

STATE OF OHIO
Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

VETO MESSAGE

**STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE VETO OF
AMENDED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 296**

December 21, 2018

Pursuant to Article II, Section 16, of the Ohio Constitution, which states that the Governor may disapprove of any bill, I hereby disapprove of Amended Substitute Senate Bill 296 (Am. Sub. S.B. 296) and set forth the following reasons for so doing.

Amended Substitute Senate Bill 296 began as a very praiseworthy bill that sought to revise the payments that surviving family members receive from the Ohio Public Safety Officers Death Benefit Fund and to permit those surviving spouses and their children to participate in the health, dental, and vision benefits offered to state employees. That version of Am. Sub. S.B. 296 unanimously passed the Senate on June 6, 2018 and the bill was referred to the House of Representatives.

On December 12th, in the end-of-the-year “lame duck” legislative session, a House committee added to this bill completely unrelated provisions increasing the compensation of state and local elected officials. This new version of the bill passed the House just a day later on December 13th. That very same day, the Senate quickly approved the House’s action to include the pay raise provisions in the bill.

I support the original Senate version of the bill to provide increased death benefits and to offer health insurance to the surviving family members of our first responders who lost their lives in the line of duty. I would have signed such a bill into law. Unfortunately, I cannot support or condone the last-minute rush to include a controversial pay raise for elected officials into what was an otherwise commendable bill.

When the new General Assembly convenes in January, I urge the legislators to pass and send to the Governor the original version of Am. Sub. S.B. 296 to provide these benefits to the survivors of our deceased first responders. And if there are those who believe that it is necessary to increase the compensation of our state and elected officials, then a stand-alone pay raise bill

should be introduced and debated in an open and deliberative process that allows more of an opportunity for the taxpayers to have their say about their elected representatives' compensation.

For these reasons, a veto of Amended Substitute Senate Bill 296 is in the public interest.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed at Columbus this 21st day of December Two Thousand Eighteen.

John R. Kasich, Governor

This will acknowledge the receipt of a copy of this veto message of Amended Substitute Senate Bill 296 that was disapproved by Governor John R. Kasich on December 21st 2018.

Wesley Kern Senate Clerk
Name and Title of Officer

Date and Time of Receipt

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OHIO SENATE