

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SPRINGFIELD, 62706

GEORGE H. RYAN  
GOVERNOR

August 10, 2001

To the Honorable Members of the  
Illinois House of Representatives  
92nd General Assembly

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9 (b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby veto House Bill 3078 entitled "AN ACT concerning freedom of information."

House Bill 3078 amends the Freedom of Information Act. It specifies that the amount of funds, expended or collected, by a public body in agreements that would settle actual or threatened litigation, becomes public record. It would not include agreements settling actual or threatened litigation by persons committed to the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Many governmental entities enter into settlement agreements with the understanding that neither party will disclose the details of the settlement. House Bill 3078 provides for the release of settlement agreements, and may effectively deter governmental entities from settling any litigation. Furthermore, this legislation may lead to higher settlements if governmental entities are compelled to disclose the amount of settlements. Finally, in listening to the concerns brought to my attention by local officials, it is my opinion that this bill would put governmental entities at a disadvantage in defending themselves against litigation.

For these reasons, I hereby veto and return House Bill 3078.

Sincerely,  
s/GEORGE H. RYAN  
Governor