



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

April 30, 2007

The Honorable Senator James Metzen
President of the Senate
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
322 State Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Metzen:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 27, Senate File 1017.

Under current law, charter commissions for non-first class cities may spend up to \$1,500.00 per year in annual expenses without city council approval. Charter Commissions may spend more if authorized by city councils. This bill would increase the annual amount of expenses allowed without city council approval to \$5,000.00 per year.

I strongly believe that city government and taxpayer revenues should be under the control of the elected city council, not charter commissions. City council members are the individuals whom the voters have entrusted to make decisions for the spending of city funds and are in the best position to weigh the spending priorities of the city. More than tripling the annual expense accounts for these non-elected charter commissions and bypassing the city council in the process is not necessary for the efficient operation of local government and makes city government less accountable.

I am mindful that many things have changed since the current law was first put into place in 1961. Again, however, if these commissions have legitimate expense needs, current law allows the city council to approve expenditures beyond the current limit. The Legislature need not usurp city councils in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Pawlenty".

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

Senator James Metzen

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cc: Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader
Senator Ann Rest
Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Speaker of the House
Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader
Representative Carolyn Laine
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Al Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State