

GOVERNOR'S COPY

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BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Scott Bedke
Speaker of the House
Idaho House of Representatives
Hand Delivered

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I hereby advise you that I have returned without my approval, disapproved, and vetoed, the following Senate bill, to wit:

HOUSE BILL 782

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 12:25 p.m. on March 25, 2022.

As Governor, and previously as Lieutenant Governor, I have participated in the appointment of dozens of district judges and appellate court justices over the last decade. I have seen first-hand that our judges value our way of life and endeavor to interpret Idaho law consistent with its plain meaning.

I agree with the legislative sponsors of this bill that there is a need to modernize the Judicial Council. There were components of H782 I supported, but I think it is in Idaho's best interest to spend more time properly vetting these changes with all relevant stakeholders. Our starting point must be filtered through the lens of what will help us recruit and retain top quality judges for Idaho.

My office stands ready to support future efforts to modernize and improve the process by which Idaho fills judicial vacancies. I encourage my friends in the judicial and legislative branches to collaborate and identify areas of compromise that will increase transparency, preserve impartiality, and improve judicial recruitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho