



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

June 17, 2008

Secretary Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as the Governor of Florida, and under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby withhold my approval of and transmit to you my objections to, Senate Bill 682, enacted during the 40th Session of the Legislature of Florida, convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2008 and entitled:

An act relating to Department of Transportation. . .

There are many positive aspects to the bill which includes several of the Department of Transportation's legislative priorities. The bill provides the department with tools to reduce roadway congestion by managing the use of our existing transportation facilities, modernize our toll collection systems and ensure that electronic tolling systems will work on all of Florida's toll roads. It improves the contracting that allows us to implement our transportation work program and encourages the safe operation of the vehicles that use our roadways. Many of these important changes are proposed in Senate Bill 1992, which I intend to sign.

However, Section 27 of the bill includes a provision that was also proposed by House Bill 5067, which I have already vetoed, that directs the selection process for fuel, food, and other service contracts along the Florida Turnpike. As noted in my veto message for House Bill 5067, I am troubled by the decision to direct the Turnpike Enterprise to substantially deviate from established procurement laws put in place to ensure fairness and integrity in the selection process. Limiting the competitiveness of the procurement and squeezing out potential bidders increases costs to the Turnpike System; therefore, increasing costs to Florida's motorists.

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I have based my administration upon openness and access to information. Specifically, I have directed agencies to conduct open, competitive, and transparent procurements. I believe that we must protect the confidence citizens have entrusted to their public servants, and we should commit to making the best use of their hard earned tax dollars. Therefore, it is disappointing that this important transportation bill was used to direct a procurement which benefits vendors over the citizens of Florida.

For these reasons, I withhold my approval of Senate Bill 682, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Crist". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C".

Charlie Crist