



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

June 12, 2007

Mr. 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 Governor of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby transmit House Bill 779, with my signature, enacted during the 109th Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2007 and entitled:

An act relating to the Town of Belleair Shore, Pinellas County . . .

This bill authorizes the Town Commission of the Town of Belleair Shores, Pinellas County, to hold meetings outside its municipal limits and is necessary in light of the limited number of public facilities within its jurisdiction. Furthermore, as Attorney General, I issued an opinion advising that municipal councils may not hold meetings outside of municipal limits without statutory authorization (OAG 2003-03), and this bill provides Belleair Shores with that authorization.

I remain firmly committed to ensuring that citizens have access to their government. As such, I am concerned that this bill does not limit where the Commission may hold its meetings. The Town, however, has represented to my office that it intends to use facilities in an adjacent municipality that is approximately two miles away. I strongly urge the Commission to always hold its meeting in close proximity to the people it serves. By doing so, the Commission can ensure the greatest participation by its residents and the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

I hereby sign into law, House Bill 779, and encourage the Town to consider the concerns identified herein.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist

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