



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

June 10, 2008

Secretary Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
Department of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

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CLERK OF COURSE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED

Dear Secretary Browning:

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 my objections to, Council Substitute for House Bill 5057 enacted during the 110th Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2008 and entitled:

An act relating to the Insurance Capital Buildup Incentive Program...

While I believe the program is well intended and has had the net effect of removing nearly 200,000 policies from the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation and keeping an additional estimated 480,000 policies out of Citizens, the funding source is inappropriate. The original funding for the program came from the General Revenue Fund during the 05/06 fiscal year; however, the additional funding for the program provided in this legislation comes from policyholders' premiums paid to Citizens, which is used to pay claims in the event of a catastrophic hurricane.

Citizens has a combined loss exposure in Florida of about \$223 billion and approximately 1.3 million policyholders. Taking \$250 million away from Citizens' ability to pay claims will substantially increase the likelihood of assessments for Floridians across the state.

The citizens of Florida are already feeling the heavy weight of property insurance and property tax burdens. I will not support risking an additional financial hardship on Floridians. For these reasons, I withhold my approval of House Bill 5057, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely

Charlie Crist