greater consumer choice of services and promotes the development of a more effective system of services. This current law also promotes greater participation by private providers. A true market-oriented approach is ultimately better for Texans dependent on these services. A market-oriented approach also is better for the taxpayers who fund those services because it puts consumers in better control of the services they receive by affording them greater options. I believe that this current law, when implemented, will build a stronger mental health and mental retardation system with greater choice for consumers.

Since the Legislature by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 17th day of June, 2005.

Rick Perry

RICK PERRY
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:

Roger Williams

ROGER WILLIAMS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2:30pm O'CLOCK

JUN 17 2005