



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

November 25, 2020

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 1747, Printer's Number 2338.

This legislation will limit emergency powers related to firearms during disaster emergencies. While the powers repealed under this legislation were not utilized in response to the COVID-19 disaster emergency, the ongoing pandemic underscores the need for flexibility in the law to deal with unforeseen and unfathomable situations.

Tough choices must be made during a 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. Possessing the appropriate tools to protect Pennsylvanians from the various threats posed by disaster emergencies is critical. Even though the specific powers repealed by this bill have not been utilized to respond to the current disaster emergencies, this legislation is an infringement on the authority and responsibility of the executive during a disaster emergency and risks placing our citizens and emergency responders in jeopardy during future responses to disaster emergencies.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from House Bill 1747, Printer's Number 2338.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Wolf".

Tom Wolf
Governor