



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

April 6, 2012

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

FILED
2012 APR -6 PM 4:41
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Dear Secretary Detzner:

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 objections to House Bill 865 enacted during the 114th Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2012 and entitled:

An act relating to Pinellas County Suncoast Transit Authority...

The bill would require the Pinellas County Suncoast Transit Authority to stop collecting its ad valorem tax revenue, if county voters approve a one percent Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax, pursuant to section 212.055(1), Florida Statutes.

If the taxpayers of Pinellas County approve the sales tax surcharge, the Transit Authority has the ability to cease collection of the ad valorem tax and prevent "double taxation," without the mandatory language of this bill.

The bill also provides an opportunity for proponents of the sales tax to use this legislation to build support for approval of a local referendum. Promoting the sales tax in place of property taxes as "a swap" will result in a large overall tax increase in the county.

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For the reasons stated above, I withhold my approval of House Bill 865, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a distinct "S".

Rick Scott
Governor