

June 18, 2004

Ms. Glenda E. Hood  
Secretary of State  
R. A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Hood:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of the State 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, House Bill 883, enacted during the 106th Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2004 and entitled:

An act relating to Lake County Water Authority District . . .

The bill amends and codifies the existing chapter law of the Lake County Water Authority District. The amendments to the district charter include removing the millage rate cap. My review of local bills is guided by a long standing local bill policy. The foundation of this policy is local control and awareness of changes to a special district's authority. Local bills should provide for a referendum (of the citizens in the affected area(s)) if it proposes a change in taxation (ad-valorem or other), fees, assessments, or bonding authority.

While the current board's recent actions have lowered the tax burden, under less prudent stewardship and without a millage cap, property taxes could be raised as a result of this bill.

Without a voter approved referendum, I am unwilling to approve this bill. It is my hope that these changes will be supported by a voter referendum and brought forward during the next legislative session.

For these reasons, I therefore withhold my approval of House Bill 883 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Jeb Bush