

VBMQVP

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

April 27, 2023

Alabama Senate
Alabama State House
Montgomery, Alabama 31630

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find a message from the Governor returning Senate Bill 14 without the Governor's signature and with a proposed executive amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM G. PARKER, JR.,
General Counsel.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

April 27, 2023

Alabama Senate
Alabama State House
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I received Senate Bill 14 and believe that the bill should be amended to further expand the kinds of protection-from-abuse filings that would be exempt from court costs and fees. As enrolled and presented to me, this bill would amend Alabama Code Section 30-5-5(g) to add to the list of filings currently exempt from court costs and fees "a motion for contempt by a party seeking enforcement of a previously entered protection from abuse judgment." I believe that several other kinds of protection-from-abuse filings similarly should be exempt from the assessment of court costs and fees to broadly ensure access to the court system for victims of domestic violence.

For this reason, and at the request of the bill sponsor, I am returning Senate Bill 14 to you, the body in which it originated, without my signature and with the below

executive amendment.

EXECUTIVE AMENDMENT TO SB14

Please amend Senate Bill 14 on page 3, by deleting lines 72-79, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(g) (1) No court costs or fees shall be assessed for the filing, issuance, registration, modification, enforcement, dismissal, withdrawal, or service of a protection order or a petition for a protection order under this chapter.

(2) No court costs or fees shall be assessed for the issuance of a witness subpoena under this chapter.

(3) Costs and fees may be assessed against the defendant at the discretion of the court."

Adoption of the above-proposed executive amendment will remove my objection to this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

KAY IVEY,
Governor.