June 11, 2015

Secretary Kenneth W. Detzner
Secretary of State
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 the State of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby veto and transmit my objections to Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 217, enacted during the 117th Session of the Legislature of Florida, during the Regular Session of 2015 and entitled:

An act relating to Engineers...

This bill creates additional requirements and a new license for current and future engineers who wish to practice structural engineering. These new requirements include passing 16 hours of examinations, but provides an unwarranted mechanism to exempt currently licensed engineers from having to take and pass the qualifying examinations.

Presently, a licensed professional engineer may practice in the area of structural engineering, but beginning on March 1, 2017, the bill prohibits anyone from practicing in that subspecialty unless they meet the new requirements and receive the new structural engineering license. The “grandfathering” provision provides a needless process to exempt currently licensed engineers from the new examination requirement. If there is a need to raise the standards for structural engineering there is no reason to have different requirements for new or existing professionals in the same field.
Secretary Kenneth W. Detzner
June 11, 2015
Page Two

For the reason stated above, I withhold my approval of Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 217 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott
Governor