Vo-Tech Schools Bond Issue Vetoed

Baton Rouge, La. (AP) - Gov. John McKeithen has signed into law a reapportionment bill for the Louisiana House and Senate which few believe will stand up under court review.

An administration spokesman also announced Tuesday that McKeithen vetoed a $29.7 million bond issue to construct and enlarge vocational-technical schools around the state.

The action was announced in a prepared statement outlining McKeithen's decisions on 43 pieces of legislation passed by the recently adjourned session of the legislature.

McKeithen said he vetoed the bond issue because "to build new schools or to attempt to expand existing institutions without additional funds in sight for their operation at this time is not appropriate."

McKeithen has yet to announce his decision on more than 100 pieces of other legislation, including a package of constitutional revision bills and anti-pollution measures.

BILLS INCLUDE

Included in the bills, many of which involved special appropriations, signed by McKeithen, were:

- A $556,000 appropriation to construct an office building for the Louisiana Department of Employment Security.
- A $100,000 appropriation to the Louisiana Commission on the Aging to match federal funds for developing programs for Louisiana's senior citizens.
- A $40,000 appropriation to the State Board of Education to appoint an architect to design plans for a stadium at Northeast Louisiana University at Monroe.
- A $50,000 appropriation to establish the Louisiana Advisory Commission on Coastal and Marine Resources which will develop a coastal management plan.
- A $427,126 appropriation to the state treasurer for a loan to the greater Baton Rouge Port Commission to meet bond debts.
- A $12,600 appropriation to the State Board of Education to pay the expenses for the Southern University band to travel to the Pan American games in Colombia in 1972.
- Thirty-one separate bills to authorize final judgments against the state.

In addition to the Trade School Bond Issue, McKeithen also vetoed two other bills.

One would have given the Legislative Budget Committee authority to pass on proposed bond issues and another would have reduced state income taxes when and if the federal government takes over state welfare programs.

Said Meritorious

McKeithen said the purpose of the bond issue measure was "meritorious," but added he did not "feel the Budget Committee should have approval authority."

"The purpose of the (income tax) bill is unclear," McKeithen said, "and could cut back on revenues which are essential if we are to maintain the semblance of a balanced budget."

In addition to the legislative reapportionment measures, McKeithen also signed a bill to redistrict the Republican and Democratic central committees.

The legislative reapportionment bills are a complex mixture of multi-member and single-member districts centered around posts and residency requirements.

The state AFL-CIO already has said it would contest the bills in federal court and other suits were expected.

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