

June 2, 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 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, Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 662, enacted during the 37th Session of the Legislature of Florida and convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2005 and entitled:

An act relating to hospitals . . .

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 662 creates four policy studies: (1) a nine-member study commission to identify all licensed hospitals serving indigent populations that are not able to comply with the Florida Building Code that are located within 10 miles of the coastline and that are located within a designated flood zone; (2) a 13 member high-deductible health insurance plan study group to study issues relating to high-deductible health plans; (3) an evaluation by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to evaluate whether the State should join the Nurse Licensure Compact; and (4) an analysis by OPPAGA, in cooperation with the Agency for Health Care Administration, on the impact of hospices on the delivery of care to the terminally ill.

In general, I do not favor the large number of studies and reports mandated by the Legislature each year. Often these reports distract agencies from their core missions and may be of questionable value as a basis for making future policy decisions. The studies required by Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 662 raise several concerns. The responsibilities for conducting the studies may not be appropriately placed, and such studies may not be the best method for considering potential changes in state policy.

Several of the subjects addressed in this bill can be accomplished in a more expeditious manner. I will direct the appropriate agencies to work with the legislature and the interested parties on these issues.

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For the reasons provided above, I am withholding my approval of Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 662, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Jeb Bush