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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

DEPT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 19, 2020

THE GOVERNOR

TO THE HONORABLE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill 2388, Printer's Number 3719.

Over the past two months we have made very difficult but necessary sacrifices in order to combat this pandemic and to protect the life and health of all Pennsylvanians. To reopen our Commonwealth, I have instituted a measured, phased-in approach so as not to undo our hard work.

Since the beginning of this month, my administration has been gradually transitioning counties from the restrictive red phase to an intermediate yellow phase. The decisions to move counties from the red phase to the yellow phase are based on the advice of expert epidemiologists and public health officials. These decisions are not based just on the number of cases of COVID-19, but are also based on other critical factors, such as how community members interact, the county's number of potential transmission points, a county's geographic location, the capacity to undertake contact tracing, and testing availability.

I have made these tough choices during this disaster emergency in order to protect the public safety and welfare of the people of Pennsylvania in accordance with the Emergency Management Services Code and our Constitution. This legislation is an infringement on the authority and responsibility of the executive and violates the separation of powers which is critical to the proper functioning of our democracy.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from House Bill 2388, Printer's Number 3719.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Wolf".

TOM WOLF
Governor