



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

June 25, 2008

Secretary Kurt S. Browning
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 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 withhold my approval of and transmit to you my objections to Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1008, enacted during the 40th Session of the Legislature of Florida, convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2008 and entitled:

An act relating to failure to redeliver hired vehicles. . .

Senate Bill 1008 provides that a law enforcement agency may not make acceptance of a stolen rental vehicle report contingent upon receipt of specific information and *shall* enter the report into the National Crime Information Center and Florida Crime Information Center, listing the rental vehicle as a stolen vehicle. Thus, the bill would deprive a law enforcement officer of the authority to determine whether probable cause exists to classify an unreturned rental vehicle as stolen before entering it into the NCIC/FCIC databases. Instead, the probable cause judgment would be delegated to a clerk or a non-sworn security employee of a vehicle rental agency.

Allowing untrained personnel to make this judgment could cause drivers who miss rental return deadlines simply due to confusion over contract terms to be dealt with much more harshly in the course of a felony traffic stop by police.

Further, as stated by representatives of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the bill creates a special category of crime victim—car rental companies—who will now have direct access into the NCIC/FCIC without law enforcement review, while other theft victims will not. In addition, the bill serves as an invitation to other special interest groups to apply to the Legislature for mandated access into law enforcement databases.

Finally, as expressed by the State Attorney for the 13th Judicial Circuit, preventing law enforcement officers from requiring basic information from a rental car company could compromise investigations and weaken the ability of prosecutors to obtain convictions.

For this reason, I withhold my approval of Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1008, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist

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