

Office of the Vermont Secretary of State
Vermont State Archives

**Veto Message: Governor Wilson
1931 (H.21)**

An act to pay Glenn E. Jackman the sum therein named.

STATE OF VERMONT
Executive Department.
Montpelier, Vt., April 3, 1931

Was taken up, and the Speaker laid before the House the following communication directed to the House from His Excellency, the Governor:

To the House of Representatives:

I have the honor to return without my approval House bill entitled, 'H. 21. An act to pay Glenn E. Jackman the sum therein named.'

My response for this action are as follows:

I am advised by the Attorney General;

1. That there is no legal liability of the state for the claim presented.
2. That there is no established precedent, and in fact he is unable to find any precedent for the payment of a claim of this sort which might justify the making of the payment when not a legal liability.

I feel that the payment of this claim would create a dangerous precedent which would have a tendency to invite numerous claims against the state hereafter. The claim itself is small, but if it should be paid, such payment would inevitably be used by future claimants as a precedent to overcome objections raised to claims not based on legal grounds.

The general rule governing the allowance of claims by the legislature is that if the claim is one which would be valid against an individual, it should be paid by the state. Of course, the state cannot be sued upon a claim except by its own consent. Therefore the custom has developed of handling such claims through legislative committees. To allow claims outside of the legal bounds would open the door to all kinds of schemes to get the state to reimburse individuals for losses and damages for which the state is not responsible.

STANLEY C. WILSON,
Governor.

**Governor's Veto Sustained
H.21, 1931**

The Governor's veto was sustained in the House:
Yeas 16 Nays 191

Sources: *Journal of the House*, April 3, 1931 (pages 823-825)