



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

June 8, 2021

Secretary Laurel Lee  
Secretary of State  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

2021 JUN -8 PM 5:00  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FL  
FILED

Dear Secretary Lee:

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 objection to Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1892 (CS/CS/SB 1892), enacted during the 123<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Legislature of Florida, during Regular Session 2021 and entitled:

**An act relating to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund**

In an effort to provide a layer of financial reserve for future emergencies, I recommended the creation of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund with the intention of seeding the Fund with \$1 billion in funds from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. Initially, we believed the funds received from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund would be more fungible and may be used to support future emergency management needs of the state for unforeseen events.

Unfortunately, after receipt of federal guidance and corresponding federal rules around the use of the Fund, it is clear that the \$1 billion in the General Appropriations Act dedicated for the Emergency Management and Preparedness Response Fund will not be an eligible use, and authorizing the transfer provided in the General Appropriations Act may subject the state to a future obligation of the same amount to be repaid to the federal government. For this reason I vetoed the \$1 billion transfer to the Fund in the General Appropriations Act.

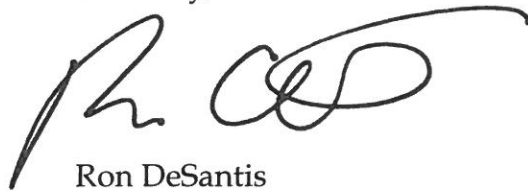
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Florida's hurricane season is now at hand, and the contingent changes to Florida's emergency management statute tied to the enactment of Committee Substitute for CS/CS/SB 1892 would present unmanageable burdens to emergency response efforts of the state during a future disaster. Given this serious concern and the fact that the trust fund would be empty, I regret that I cannot approve the bill at this time.

I believe the Legislature should re-address the establishment of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund in the 2022 Legislative Session as one of the many options available to the state to provide predictable and reliable resources for Florida's emergency management system.

For these reasons, I withhold my approval of CS/CS/SB 1892 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron DeSantis', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ron DeSantis  
Governor