



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

May 24, 2019

Secretary Laurel M. Lee
Secretary of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Lee:

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 HB 1417, enacted during the 121st Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2019 and entitled:

An act relating to Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District, Brevard County

HB 1417 revises the voting requirements of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners when voting to increase taxes assessed within the Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District by requiring a super-majority vote of commissioners. Under current law, both county commissioners representing the areas within the Special District must concur for any tax increase on citizens living within the Special District to be enacted. However, HB 1417 permits tax increases on citizens living in the Special District even if the commissioners who represent these communities dissent. Therefore, this measure dilutes the representation of the citizens living within the Special District, of whom the increase in taxes would affect. Those who are saddled with additional taxation should have the ability to hold someone accountable.

Since the Brevard County Commission Districts are not at-large and have boundaries, I believe there should be more than a fifty-percent necessity for approval when attempting to increase or change the fees on the citizens you represent. One of the County Commissioners representing the Special District should not have the authority to change the fees on those living within the entirety of the Special District.

For the reasons stated above, I withhold my approval of HB 1417 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Ron DeSantis
Governor

FILED
2019 MAY 29 PM 4:34
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA