



JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

May 26, 2004

Ms. Glenda E. Hood
Secretary of State
Florida Department 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 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 1845, enacted during the 36th Session of the Legislature of Florida and convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2004, and entitled:

An act relating to the organization and operation of the Department of Children and Family Services...

The bill amends statutes related to establishing DCF administrative zones, specifying legislative intent for transfer authority within the department, and repealing provisions authorizing alternate use of excess fees collected by the Department.

The bill contains a technical error which would significantly disrupt efforts underway to consolidate administrative functions. The error assigns Sarasota and DeSoto Counties to the Southern Zone rather than maintaining their current placement in the SunCoast Region. The SunCoast Region is the pilot area for new administrative and management procedures which have resulted in a reduction of 106 positions and savings of approximately \$10 million. Improper zoning of Sarasota and DeSoto counties would confound efforts to achieve savings.

The statewide implementation of these zones can be accomplished without this legislation. The remaining provisions in the bill are not needed for the effective operation of the Department.

For these reasons, I am withholding my approval of House Bill 1845, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Jeb Bush