

Swampy Moves

May 6, 2019

Late Friday, in the closing hours of Florida's legislative session, an amendment "was thrown onto the lifeboat of a different, unrelated bill in a last-ditch effort," reported the *Miami Herald*, "to limit citizen-driven ballot initiatives."



Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (R)

With poisonous provisions appended, House Bill 5 rushed through both chambers in mere hours with party-line GOP support. It's now headed to the desk of Republican Governor Ron DeSantis (R) for a signature.

Or, better yet, a *veto*.

The legislation forbids campaigns from paying more to petition circulators who work harder and gather more voter signatures. Years ago, California Governor

makes productivity goals a crime."

Surely, Gov. DeSantis is as adverse to government regulations and red-tape as was Governor Moonbeam.

HB 5 also mandates that a bold statement be placed on the ballot next to any measure estimated to have "increased costs, decreased revenues, a negative impact on the state or local economy, or an indeterminate impact for any of these areas." Wait . . . if this information is so important to voters, why only inform them when the message is "negative" or "indeterminate," but not when *positive*?

The sneaky maneuver "goes to show," Florida Conservation Voters Director Alikei Moncrief noted, "how little respect [legislators] have for Florida voters." The leader of one ballot measure effort called it the "ultimate of swampy moves."

Ask Gov. DeSantis to defend the voters by vetoing HB 5 — call (850) 488-7146 or email him.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.

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Jerry Brown vetoed an identically ridiculous and mean-spirited prohibition passed by that state's Democratic-dominated legislature, writing: "It doesn't seem very practical to me to create a system that