



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

June 1, 2009

Secretary Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
Department of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

FILED
2009 JUN 1 11 5:33
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as the Governor of Florida, and under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby withhold my approval of and transmit to you my objections to, Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 714, enacted during the 41st Session of the Legislature of Florida, convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2009 and entitled:

An act relating to Condominiums...

This bill makes several changes to laws that are important to Floridians residing in condominiums, including modifying the requirement that condominium unit owners maintain property insurance coverage on items located within the boundaries of their units. The bill generally clarifies insurance provisions as they relate to unit owners and condominium associations and the requirements governing board members of condominium associations. However, the bill also includes changes that give me, as they did my predecessor, great concern.

This bill, similar to House Bill 391 passed during the 2006 Session and vetoed by Governor Bush, extends the date after which local authorities may require the retrofit of applicable residential common areas with a fire sprinkler system from 2014 to 2025. I share Governor Bush's concerns that this delay presents an unacceptable safety risk, especially to Florida's elderly condominium residents. I am sensitive to the costs associated with installing the fire sprinkler systems, especially in these challenging economic times. However, in the event of a fire, public safety for residents and for the firefighters and emergency medical personnel who lay their lives on the line to provide services greatly outweigh all other considerations.

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June 1, 2009
Page Two

I am directing the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to initiate a comprehensive review of actual retrofit costs and the impacts that retrofitting may have on insurance premiums. The department may conduct workshops, as necessary, to solicit input from all stakeholders and must report its finding and recommendations to myself and the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 1, 2009.

For this reason, I withhold my approval of Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 714, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Crist". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

Charlie Crist