



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

FILED

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

June 26, 2024

Secretary Cord Byrd
Secretary of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Byrd:

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 objection to Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 165 (CS/CS/HB 165), enacted during the 126th Session of the Legislature of Florida during the Regular Session of 2024 and entitled:

An act relating to Sampling of Beach Waters and Public Bathing Spaces

CS/CS/HB 165 suffers from a fatal infirmity: it grants authority to the Florida Department of Health (DOH) to close beaches, waterways, and swimming pools. Health Departments like DOH can serve a valuable function, but they should not be vested with the power to supersede local jurisdictions regarding the operation of beaches. I have made water quality and protecting Florida's natural resources a priority and my Administration will continue to do so, but this grant of power to DOH over Florida beaches is ill-advised.

For these reasons, I withhold my approval of CS/CS/HB 165 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis".

Ron DeSantis
Governor