



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

June 23, 2011

Secretary Kurt S. Browning
Department of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 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, Senate Bill 1992, enacted during the 43rd Session of the Legislature of Florida, convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2011 and entitled:

An Act Relating to Background Screening...

Volunteers play a vital role in strengthening Florida's communities. Not only do they provide valuable service and expertise, they also bolster the economic foundation of many of the programs and organizations that serve our most vulnerable citizens. However, volunteers who work with social service organizations to provide state-funded services can have unrestricted access to seniors, children, and persons with disabilities. I feel strongly that we have an obligation to ensure that these vulnerable members of our communities are protected, especially within their homes.

I am vetoing SB1992 because it will allow certain volunteers to work directly with vulnerable Floridians without first submitting to a background screening. That is a risk that is not worth taking.

However, the bill also provides for the creation of a "statewide interagency background screening workgroup for the purpose of developing a work plan for implementing a statewide system for streamlining background screening processes and sharing background screening information." I recognize that there is significant room to improve the current background screening infrastructure to allow for information sharing among agencies and to reduce redundant screenings for individuals who volunteer. To that end, I will be issuing an Executive Order to create an interagency background screening workgroup that will be charged with the same goals articulated in this bill.

For these reasons, I withhold my approval of, and do hereby veto, Senate Bill 1992.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott
Governor

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA