



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

March 25, 2016

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

FILED
2016 MAR 25 PM 1:21
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Dear Secretary Detzner:

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 Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 1355, enacted during the 118th Session of the Legislature of Florida, during the Regular Session of 2016 and entitled:

An act relating to the City of Gainesville, Alachua County...

This bill creates the Gainesville Regional Utilities Authority (Authority), an independent governing body tasked with managing and operating Gainesville Regional Utilities, the utility company owned by the City of Gainesville. The Authority's members are appointed by the Gainesville City Commission.

Additionally, the bill provides compensation for each of the five appointed members of the Authority of up to \$18,000 annually and allows salaries to be adjusted each year based on the Consumer Price Index. Across Florida, hundreds of appointees serve on boards with critical governance and regulatory responsibilities for which the appointees are not compensated. The success of similar utility authorities that do not compensate board members demonstrates that qualified individuals will answer the call to serve the public, without consideration of a taxpayer supported payment.

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For these reasons, I withhold my approval of Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 1355 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rick Scott
Governor