



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

June 6, 2017

Secretary Kenneth W. Detzner
Secretary of State
Florida Department of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

FILED
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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 House Bill 1401, enacted during the 119th Session of the Legislature of Florida, during the Regular Session of 2017, and entitled:

An act relating to East Mulloch Drainage District, Lee County...

The East Mulloch Drainage District (the District) is an independent special district, which was created in 1963 for the specific purpose of providing drainage and water control services in Lee County. The District may currently impose an annual maintenance tax on residents of up to \$30.10 per acre to fund costs of maintenance, operation, and administration. According to the District's annual financial reports, the District has maintained a positive cash flow and a growing reserve fund in recent years. Despite these surplus revenues, the District has spent less than one-half of the amount recommended in a 2008 report by the Department of Financial Services to adequately maintain the drainage structures.

This bill removes the current cap on allowable maintenance tax and authorizes the District to levy additional non-ad valorem assessments in order to provide more revenue for the cost of maintenance. Increasing taxes and fees on residents in the District is not the most appropriate means for the District to achieve its purpose, particularly when positive assets and reserves are currently available. For the reasons stated above, I withhold my approval of House Bill 1401 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Rick Scott", written over a large, loopy scribble.

Rick Scott
Governor