



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

May 24, 2007

The Honorable Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
Department of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

FILED
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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby withhold my approval of and transmit to you with my objections, for Senate Bill 1104, enacted during the 39th session of the Legislature, convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2007, and entitled:

An act relating to Vessels/Registration Fee. . .

Senate Bill 1104 would increase vessel registration fees by \$2 to provide a dedicated funding source for derelict vessel removal. While I understand that derelict vessels are a serious concern and impact the safety and navigation of Florida's waterways, the \$2 increase imposes an unfair tax on Florida's responsible boaters. I do not support levying a tax against all Florida vessel owners to clean up the abandoned and destroyed vessels of a few.

Recently enacted Florida law already provides appropriate mechanisms to remove derelict vessels, and these methods should be thoroughly utilized before increasing vessel registration fees on all boaters. Specifically, Florida law allows local law enforcement agencies and officers of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to investigate abandoned or destroyed vessels and impose the cost of removal to the owner of the vessel. Marinas also have the authority to remove derelict or abandoned vessels from a marina and recoup any costs from the vessel owner.

Furthermore, Senate Bill 1104 was heard by only one legislative committee of reference and lacked the normal public input usually afforded such increases.

For these reasons, I withhold my approval of Senate Bill 1104 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist