

# ***PROCLAMATION***

## **STATE OF FLORIDA EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR TALLAHASSEE**

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

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature convened on March 7, 2017, with the constitutional obligation to pass a General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2017-18; and

WHEREAS, as a result of sound fiscal management in recent years, the State of Florida has a budget surplus exceeding \$3 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Fighting for Florida's Future budget called for an increase in per-pupil funding for K-12 schools through the Florida Education Finance Program, which would have represented the highest per pupil funding in Florida history; and

WHEREAS, more than 31 million visitors came to Florida in the first quarter of 2017, the highest quarterly visitation in Florida history and a 2.5 percent increase over the same period in 2016; and

WHEREAS, tourism marketing by the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation (VISIT FLORIDA) has been instrumental in the growth of Florida's tourism industry, which supports the jobs of more than 1.4 million Floridians; and

WHEREAS, since I took office, my administration has focused on increasing private investment in Florida, advancing international and domestic trade opportunities, marketing Florida as a pro-business location for new investment, enhancing Florida's ability to attract business in targeted industries and regions, and assisting, promoting, and enhancing economic opportunities in Florida's rural and urban communities; and

WHEREAS, the General Appropriations Act passed by the Florida Legislature provided a \$24.49 increase in per-pupil funding through the Florida Education Finance Program; and

WHEREAS, legislation passed by the Florida Legislature during the 2017 Regular Session would decrease appropriations to VISIT FLORIDA and Enterprise Florida, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, I have carefully reviewed the 2017 General Appropriations Act and have exercised my authority to veto and disapprove appropriations for projects that I have determined fail to provide sufficient benefits to Florida's families; and

WHEREAS, I have also chosen to veto and disapprove the portions of the 2017 General Appropriations Act related to the Florida Education Finance Program based on my determination that a more significant increase in per-pupil funding levels would better meet the needs of our public school system and Florida's families; and

WHEREAS, the appropriations I have chosen to veto are more than sufficient to provide for a meaningful increase in per-pupil funding through the Florida Education Finance Program, increased funding for VISIT FLORIDA's tourism marketing program, and the creation of a new program within the Department of Economic Opportunity to provide funding for public infrastructure projects and for workforce training grants to support programs at state colleges and state technical centers;

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:

Section 1.

The Legislature of the State of Florida is convened in Special Session commencing at 9:00 a.m. on June 7, 2017, and extending through 6:00 p.m., on June 9, 2017.

Section 2.

The Legislature of the State of Florida is convened for the sole and exclusive purpose of considering the following:

- A. Legislation providing for an increase in per-pupil funding through the Florida Education Finance Program as compared to SB 2500 (2017); and related legislation necessary to calculate and implement appropriations through the Florida Education Finance Program.
- B. Legislation providing comprehensive transparency and accountability measures for VISIT FLORIDA and Enterprise Florida, Inc.; establishing a new fund to promote economic opportunity by providing grants to state and local entities for public infrastructure and workforce training; providing increased appropriations to the Department of Economic Opportunity for VISIT FLORIDA, Enterprise Florida, Inc., and economic programs, as compared to HB 5501 (2017); and legislation related to other economic programs addressed in HB 5501 (2017).



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 convening the Legislature in Special Session at the Capitol, this 2nd day of June, 2017.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Ken Ritzman in black ink.

SECRETARY OF STATE

2017 JUN -2 AM 9:30  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED