

required under current law.

The Office of State Prosecutor is an independent unit that is authorized to prosecute certain offenses under State election laws, ethics laws, and other offenses including offenses involving public officials. The Office handles important and sensitive cases and complements the Office of the Attorney General and the State's Attorneys by providing an additional resource for combating criminal activity.

The State Prosecutor Selection and Disabilities Commission helps to preserve the independence of the State Prosecutor. Under current law, the Commission reviews candidates for appointment to the Office of State Prosecutor and nominates and individual for appointment by the Governor. It also provides an unbiased forum for hearing any complaints against the State Prosecutor and is empowered to reprimand the State Prosecutor or recommend to the Governor that the State Prosecutor be removed from office. We haven been fortunate to have had outstanding lawyers in this State serve on the Commission and it has performed a vital role in support of the Office of State Prosecutor.

Continuation of the State Prosecutor Selection and Disabilities Commission is essential to preserving the integrity and professionalism of the State Prosecutor and to preventing undue influence in the selection and removal of the State Prosecutor and the performance of the important duties of his office.

For these reasons, I have decided to veto Senate Bill 837.

Sincerely,
Harry Hughes
Governor

Senate Bill No. 837

AN ACT concerning

State Prosecutor

~~FOR the purpose of abolishing the office of State Prosecutor, repealing provisions that relate to the qualifications, compensation, and powers and duties of the State Prosecutor, repealing provisions that relate to procedures to be followed and reports to be filed by the State Prosecutor, abolishing the State Prosecutor Selection and Disabilities Commission, repealing provisions that relate to the selection and appointment of the State Prosecutor, repealing provisions that relate to removal of the State Prosecutor~~