

Veto No. 2015-1

HB 1192

June 30, 2015

To the Honorable House of Representatives
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill 1192, Printer's Number 1959.

The citizens of Pennsylvania sent us here to do serious work and to address the problems facing this Commonwealth. This includes enacting a plan that contains fair and adequate education funding in part by implementing a commonsense severance tax, property tax relief to Pennsylvania families and seniors, a solution to fix the structural budget deficit, and a sound plan to create jobs across this Commonwealth. This bill fails to accomplish these essential tasks, so I cannot give it my approval.

This legislation falls short of a budget that I can endorse for the above broad and the following specific reasons. This budget is not balanced. If enacted, it will increase the deficit to over \$3 billion. That is irresponsible and it will lead to continued credit downgrades and fiscal crises. This budget fails to adequately pay our bills or plan for the future. It includes over \$1.5 billion in one-time revenues, payment delays into the next fiscal year, and fund transfers.

This budget does not restore the education cuts enacted over the last four years, nor does it provide adequate funding to ensure Pennsylvanians have schools that teach our children. Fixing our schools is the top priority for Pennsylvanians, but this budget invests only an additional \$8 million in our schools. This budget fails our children from early childhood to higher education. The budget proposal that I delivered to the General Assembly would have enabled at least 14,000 additional children to enroll in Pre-K programs and ensured that our superb institutions of higher education would not have to pass their increased costs on to students. This budget fails to meet any of these important needs.

For the foregoing reasons, I must withhold my signature from House Bill 1192, Printer's Number 1959.

TOM WOLF

Veto No. 2015-2

HB 466

July 2, 2015

To the Honorable House of Representatives
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill 466, Printer's Number 1985.

The citizens of Pennsylvania sent us here to do serious work and to address the problems facing this Commonwealth. This legislation falls short of a responsible means to reform our state liquor system and to maximize revenues to benefit our citizens. It makes bad business sense for the Commonwealth and consumers to sell off an asset, especially before maximizing its value.

During consideration of this legislation, it became abundantly clear that this plan would result in higher prices for consumers. In the most recent case of another state that pursued the outright privatization of liquor sales, consumers saw higher prices and less selection.

Modernization of our state liquor system would provide additional revenues to the Commonwealth and save important, family-sustaining jobs. The Commonwealth relies on this revenue stream that could be dramatically improved through modernization. While this bill recognizes that new revenues for education are important, there are many more responsible options available other than selling off a valuable asset of the Commonwealth.

For the foregoing reasons, I must withhold my signature from House Bill 466, Printer's Number 1985.

TOM WOLF

Veto No. 2015-3

HB 762

July 2, 2015

To the Honorable House of Representatives
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill 762, Printer's Number 1999.

This bill is the school code bill, which implements aspects of the General Appropriations bill for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. As I vetoed the General Appropriations bill, I will also veto this implementation of it.

This bill contains many laudable items that I support. It provides for a Basic Education Funding Commission formula, which for the first time in recent years allows for student-focused funding that takes into account poverty, English Language Learning, size and concentration of the school district, and enrollment trends, as well as revamping the way the wealth of each district is determined under statute.

Unfortunately, this bill fails to restore the funding from the harmful education cuts imposed on each school district over the last four years, nor does it provide adequate resources to ensure Pennsylvanians have schools that teach our children. This bill only distributes an additional \$8 million into K-12 education, which is not appropriate classroom support for the children of this Commonwealth. In short, it fails to meet our constitutionally required obligation of providing a thorough and efficient system of education.

For the foregoing reasons, I must withhold my signature from House Bill 762, Printers Number 1999.

TOM WOLF

Veto No. 2015-4

SB 655

July 2, 2015

To the Honorable Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 655, Printer's Number 1137.

This bill amends the Fiscal Code to implement the General Appropriations bill for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. As I vetoed the General Appropriations bill, I will also veto its implementation.

This bill is one part of a budget that is not in the interest of this Commonwealth.

This legislation falls short of a budget plan that I can endorse for a number of reasons. It fails to adequately pay our bills. It relies on over \$1.5 billion in one-time revenues, payment delays into the next fiscal year, and fund transfers. It is not part of a balanced budget plan, and it will lead to a \$3 billion deficit and credit downgrades for the Commonwealth.

The General Appropriations bill, upon which this bill is based, only provides an additional \$8 million in basic and special education funding for our public schools, which is clearly not adequate funding to ensure Pennsylvanians have schools that teach our students. This approach simply does not provide sufficient funding to meet our constitutional requirement to provide a thorough and efficient system of education for our children.

For these reasons, I cannot support this bill and withhold my signature from Senate Bill 655, Printer's Number 1137.

TOM WOLF



Veto No. 2015-5

SB 1

July 9, 2015

To the Honorable Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 1, Printer's Number 1132.

This legislation provides no immediate cost savings to taxpayers and does not maximize long-term savings for taxpayers. We need pension reform that works.

The plan I delivered to the General Assembly would save at least \$10 billion, while at the same time ensuring that the Commonwealth will make all actuarially required contributions to fund our future pension obligations and reducing the burden placed on the Commonwealth and school districts in the short term. Since my budget proposal, I have found and shared an added \$7 billion in savings for a total of \$17 billion in savings to our retirement systems, which I have communicated to the General Assembly. Furthermore, the plan I proposed would reduce the over \$700 million in fees paid annually to Wall Street firms to manage our investments. Senate Bill 1 does not address these excessive fees.

During my consideration of Senate Bill 1, it became clear that the legislation violates federal tax law as it would be considered an impermissible cash or deferred arrangement (CODA). In addition, the bill forces newly-hired employees to pay down the unfunded liability of existing pension plans, caused by years of government failure to make necessary payments, while denying those new employees the full benefit of their contributions.

For the foregoing reasons, I must withhold my signature from Senate Bill 1, Printer's Number 1132.

TOM WOLF

Veto No. 2015-6

HB 224

September 29, 2015

To the Honorable House of Representatives
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill 224 Printer's Number 2180.

This bill is the Public School Code bill, which implements aspects of the temporary General Appropriations bill that I recently received as well. As I will veto the General Appropriations bill, I will also veto its implementation.

This bill contains many laudable items that I support. Unfortunately, however, this bill does not restore the harmful education cuts imposed on each school district over the last four years, nor does it provide adequate funding to ensure Pennsylvanians have schools that teach our children. Simply stated, it fails to meet our constitutionally required obligation of providing a thorough and efficient system of education.

For the foregoing reasons, I must withhold my signature from House Bill 224 Printer's Number 2180.

TOM WOLF

Veto No. 2015-7

SB 1000

September 29, 2015

To the Honorable Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 1000 Printer's Number 1232.

The citizens of Pennsylvania want more than half measures, and they deserve better than the status quo. They sent us here to do serious work, to address the problems facing this Commonwealth, and to create a blueprint for the future of Pennsylvania.

This temporary General Appropriation bill fails to provide the long-term investment in Pennsylvania's future that this Commonwealth needs. It is an avoidance maneuver that fails to adequately fund education and locks in the same damaging cuts to human service programs included in House Bill 1192. For these reasons, I cannot give this bill my approval.

The people of Pennsylvania deserve a structurally balanced budget. They deserve investment in education and for oil and gas companies to pay their fair share. And they deserve relief from rising property taxes. In short, they deserve better.

I have come to the table offering real compromise, including a lease of our wine and spirits system, more than \$20 billion in pension reform savings, and significant cuts to proposed spending levels.

I urge the Legislature to come back to the bargaining table and to work with me to pass a comprehensive, structurally balanced budget with adequate education funding, a commonsense severance tax, property tax relief for Pennsylvania families and seniors, and a sound plan to create jobs across this Commonwealth.

For these reasons, I cannot support this bill and withhold my signature from Senate Bill 1000 Printer's Number 1232.

TOM WOLF

Veto No. 2015-8

SB 1001

September 29, 2015

To the Honorable Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 1001 Printer's Number 1233.

This bill implements the temporary General Appropriations bill by amending the Fiscal Code for the 2015-16 fiscal year. As I will veto the General Appropriations bill, I will also veto its implementation.

A partial budget fails to provide the long-term investment in Pennsylvania's future that this Commonwealth needs. As a result of the irresponsible budgets of the last administration, our schools and human services providers have been left without adequate funding, and Pennsylvania is facing a multi-billion dollar deficit and further credit downgrades.

The people of Pennsylvania deserve more than an incomplete and inadequate budget. They sent us here to do serious work, and we need a budget that both invests in our future and fixes our deficit.

For these reasons, I cannot support this bill and withhold my signature from Senate Bill 1001 Printer's Number 1233.

TOM WOLF

Veto No. 2015-9

SB 490

December 4, 2015

To the Honorable Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 490, Printer's Number 853.

The statute, enacted over three decades ago, that established the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) vested the authority to appoint PEMA's director solely in the Governor. Senate Bill 490 unnecessarily encroaches upon this long-standing exclusive gubernatorial authority without providing a sound basis for doing so. Given PEMA's unique mission concerning preparing for and responding to disasters, it is imperative that its leader's path to directing emergency management operations not be unduly obstructed following his or her appointment, as this impediment could have a detrimental impact on public safety and welfare in this Commonwealth during an unforeseen crisis.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from Senate Bill 490, Printer's Number 853.

TOM WOLF

