

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol • 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard • Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 16, 2005

The Honorable Representative Steve Sviggum, Speaker of the House Minnesota House of Representatives 463 State Office Building Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Representative Sviggum:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter Number 57, House File Number 68, a bill relating to procedures for public school districts for the nonrenewal of coaching contrcts.

This bill would provide a coach whose contract was not renewed the opportunity to respond to the reasons for the nonrenewal at a school board meeting. In relation to this meeting House File 68 provides, "any portion of that meeting at which educational data are discussed must be disclosed under section 13D.05, subdivision 2." This provision, however, is not consistent with this section of the Open Meeting Law which requires that a school district close any portion of a meeting that would include discussion of educational data about a student.

The context of the bill suggests that the legislature may have intended to use the word "closed" rather than "disclosed." However, if that is the case, the provision is not necessary because existing law already mandates closure of any portion of a meeting in which educational data is discussed. Use of the term "disclosed" in this provision may create confusion about whether the meeting may be closed if student information is discussed.

It is important that we protect the privacy of public school children. Accordingly, I am vetoing this bill to avoid any uncertainty in a school district's obligation to close a meeting to protect the privacy of students.

Sincerely,

Governor

Tim Pawlenty

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