



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

April 15, 2016

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

FILED
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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 Senate Bill 668, enacted during the 118th Session of the Legislature of Florida, during the Regular Session of 2016 and entitled:

An act relating to family law...

The bill makes various changes to the laws governing the dissolution of marriage, spousal support, and time-sharing. First off, I would like to commend Senators Stargel and Lee, and Representatives Burton and Workman for their diligent efforts to reform Florida's dissolution of marriage and alimony laws.

As a husband, father, and grandfather, I understand the importance of family and the sensitivity and passion that comes with the subject of family law. Family law issues are very personal, and nearly every family comes to the court with different circumstances and needs. As such, we must be judicious and carefully consider the long term and real life repercussions on Florida families.

This bill's proposed revisions to Florida's alimony and child custody laws have evoked passionate reactions from thousands of Floridians because divorce affects families in many different ways. The one constant though is that when a divorce involves a minor child, the needs of the child must come before all others. Current law directs a judge to consider the needs and interests of the children first when determining a parenting plan and time-sharing schedule. This bill has the potential to

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up-end that policy in favor of putting the wants of a parent before the child's best interest by creating a premise of equal time-sharing. Our judges must consider each family's unique situation and abilities and put the best interests of the child above all else.

For the reasons stated above, I withhold my approval of Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 668 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", with a large, sweeping flourish at the beginning.

Rick Scott
Governor