

## Veto No. 2004-1

HB 2007

May 21, 2004

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

I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill 2007, Printer's No.3559, entitled "An act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for duties of city controllers in cities of the second class and for statements of receipts and expenditures."

House Bill 2007 would require the Controller of the City of Pittsburgh to audit the accounts of any authorities having board members appointed by the mayor, city council or any other official of the city. These audits would be submitted to the Pittsburgh City Council and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

In addition, these authorities would be required to submit detailed statements of receipts and expenditures each month to the City Controller, City Council and the Department of Community and Economic Development, which shall make the statements available to the public.

Although House Bill 2007 would require these audits to be performed by the City Controller, it would apply to several public authorities that are as much creatures of Allegheny County as of the City of Pittsburgh. For example, both the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority and the Sports and Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County have Boards of Directors with equal numbers of members appointed by the Allegheny County Executive and the Mayor of Pittsburgh. Although the desirability of added fiscal oversight of authorities in the Pittsburgh region and around the Commonwealth may be argued, it is apparent that the provisions of House Bill 2007 are not properly formulated in this regard and this alone would be reason enough for my disapproval.

Even more importantly, however, I believe it is in the best interest of all concerned to refrain for the time being from enacting laws that purport to address the fiscal difficulties facing the City of Pittsburgh. In a few weeks' time, the General Assembly and I will have the benefit of detailed assessments of the Pittsburgh fiscal situation and available remedies available from the City itself, from the Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority for Cities of the Second Class created by Act 11 of 2004, and from the controllers appointed pursuant to the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act (Act 47 of 1987).

It has been and continues to be my hope that with these analyses in hand, a comprehensive legislative package can be crafted that deals with the City's short-term budget problems and strengthens its prospects for long-term competitiveness. It will be my intention to join with the legislature in reviewing

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all proposals regarding City finances as part of this process.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from House Bill 2007, Printer's No.3559.

EDWARD G. RENDELL