



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

July 8, 2020

Michigan State Senate
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Senators,

Today I am returning Enrolled Senate Bill 686 to you without my approval.

Our state laws provide robust whistleblower protections and prohibit the State of Michigan from retaliating against an employee for reporting a violation of law. My administration does not intend to change that, and I am committed to protecting whistleblowers and ensuring a safe, transparent state government. My very first executive directive, in fact, directed each department director and autonomous agency head to remind their employees of applicable protections under The Whistleblowers' Protection Act, MCL 15.361 to 15.369 and §§ 2-10 of the rules of the Michigan Civil Service Commission.

Ignoring those existing protections, this legislation aims to score political points by codifying a piece of budget boilerplate that violates the Michigan Constitution. Putting that boilerplate into a standalone bill does nothing to remedy the constitutional defects. Whether and how to discipline employees is a core executive power, entrusted in part to the governor and in part to the Civil Service Commission.

Because this legislation violates both the constitutional separation of powers and article 6, section 5 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 (detailing the duties of the Civil Service Commission), I am vetoing it.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor