



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

June 28, 2019

Secretary Laurel Lee
Secretary of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 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 objection to Committee Substitute for House Bill 629, enacted during the 121st Session of the Legislature of Florida, during Regular Session 2019 and entitled:

An act relating to Lottery Games...

The Florida Lottery was created through a constitutional amendment for the purpose of maximizing revenues for public education in Florida in a manner consonant with the dignity of the state and welfare of its citizens. Since its inception the Florida Lottery has contributed more than \$35 billion to education and has helped over 800,000 students receive a college education through Bright Futures scholarships.

Florida Statutes directs the Lottery to function as much as possible in the manner of an entrepreneurial business enterprise. The lottery has been successful due to its innovative products, creative positive marketing, cooperative relationship with its network of over 13,000 retailers and participation in multi-state games. The regulations imposed by the bill would impact the Lottery's ability to continue to take advantage of all these avenues and have the potential to impact the revenues available for educational enhancement. Although the specific negative impact of the bill is unknown because the Revenue Estimating Conference was unable to reach consensus, the Lottery's detailed analysis indicates that the provisions in the bill would, at a minimum, reduce education funding by \$79.4 million annually and have the potential to reduce available funding by as much as \$232.7 million annually.

FILED
2019 JUN 28 PM 5:21
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Secretary Laurel Lee
June 28, 2019
Page Two

As Governor, one of my key priorities is making higher education affordable for Florida families. This bill reduces the Lottery's ability to continue to maximize revenues for education and negatively impacts Florida students. For the reasons stated above, I withhold my approval of Committee Substitute for House Bill 629, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron DeSantis', is written over the typed name and title.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

FILED

2019 JUN 28 PM 5:21

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA