

May 19, 2005

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 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 157, enacted during the 107th Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2005 and entitled:

An act relating to Motor Vehicles . . .

House Bill 157 prohibits a motorist from occupying the left-hand lane unless overtaking and passing another vehicle, except in certain circumstances, and creates a fine and a point assessment for violations.

I am vetoing the bill for two main reasons.

First, the bill appears to address a perception, rather than an empirically-established reality, that Florida is experiencing road incidents connected with so-called "rolling roadblocks" created when inconsiderate or unwitting drivers occupy the left-hand lane while proceeding along at the same speed as right-lane traffic.

Second, and most important, the bill would allow a law-abiding motorist who fails to make way for an approaching speeder to be punished with a fine. While other concerns could be raised -- such as whether this type of enforcement activity is a proper priority for limited state and local traffic enforcement resources, or whether its application to tourists could create a disincentive for Florida travel -- the predominate shortcoming of the bill is that it seeks to provide relief for those traveling at high rates of speed, or possessed of emotional intemperance, at the expense of cautious and careful drivers.

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For the reasons provided above, I am hereby withholding my approval of House Bill 157,
and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Jeb Bush