

August 25, 2015

To the Honorable Members of
The Illinois Senate,
99th General Assembly:

Today I return Senate Bill 1249 with a specific recommendation for change.

Senate Bill 1249 requires the Office of the Governor to examine the need for and financial strategies to improve the State's mental health systems and report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by January 15, 2016. The State already has undertaken several initiatives in order to study the current landscape for mental health services in Illinois and work to improve the effectiveness of such services. These efforts include using a \$3 million State Innovation Model grant from the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to focus on redeveloping the State's mental and behavioral health programs, as well as developing the State's five-year health care priorities and goals through completion of our federally-mandated State Health Improvement Plan. Both of these efforts will be completed late next spring.

Aligning the timing of the report required by Senate Bill 1249 with the completion of this other work will allow us to optimize resources by coordinating our research efforts, leading to a more comprehensive set of recommendations to improve mental health services in Illinois.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 9(e) of Article IV of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return Senate Bill 1249, entitled "AN ACT concerning regulation", with the following specific recommendation for change:

On page 3, line 15, by replacing "January 15, 2016" with "May 31, 2016".

With this change, Senate Bill 1249 will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,

Bruce Rauner
GOVERNOR