

PROCLAMATION

STATE OF FLORIDA
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
TALLAHASSEE

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA SENATE AND
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WHEREAS, Lake Okeechobee is Florida's largest lake, supporting valuable commercial and sport fisheries, providing flood control, and acting as a reservoir for much of south Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee has numerous water control structures to provide flood protection, navigation, recreation, freshwater for the communities of south Florida, water for agriculture, prevention of saltwater intrusion, and enhancement of environmental resources; and

WHEREAS, for more than thirty years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has documented that areas of the dike are prone to water seepage and stability problems; and

WHEREAS, on many occasions, the dike's stability problems have led the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to drain lake water west into the Caloosahatchee River and east into the St. Lucie River to ease the strain on the dike, resulting in toxic algae blooms, the killing of coastal fishing grounds, and environmental damage to estuaries; and

WHEREAS, the risk of a dike failure placing in jeopardy the lives and property of Floridians is unacceptable, requiring the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue the release of lake water despite its environmental impacts to ensure the continued safety of the region's residents, underscoring the need for repairs to the dike; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the federal government; the State of Florida has a critical interest in upgrading and fortifying the Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee by 2022; and

WHEREAS, earlier this year, I called on the Legislature to provide additional state funding for repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike; and

WHEREAS, Florida's postsecondary institutions also provide value to Florida students and families; and

WHEREAS, I have called a Special Session commencing at 9:00 a.m. on June 7, 2017, and extending through 6:00 p.m. on June 9, 2017; and

WHEREAS, I have expanded the call of this Special Session to include legislation relating to the medical use of marijuana; and

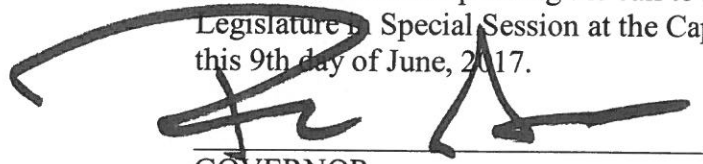
WHEREAS, it is prudent to further expand the call for this Special Session;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by Article III, Section 3(c)(1), Florida Constitution, do hereby proclaim as follows:

The call to the Legislature of the State of Florida is expanded for the sole purpose of considering the following:

- A. Legislation relating to Lake Okeechobee's Herbert Hoover Dike
- B. Legislation relating to higher education funding

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed to this Proclamation expanding the call to the Legislature in Special Session at the Capitol, this 9th day of June, 2017.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE



FILED
2017 JUN -9 PM 1:26
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA