

July 8, 2004

Ms. Glenda E. Hood
Secretary of State
Florida Department of State
R. A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 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 and transmit to you with my objections, House Bill 1391, enacted during the 106th Session of the Legislature of Florida, since Statehood in 1845, convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2004, and entitled:

An act relating to Broward County . . .

The bill provides for annexation of the unincorporated area known as Boulevard Gardens by either the City of Lauderdale Lakes or the City of Lauderhill. The referendum is worded in such a fashion that residents are granted a choice to be annexed into either of two potential cities, but only if each of these cities concurs to be considered as an option.

This legislation differs from other bills brought forward by Broward County during this past legislative session, each of which was a comprehensively evaluated annexation proposal. Given the county's unique annexation situation, it seems prudent to also employ a comprehensive approach to the central county unincorporated area, rather than address the issues in piecemeal fashion. Indeed, on June 21, 2004, the City of Lauderdale Lakes endorsed such an approach by initiating an annexation process that would address the central county area in its entirety. Other such comprehensive approaches may be possible and should be explored. This proposal is also flawed because it creates the possibility that the annexed area will not be contiguous to either potential annexing city. Further, given that only one municipality has opted to be included as an option for annexation, the practical effect of this bill creates a situation where the area will not be contiguous to the annexing city.

In January 2002, a local bill policy was established which guides my review of local bills. The foundation of this policy is local control and responsible stewardship for the residents of Florida.

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Because this annexation proposes an approach that does not comprehensively address the entire central county area, a choice to annex into a city that is not contiguous, and proposes an action that can be accomplished at the local level, I am unwilling to approve this bill.

For these reasons, I therefore withhold my approval of House Bill 1391 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Jeb Bush