

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

May 17, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Matt Regier
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear President Ellsworth and Speaker Regier:

I support the efforts of the Legislature to ensure that the bail bond industry operates in a manner that ensures public safety. To this end, I signed into law House Bill 62, which establishes minimum qualifications for bail bondsmen and requires bounty hunters to be licensed as surety insurance producers.

While House Bill 808 incorporates many of the protections enacted under House Bill 62, it inappropriately adds a provision inhibiting competition in the bail bond industry by fixing a minimum bail bond premium. We agree with the opinion expressed in the attached letter from Troy Downing, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, that government should not impede the free market by mandating minimum insurance premiums.

For these reasons, in accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 808: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATING TO SURETY BAIL BOND INSURANCE; PROVIDING QUALIFICATIONS FOR A SURETY BAIL BOND INSURANCE LICENSE; PROVIDING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND TRAINING; PROVIDING FOR THE ARREST AUTHORITY OF BAIL BOND SURETY INSURANCE PRODUCERS; REVISING SURPLUS LINES INSURANCE LAWS; REVISING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY BY THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE; AMENDING SECTIONS 33-17-212, 33-26-106, 33- 26-108, 46-9-401, AND 46-9-510, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES."

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte
Governor

Enclosure

cc: Legislative Services Division
Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State