



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

May 27, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as the Governor of Florida, and 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 Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 2694, 1<sup>st</sup> Engrossed, enacted during the 41<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legislature of Florida, convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2009 and entitled:

An act relating to State Financial Matters...

I understand and appreciate that the legislative branch has concerns with some specific contracts that have been in place for several years. I also appreciate that during these very challenging economic times, making the difficult choices on where we can reduce spending has been frustrating.

I am concerned that this bill imposes additional contracting requirements on state agencies and those who do business with the state at a time when we should be doing everything we can to streamline bureaucracy and stimulate economic growth. This bill hinders the ability of the executive and judicial branches to implement state policy by requiring prior legislative approval of certain contracts for which funds may have already been appropriated. The bill injects unnecessary uncertainty into the contracting process due to the time necessary to obtain the Legislature's express approval of certain contracts. This may adversely affect the ability of agencies to negotiate contracts, which could unintentionally increase costs to the state.

It is important for the executive and judicial branches to ensure that contract decisions are based on sound business cases and that the state is receiving the full benefit for its contracts without unnecessarily binding appropriations and limiting legislative flexibility, particularly during times of limited revenues. It may be appropriate for the executive and judicial branches to consider alternative methodologies for reviewing major contracts and selected large purchases, as well as an approval mechanism to address the concerns identified in the bill.

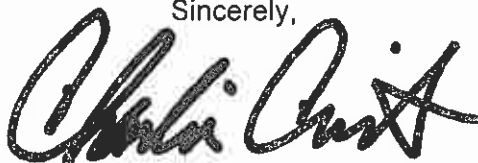
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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

I have based my administration on transparency and open access to information, and have directed state agencies to conduct open, competitive and transparent procurements. While I share the commitment to make state procurements competitive and based on sound decision-making, I do not believe that further restricting state procurement and purchase agreement practices will achieve the goal of improving how contracts and agreements are written and implemented.

I am committed to working with the Florida Legislature to continue to bring greater transparency, competitiveness, and accountability to the procurement process while at the same time ensuring that Florida Taxpayers are not burdened with unnecessary costs.

For this reason, I withhold my approval of Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 2694, 1<sup>st</sup> Engrossed, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Crist". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a prominent flourish at the end.

Charlie Crist