



STATE OF ARIZONA
April 29, 2011

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

The Honorable Ken Bennett
Secretary of State, 7th floor
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: House Bill 2650 (county employees; merit system exemption)

Dear Secretary Bennett,

Today I vetoed House Bill 2650 “county employees; merit system exemption.” This legislation allows all Arizona counties except Maricopa County to remove certain administrative positions from the county merit system if requested to do so by a county elected officer who has been empowered by a Board of Supervisors resolution to make the request. In addition, the legislation makes a number of changes regarding moving county governments (except Maricopa) to a more uncovered at-will workforce.

While the legislation has some similarities to what I would like the legislature to consider regarding state government personnel reform, there are areas of significant concern for me. Among them:

- Failure to address the special employment challenges faced by full authority law enforcement officers.
- An overly broad salary increase trigger for uncovering an employee.
- The lack of planning time.
- The exclusion of Arizona’s largest county from the bill.

As many are aware, I am very supportive of government personnel reform. The Arizona Department of Administration and my staff worked extensively on a proposal that, while not considered during the 2011 regular legislative session, is a prime candidate for consideration in a special legislative session. Such a session—including the time leading up to it—also presents a good opportunity for pursuing in greater depth and with more care the matters addressed in House Bill 2650.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Russell Pearce
The Honorable Andy Tobin
The Honorable Judy Burges
Senate Secretary
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Arizona News Service