



STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

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JEB BUSH
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June 26, 2003

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

The Honorable Glenda E. Hood
Secretary of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Hood:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby withhold my approval of House Bill 421, enacted during the 35th Session of the Legislature of Florida convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2003, and entitled:

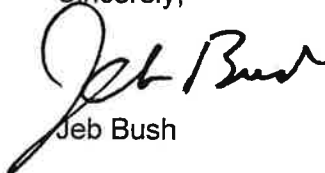
An act relating to Lee County and the City of Cape Coral...

The bill authorizes the City of Cape Coral and Lee County to enter into an interlocal agreement for the municipal annexation of various Lee County-administered areas, all of which are not enclaves, subject to referendum approval. While the bill attempts to include local electorate approval and on face value adheres to my local bill policy, the referendum requires majority approval of the combined electorate of the enclaves described in the bill. Consequently, favorable votes in heavily populated enclaves could completely offset unfavorable votes in less populated enclaves. This design is contrary to the spirit of my local bill policy of requiring referenda in annexations.

There have also been concerns raised by many affected and interested parties, that were made only after passage of the legislation. Because of the faulty referendum process, the violations of the local bill policy, and the number of concerns raised by those that originally proposed this legislation, this bill should not be allowed to become law. I hope that the concerns with this legislation can be addressed more specifically and directly at the local level.

I, therefore, withhold my approval of House Bill 421.

Sincerely,


Jeb Bush



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Handwritten notes:
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