

PHILIP B. SCOTT
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 1, 2023

The Honorable Betsy Ann Wrask
Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Ms. Wrask:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I'm returning H.305, *An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation*, without my signature because of my objections described herein:

I've successfully partnered with the Secretary of State's Office of Professional Regulation on several occasions since taking office to remove employment barriers for licensed professionals, and to create civilian licensure pathways for military professionals. However, I'm concerned about the impact of raising licensing fees on workers we're trying to attract to these critical sectors and adding to the affordability challenges Vermont employees and employers already face.

While these fee increases may look modest, they contribute to the high cumulative impact of new costs being levied on Vermonters this session. I will continue to fight against creating new and higher taxes and fees during a time when Vermonters are grappling with persistent inflation, and when we have record surpluses available to assist us.

For all these reasons, I'm returning this legislation without my signature pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp