



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

May 19, 2021

Michigan Senate
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Senators,

Today I am returning Enrolled Senate Bill 17 of 2021 to you without approval.

Michigan's statute dealing with contracts of public servants within public entities is an important safeguard of responsible and accountable government. It prevents public servants from enriching themselves at public expense by prohibiting most contracts between public servants and the communities they serve. There are a few narrow exceptions, including one for part-time firefighters.

Enrolled Senate Bill 17 proposes to significantly expand that exception. In so doing, it would open up a range of new and problematic possible conflicts of interest. For example, it would allow a city commissioner serve concurrently as a police officer or even police chief, which would create obvious and thorny problems around chain of command and budgetary oversight. This would run the risk of having public servants determine their own pay, set their own standards, or interfere with disciplinary proceedings. That's unacceptable.

For the foregoing reasons, I am vetoing SB 17.

Sincerely,

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

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor

SENATE ENROLLING
MAY 19 '21 PM1:27