



RIK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

June 14, 2013

Secretary Kenneth W. Detzner
Secretary of State
Florida Department of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Detzner:

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 sign and transmit Committee Substitute for House Bill 655, enacted during the 115th Session of the Legislature of Florida, during the Regular Session of 2013 and entitled:

An act relating to employment benefits...

The bill provides for uniform application of federal and Florida law relating to employee benefits. In doing so, it gives cities and counties the continued flexibility to address benefits for their own employees and contractors. The bill also creates an "Employer-Sponsored Benefits Task Force," that is responsible for analyzing employment benefits and assessing the impact of uniform statewide regulation. The Task Force is directed to report its findings to the Legislature by January 15, 2014.

The bill fosters statewide uniformity, consistency and predictability in Florida's employer-employee relationships. These fundamental elements are essential to ensuring a business-friendly environment that supports job creation. Having a job is the most important thing to any working mother or father and I will continue to fight for policies that encourage job growth. Creating this statewide policy of uniform application safeguards against inconsistency that would jeopardize our continued record of job growth in Florida.

I applaud the Legislature for taking steps to protect Florida's growing economy and fostering a business environment that allows for improved job opportunities.

Secretary Kenneth W. Detzner
June 14, 2013
Page Two

For the reasons stated above, I hereby sign Committee Substitute for House Bill 655 into law.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
Governor

FILED
2013 JUN 14 PM 3:20
LEGISLATIVE CLERK OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA