

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
2017 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED  
**Committee on Transportation**

**CS/SB 164 — Certificates of Title for Motor Vehicles**

by Transportation Committee and Senators Grimsley and Baxley

The bill prohibits the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and tax collectors from charging a surviving spouse any fee or service charge, excluding an expedited title fee, if applicable, for a motor vehicle certificate of title when the title is being issued solely to remove the deceased coowner from the title.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2017.

*Vote: Senate 38-0; House 118-0*

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
2017 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED  
**Committee on Transportation**

**HB 299 — Central Florida Expressway Authority**

by Rep. Goodson (SB 720 by Senator Mayfield)

The bill adds Brevard County to the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) by:

- Increasing the number of governing body members from nine to ten;
- Adding the Brevard County Commission chair to the list of chairs authorized to appoint a member to the CFX;
- Adding Brevard County to the list of counties the citizens of which may be appointed by the Governor to serve on the authority;
- Adding the geographical boundary of Brevard County to the area served by the CFX;
- Increasing the number of members constituting a quorum from five to six; and
- Adding Brevard County to the list of counties outside the jurisdictional boundaries of which the CFX may undertake the specified activities with the consent of the county within whose jurisdiction the activities occur, to conform to changes made by the act.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2017.

*Vote: Senate 36-0; House 112-0*

## Committee on Transportation

### **CS/CS/SB 368 — Transportation Facility Designations**

by Appropriations Committee; Transportation Committee; and Senators Montford and Campbell

The bill creates a number of honorary designations of transportation facilities around the state and directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers.

Designations are as follows:

- Bridge number 380096 on U.S. 221/S.R. 55 over the Econfina River in Taylor County is designated as “Private First Class Joey Moody Bridge.”
- S.R. 80 between Hickey Creek Road and Carter Lane in Lee County is designated as “Corporal Joseph R. Bertrand Memorial Highway.”
- Interstate 75/S.R. 93A between Fowler Avenue and Fletcher Avenue in Hillsborough County is designated as “Lieutenant Benedict J. Thomas Memorial Highway.”
- The Homestead Extension of the Florida Turnpike/S.R. 821 between mile marker 34 and mile marker 36 in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Trooper Patrick Ambroise Memorial Highway.”
- U.S. 98/S.R. 30 between Ryan Drive/W. 11th Street and N.E./S.E. 12th Street in Franklin County is designated as “SP4 Robert Clifford Millender Memorial Highway.”
- S.R. 53 between U.S. 90/S.R. 10 and the Georgia state line in Madison County is designated as “Joe C. Peavy Highway.”
- U.S. 19/S.R. 55 between the Pinellas County line and the Hernando County line in Pasco County is designated as “Gulf Coast Highway.”
- Davis Boulevard between Adalia Avenue and Adriatic Avenue in Hillsborough County is designated as “Helen Gordon Davis Boulevard.”
- N. Willow Avenue between W. Cypress Street and W. Cass Street in Hillsborough County is designated as “Francisco A. Rodriguez Avenue.”
- N. Garcia Avenue between W. Palm Avenue and W. Ross Avenue in Hillsborough County is designated as “Olympian Theresa Manuel Way.”
- Miami Avenue between N.E. 5th Street and U.S. 41/S.R. 90/S.E. 7th Street in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Robert L. Shevin Memorial Boulevard.”
- U.S. 19/98 South between mile marker 23 and mile marker 25 in Levy County is designated as “Deputy A. Hagood Ellzey Memorial Highway.”
- U.S. 441/S.R. 7 between N.W. 52nd Street and N.W. 65th Street in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Muhammad Ali Boulevard.”
- S.R. 922 between N.E. 10th Avenue and N. Bayshore Drive in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Stanley G. Tate Boulevard.”
- U.S. 27/S.R. 25 between W. 9th Street and E./S.E. 1st Avenue within the City of Hialeah is designated as “Herman Echevarria Way.”
- S.R. 997/Krome Avenue between S.W. 344th Street and S.W. 177th Court in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Robert M. Levy Memorial Boulevard.”
- S.R. 438 between John Young Parkway and Pine Hills Road in Orange County is designated as “Lieutenant Debra Clayton Memorial Highway.”

- C.R. 431/Pine Hills Road between Silver Star Road and S.R. 50 in Orange County is designated as “First Class Deputy Norman Lewis Memorial Highway.”
- I-375/S.R. 592 between I-275 and S.R. 595/4th Avenue in Pinellas County is designated as “C. Bette Wimbish Highway.”
- S.R. 349 between U.S. 98/S.R. 55 in Dixie County and S.R. 20 in Lafayette County is designated as “Joe Anderson, Jr., Memorial Highway.”
- The pair of bridges, bridge numbers 900110 and 900111, over Pine Channel on U.S. 1/S.R. 5 in Monroe County is designated as the “Irene U. Hooper Memorial Bridges.”
- U.S. 1/S.R. 15 between 5th Avenue and C.R. 108 in Nassau County is designated as “Emmitt G. Coakley Memorial Highway.”
- U.S. 98/S.R. 30 between Rosewood Drive in Okaloosa County and Sunrise Drive in Santa Rosa County is designated as “Warren E. ‘Charlie’ and Shirley Brown Memorial Highway.”
- U.S. 90 from Chumuckla Highway to Woodbine Road in Santa Rosa County is designated as “Sheriff Wendell Hall Highway.”
- S.R. 580 in Pinellas County is designated as “Senator Gerald S. ‘Jerry’ Rehm Highway.”
- Bridge number 570172 on U.S. 90/S.R. 10 over the Yellow River in Okaloosa County is designated as “William H. ‘Bill’ Mapoles Bridge.”
- Bridge number 570175 on 77th Special Forces Way over State Road 85 in Okaloosa County is designated as “Brigadier General Thomas ‘Mark’ Stogsdill Memorial Overpass.”
- S.R. 408 between Kirkman Road and Clarke Road in Orange County is designated as “Arnold Palmer Expressway.”
- C.R. 1476/N.E. 8th Avenue between N.E. 15th Street and N.E. 26th Terrace in Alachua County is designated as “Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Wright Boulevard.”
- Palm Avenue between Pembroke Road and Miramar Parkway in Broward County is designated as “Candice Ellize Francois Street.”
- S.R. 9/N.W. 27th Avenue between S.R. 934/N.W. 79th Street and N.W. 41st Street in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Georgia Ayers Way.”
- N.W. 32nd Avenue between N.W. 87th Street and N.W. 83rd Street in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Dr. Clifford Garfield O’Connor Street.”
- U.S. 441/S.R. 7 between N.W. 155th Lane and N.W. 151st Street in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Robert ‘Bobby’ L. Parker, Sr., Memorial Highway.”
- Bridge number 870054 on S.R. 112/W. 41st Street/Arthur Godfrey Road in Miami Beach is designated as the “Senator Paul B. Steinberg Bridge.”
- U.S. 1 between Broward Boulevard and Sunrise Boulevard, in Broward County, is designated as “The Hope and Healing Highway.”
- S.R. 60 between the Hillsborough County line and Mandalay Avenue in Pinellas County is designated as “Purple Heart Trail.”
- S.R. 19 between S.R. 50 and C.R. 478/Cherry Lake Road in Lake County is designated as “Sergeant Marvin L. Roberts Memorial Highway.”
- U.S. 129/S.R. 51 between I-75 in Hamilton County and I-10 in Suwannee County is designated as “Historic Suwannee River Scenic Parkway.”

- SunRail Bridge Number 750255 over U.S. 17/92/S.R. 15 in Orange County is designated as “Reverend Kenneth C. Crossman Bridge.”
- U.S. 29/Pensacola Boulevard between W Street and Marcus Pointe Boulevard/Stumpfield Road in Escambia County is designated as “Wilbur Barry Highway.”
- Bridge Number 860920 over the Stranahan River in Broward County is designated as “John U. Lloyd Bridge.”
- U.S. 41/S.R. 90/S.W. 8th Street between S.W. 53rd Avenue and S.W. 56th Avenue in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Lorenzo de Toro Way.”
- S.W. 22nd Street between S.R. 933/S.W. 12th Avenue and S.W. 13th Avenue in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Luis Fernando Brande Street.”
- U.S. 441/S.R. 500/Orange Blossom Trail between Lake View Drive/Lake Street and S.R. 451 in Orange County is designated as “Anelie Cadet Way.”
- S.R. 909/W. Dixie Highway between N.E. 6th Avenue and N.E. 10th Avenue in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Phares Duverne Highway.”
- N.W. 2nd Avenue between N.W. 103rd Street and N.W. 111th Street in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Carmelau Monestime Street.”
- 27th Avenue between 54th Street and 215th Street in Miami-Dade County is designated as “Jessie Trice Way.”
- U.S. 41/S.R. 45/Tamiami Trail between Corkscrew Road and Coconut Road in Lee County is designated as “Coach Jeff Sommer Memorial Highway.”
- Bridge Number 500087 on I-10 over the Apalachicola River in Gadsden and Jackson Counties is designated as “Rep. J. Troy Peacock Bridge.”
- U.S. 90/S.R. 10 between N. Woodward Avenue and Wadsworth Street in Leon County is designated as “Danny A. Pino Way.”

The bill also revises two previously enacted designations:

- Broad Causeway Boulevard in Miami-Dade County, designated in 1951, is revised to the “Shepard Broad Causeway,” to reflect the full name of the founder of Bay Harbor Islands.
- Reverend Wilner Maxi Street in Miami-Dade County, designated in 2014, is revised to “Reverend Wilner Maxy Street,” to correct the spelling of the Reverend’s surname.

The bill requires the FDOT to erect appropriate signage, at intervals determined by the FDOT along the portion of S.R. 589/Veterans Expressway between S.R. 60 in Hillsborough County and U.S. 98 in Hernando County, commemorating each of the following conflicts involving the United State Armed Forces:

- World War I.
- World War II.
- The Korean War.
- The Vietnam War.
- Operation Desert Shield.
- Operation Desert Storm.
- Operation Enduring Freedom.

- Operation Iraqi Freedom.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2017

*Vote: Senate 34-0; House 120-0*

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
2017 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED  
**Committee on Transportation**

**CS/HB 493 — Enhanced Safety for School Crossings**

by Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee; and Rep. Toledo and others (SB 1416 by Senators Young and Passidomo)

The bill requires the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to evaluate the viability and cost of a uniform system of pavement markings and signage for use on all state and local arterial or collector roads within a one-mile radius of all public and private schools for the purpose of designating safe school crossing locations.

Before January 1, 2018, the FDOT must submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives providing the findings of its study and any recommendations for legislation relating to safe school crossing locations.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2017.

*Vote: Senate 36-0; House 119-0*

## Committee on Transportation

### **CS/CS/CS/HB 695 — South Florida Regional Transportation Authority**

by Government Accountability Committee; Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee; and Rep. Santiago (CS/CS/SB 842 by Appropriations Committee; Transportation Committee; and Senator Galvano)

The bill authorizes the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) to enter into contractual indemnification agreements, subject to certain parameters, with All Aboard Florida (AAF) and Florida East Coast Railway (FECR) on a rail corridor owned by AAF or FECR and in which all three entities operate rail service. The bill authorizes the SFRTA to purchase railroad liability insurance of \$295 million per occurrence, with a \$5 million self-insurance retention account, and limits the SFRTA's obligation to indemnify to the insurance coverage amount.

The bill authorizes the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT or department) to assume the obligations to indemnify and insure under such contractual agreements any freight rail service, intercity passenger service, and commuter rail service on a department-owned rail corridor or on a rail corridor where the FDOT has the right to operate.

The bill also deems funds provided by the FDOT to the SFRTA to be state financial assistance subject to specified requirements. The bill requires the FDOT to provide funds to the SFRTA in accordance with a written agreement containing certain provisions and authorizes the FDOT to advance 25 percent of total funding at the start of each fiscal year, with monthly payments over the fiscal year from the State Transportation Trust Fund to the SFRTA for maintenance and dispatch on the South Florida Rail Corridor on a reimbursement basis.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2017.

*Vote: Senate 32-0; House 111-6*



THE FLORIDA SENATE  
2017 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED  
**Committee on Transportation**

**CS/HB 711 — Vessel Registrations**

by Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee; and Rep. Magar and others (CS/SB 718 by Transportation Committee and Senator Powell)

The bill reduces state vessel registration fees for recreational vessels equipped with a qualifying emergency position-indicating radio beacon or whose owner owns a qualifying personal locator beacon. The beacon must be registered with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to receive the reduced vessel registration fee.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2017.

*Vote: Senate 34-0; House 116-0*

## Committee on Transportation

### **CS/CS/HB 775 — Motor Vehicle Warranty Repairs and Recall Repairs**

by Commerce Committee; Careers and Competition Subcommittee; and Rep. Diaz, M. and others (CS/CS/CS/SB 466 by Rules Committee; Commerce and Tourism Committee; Transportation Committee; and Senators Hutson, Gainer, and Broxson)

The bill prohibits a licensed motor vehicle manufacturer, distributor, or importer (licensee), notwithstanding the terms of any franchise agreement, and except as authorized by law upon detection of fraudulent payments, from denying a dealer's claim, reducing the dealer's compensation, or processing a chargeback to a dealer for performing covered warranty or recall repairs on a used motor vehicle due to:

- A dealer's discovery of a need for such repairs during the course of a separate repair requested by the consumer; or
- Notification by the dealer to the consumer of the need for such repairs after issuance of an outstanding recall for a safety-related defect.

The bill also requires a licensee, excluding a motorcycle licensee, who has a franchise agreement with a motor vehicle dealer to compensate the dealer for a used motor vehicle that:

- Is of the same make and model manufactured, imported, or distributed by the licensee;
- Is subject to a recall notice, including a notice issued prior to July 1, 2017, regardless of whether the vehicle is identified by its vehicle identification number;
- Is held in the dealer's inventory at the time the recall notice was issued, or taken into the dealer's inventory after the recall notice due to a consumer trade-in or lease return;
- Cannot be repaired due to unavailability of a remedy for the vehicle within 30 days after issuance of the recall notice; and
- For which the licensee has not issued a written statement to the dealer indicating the vehicle may be sold or delivered to a customer before completion of the recall repair.

Such compensation must be the greater of:

- At least 1.5 percent of the motor vehicle's value for each month, or portion of a month, that the dealer does not receive a remedy for the vehicle; or
- Payment under a national program applicable to all motor vehicle dealers holding a franchise agreement with the licensee for the dealer's costs associated with holding the eligible used vehicle.

Payment shall be calculated from the 31<sup>st</sup> day after the recall was issued, the 31<sup>st</sup> day after the vehicle was acquired, or July 1, 2017, whichever is latest.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2017.

*Vote: Senate 36-0; House 116-0*

## Committee on Transportation

### **CS/CS/CS/HB 865 — Department of Transportation**

by Government Accountability Committee; Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee; and Rep. Williamson and others (CS/CS/SB 1118 by Appropriations Committee; Transportation Committee; and Senators Gainer and Rouson)

The bill contains the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) 2017 Legislative Package, as well as additional transportation-related provisions. More specifically, the bill:

- Directs the FDOT, in consultation with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, to develop a Florida Smart City Challenge Grant Program allowing applicants to compete for funding for demonstrated and documented adoption of emerging technologies and their impact on the transportation system.
- Increases the allowable gross vehicle weight for vehicles using natural-gas fueling systems by up to 2,000 pounds under certain conditions, resulting in a reduced overweight penalty and avoiding a potential loss of federal funds;
- Aligns state and federal law by mandating bridge inspections at intervals as required by the Federal Highway Administration, as opposed to intervals not exceeding two years, resulting in compliance with revised national bridge inspection requirements and avoiding a potential diversion of federal funds;
- Increase the current \$120,000 cap on "fast response" contracts to \$250,000 to account for increased construction costs due to inflation;
- Authorizes the FDOT and certain local governmental entities to prescribe and enforce reasonable rules or regulations with reference to placing and maintaining within the right-of-way limits of any road or publicly owned rail corridors under their respective jurisdictions any voice or data communications services lines or wireless facilities;
- Allows turnpike bonds to be validated at the option of the Division of Bond Finance and limits the location of publication of certain related notices to Leon County;
- Requires the FDOT to undertake an economic feasibility study relating to the acquisition of the Garcon Point Bridge and to submit the completed study to the Governor, the Senate President, and the House Speaker by January 1, 2018;
- Exempts emergency work program amendments from a requirement for Legislative Budget Commission review and approval of any work program amendment in excess of \$3 million that also adds a new project, or phase thereof, to the adopted work program, under specified conditions;
- Repeals the Florida Highway Beautification Council, leaving the FDOT to administer the award of grants for beautification of the State Highway System;
- Defines "department" to mean the FDOT for purposes of part II of ch. 343, F.S., relating to the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA);
- Prohibits the SFRTA from entering into, extending, or renewing any contract without the FDOT's prior review and written approval of the proposed expenditures if such contract may be funded with FDOT-provided funds;
- Deems funds provided by the FDOT to the SFRTA to be state financial assistance subject to specified requirements;

- Requires the FDOT to provide funds to the SFRTA in accordance with a written agreement containing certain provisions;
- Authorizes the FDOT to advance funds to the SFTA at the start of each fiscal year, with monthly payments for maintenance and dispatch on the South Florida rail Corridor over the fiscal year on a reimbursement basis, and requires a reconciliation of the advance against remaining invoices in the last quarter of the fiscal year;
- Required the FDOT, on or before October 31, 2017, to submit to the Governor, the Senate President, and the House Speaker a report providing a comprehensive review of the boundaries and headquarters of each of the FDOT's districts and to provide, along with its report, a study on the expenses associated with creating an additional district with the FDOT's Fort Myers urban office as the district headquarters;
- Authorizes the FDOT secretary to enroll the state in any federal pilot program or project for the collection and study of data for the review of federal or state roadway safety, infrastructure sustainability, congestion mitigation, transportation system efficiency, autonomous vehicle technology, or capacity challenges; and
- Revises cross-references and makes conforming changes.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2017.

*Vote: Senate 33-0; House 118-0*

## Committee on Transportation

### **CS/HB 1049 — Limited Access and Toll Facilities**

by Government Accountability Committee; and Reps. Avila, Nuñez and others (CS/CS/SB 1562 by Appropriations Committee; Transportation Committee; and Senators Garcia and Campbell)

The bill, subject to certain requirements, prohibits the Miami-Dade County Expressway Authority (MDX) from increasing its tolls unless justified by an independent traffic and revenue study, except to adjust for inflation. The MDX board must approve toll increases by a two-thirds vote. The bill limits the amount of toll revenues used by the MDX for administrative expenses to not greater than ten percent above the annual state average of administrative costs, determined by the Florida Transportation Commission, based on the annual administrative expenses, as defined, of all expressway authorities of this state. The bill requires a distance of five miles between main through-lane tolling points on transportation facilities constructed after July 1, 2017. Subject to any bond covenants, the bill requires the MDX to reduce by at least five percent, but not more than ten percent, the toll charged for SunPass users of its facilities at the time the toll is incurred.

The MDX must dedicate at least 20 percent, but no more than 50 percent, of certain surplus revenues to transportation- and transit-related expenses for projects in the MDX's service area. The metropolitan planning organization for Miami-Dade County is directed to annually list a project or projects within the county to be funded by the MDX's dedicated revenues, with the MDX selecting from the list those expenses that have a rational nexus, as defined, to the MDX's transportation facilities. Miami-Dade County is required to have specified periodic financial audits of the revenues and expenditures of the county's transportation plan conducted by an independent third party and to post the audits on the county's website, to be eligible to receive the MDX's dedicated surplus revenues. The MDX is required to have periodic audits conducted by an independent third party, and to post the audit reports on its website, along with additional financial and operating information.

The bill authorizes the FDOT to require use of an electronic transponder interoperable with the FDOT's electronic toll collection system for the use of high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes, including express lanes on the turnpike system. Implementation of variable pricing in express lanes on the turnpike system is restricted based on certain level-of-service or highway capacity criteria. Effective July 1, 2018, the bill requires the FDOT to charge a customer the minimum express lane toll if the customer's average travel speed falls below 40 miles per hour, and that a customer be charged a general toll lane toll amount plus an amount set by FDOT rule if the customer's average travel speed falls below 40 miles per hour in an express lane on the turnpike system. The bill also extends the time frame (from 2017 to 2027) during which the FDOT is required to program sufficient funds in the tentative work program such that the percentage of turnpike toll and bond financed commitments in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties is at least 90 percent of the share of net toll collections attributable to users of the turnpike system in those counties, as compared to total net toll collections attributable to users of the turnpike system.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2017

*Vote: Senate 36-0; House 117-0*

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
2017 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED  
**Committee on Transportation**

**HB 1169 — Transportation Facility Designations**

by Rep. Sprowls and others (SB 1390 by Senators Latvala and Simpson)

The bill designates the portion of U.S. 19A/S.R. 595 between Tarpon Avenue and the Pasco County line in Pinellas County as “Officer Charles ‘Charlie K’ Kondek, Jr., Memorial Highway” and directs the Florida Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2017.

*Vote: Senate 33-0; House 117-0*

## Committee on Transportation

### **CS/CS/HB 1175 — Motor Vehicle Manufacturers and Dealers**

by Commerce Committee; Careers and Competition Subcommittee; and Rep. Diaz, M. (CS/SB 1678 by Transportation Committee and Senators Garcia and Campbell)

The bill address issues related to contracts between licensed motor vehicle manufacturers, distributors, and importers (licensees), and motor vehicle dealers. Specifically, the bill provides:

- A dealer who completes any licensee-approved program related to facility construction, improvements, renovations, expansion, remodeling, or alterations, or installation of signs or other image elements is in full compliance with the licensee's requirements related to the new, remodeled, improved, renovated, expanded, replaced, or altered facilities, signs, and image elements for a ten-year period following such completion; and
- A dealer who has completed a prior approved facility incentive program, standard, or policy during the ten-year period but does not comply with the provisions related to facility, sign, or image under a revised or new program is not eligible for the revised or new benefits, but is entitled to all prior benefits plus any increase in benefits between the prior and new or revised program during the remainder of the ten-year period.

The bill also prohibits a licensee from establishing, implementing, or enforcing criteria for measuring sales or service performance of franchised dealers which have a negative material or adverse effect on any dealer and are unfair, unreasonable, arbitrary, or inequitable, or which do not include all applicable local and regional criteria, data, and facts. A licensee, common entity, or affiliate thereof that seeks to establish, implement, or enforce such performance measurements must, upon request of the dealer, describe in writing how the performance measurement criteria were designed, calculated, established, and uniformly applied.

The bill reenacts ss. 320.60-320.70, F.S., to incorporate changes made by the bill.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

*Vote: Senate 37-0; House 104-12*

## Committee on Transportation

### **CS/CS/SB 1672 — Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority**

by Community Affairs Committee; Transportation Committee; and Senators Latvala, Galvano, Rouson, and Young

The bill renames the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority as the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (Transit Authority) and makes a conforming name change to create the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Chairs Coordinating Committee within the Transit Authority. The bill also revises the short title and definitions; revises membership, appointment, term, and quorum requirements; requires the governing board to conduct an evaluation of specified committees; deletes requirements relating to establishment of certain other committees; and revises the new Transit Authority's express purposes to reflect the bill's changes.

Additionally, the bill requires the Transit Authority to develop and adopt a regional transit development plan integrating the transit development plans of participant counties, to include a prioritization of regionally significant transit projects and facilities. The Transit Authority must provide to the Senate President and the House Speaker a plan to produce the regional transit development plan on or before the beginning of the 2018 Regular Session. The plan must adhere to guidance and regulations of the Florida Department of Transportation.

The bill also:

- Requires an action by the Transit Authority regarding state funding of commuter rail, heavy rail transit, or light rail transit to be approved by a majority vote of each MPO serving the county or counties where such rail investment will be made and the approval by an act of the Legislature;
- Prohibits the Transit Authority from engaging in any advocacy regarding a referendum, ordinance, legislation, or proposal under consideration by any governmental entity or the Legislature which relates to such funding; and
- Requires the Transit Authority to conduct a feasibility study before proceeding with the project and before any contract is issued, which must be submitted to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the board of county commissioners of the relevant Transit Authority counties.

Lastly, the bill deletes obsolete provisions; and conforms provisions to changes made by the act.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2017.

*Vote: Senate 38-0; House 117-0*