



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

June 12, 2013

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, and Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby veto and transmit my objections to Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 354, enacted during the 115th Session of the Legislature of Florida, during the Regular Session of 2013, and entitled:

An act relating to ad valorem tax exemptions...

This bill provides that the ad valorem property tax exemption for property owned by the federal government extends to any leasehold interest of and improvements affixed to land owned by the federal government, if the leasehold interest and improvements are acquired or constructed and used pursuant to the U.S. Military Housing Privatization Initiative of 1996. The exemption only applies to leasehold interests and improvements that are used to provide housing for persons on active duty in the military or their dependents.

While the bill, as originally filed, was well-intentioned, a floor amendment may have had the unintended consequence of imposing property taxes on portions of housing developments on federal military installations that are currently fully exempt from such taxation. This will hurt Florida's military installations, which are essential to the economic vitality of our local communities and our state. I strongly oppose any increase in taxes, especially those associated with the provision of housing for our military families.

For these reasons, I withhold my approval of Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 354 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott
Governor

2013 JUN 12 PM 5:56
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED