



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

May 20, 2013

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Secretary Ken Detzner  
Florida Department of State  
R. A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Detzner:

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 sign and transmit Senate Bill 1502, enacted during the 45th Session of the Legislature convened under the Constitution of 1968, and entitled:

An act relating to implementing the 2013-14 General Appropriation Act...

In addition to passing Florida's \$74 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14, the Legislature also passed Senate Bill 1502 to implement and administer provisions contained in the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013-14. The provisions of the bill are effective for a period of one year beginning July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

While many provisions in the budget implementing bill are necessary to execute the Fiscal Year 2013-14 budget, there are two specific items that raise concerns.

**Section 30 of Senate Bill 1502 – Implementing Bill**  
**Page 19**

"Section 30. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 1439 of the 2013-2014 General Appropriations Act and to provide consistency and continuity in the promotion of agriculture throughout the state, notwithstanding s. 287.057, Florida Statutes, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services may extend, revise, and renew current contracts or agreements created or entered into pursuant to chapter 2006-25, Laws of Florida. This section expires July 1, 2014."

While I will not veto Specific Appropriation 1439 for the Florida Agriculture Promotion Campaign, I am disappointed that the Legislature chose to adopt this implementing language that allows the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to extend, revise, and renew current contracts without using the statutorily mandated competitive procurement process. Competitive procurement allows the marketplace to compete for taxpayer dollars in an open and transparent manner. Further, competition instills public confidence in government and ensures that the state will receive the best value possible when spending public funds. Waiving the procedural and competitive safeguards that accompany the award of contracts is not the way that sound government should operate on behalf of its citizens.

Secretary Ken Detzner  
May 20, 2013  
Page Two

As such, I am encouraged that the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has agreed not to exercise the authority granted in this language. The Commissioner has assured me that extensions, revisions, and renewals to current contracts created or entered into pursuant to chapter 2006-25, Laws of Florida, will involve a competitive solicitation in accordance with s. 287.057, Florida Statutes, as is appropriate for the services provided in Specific Appropriation 1439. In addition, prior to the next legislative session, it is imperative that clear measurements be put into place to evaluate the return on investment provided by the Florida Agriculture Promotion Campaign to the state of Florida.

**Section 34 of Senate Bill 1502 - Implementing Bill**  
**Pages 26 - 27**

"Section 34. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 2633 of the 2013-2014 General Appropriations Act, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall contract with the corporation organized under part II of chapter 946, Florida Statutes, to manufacture the current or newly redesigned license tags, such contract being in the same manner and for the same price as paid during the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The corporation shall seek sealed bids for the reflectorized sheeting used in the manufacture of such license tags, and in the event the sealed bids result in any savings in sheeting costs, the corporation shall credit 70 percent of such savings to the department. The county name shall not appear on the redesigned licensed tag. This section expires July 1, 2014."

Section 34 removes the ability of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to make reasonable determinations of need, price, and quality regarding the products and services offered by Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises, Inc. ("PRIDE"), which is currently permitted under section 946.515, Florida Statutes. Additionally, Section 34 is anti-competitive because it improperly favors a single vendor with whom the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles would be required to contract with, regardless of price and other factors. The Legislature has sought to circumvent section 946.515, Florida Statutes, and seeks to evade my veto power by including this item in the implementing bill. Accordingly, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles should determine the proper course of action in light of Section 34's attempted mandate to contract with PRIDE and this statement.

I hereby transmit Senate Bill 1502 with my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", written in a cursive style.

Rick Scott  
Governor