

By Representative Fuller

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to transportation  
3           administration; amending s. 316.302, F.S.,  
4           relating to commercial motor vehicle safety  
5           regulations; updating reference to federal  
6           regulations; providing exception to specified  
7           provisions for public utility and authorized  
8           emergency vehicles; amending s. 316.515, F.S.;  
9           providing exception to length limitations for  
10          certain utility vehicles under specified  
11          conditions; providing an exception to load  
12          extension limitation; amending s. 316.516,  
13          F.S.; providing statutory penalties for  
14          violation of maximum width, height, and length  
15          limitations; amending s. 322.53, F.S.; deleting  
16          an exemption to the requirement of having a  
17          commercial driver's license; amending s.  
18          334.27, F.S.; revising language with respect to  
19          governmental transportation entities; amending  
20          s. 337.25, F.S.; authorizing the department to  
21          use projected maintenance costs over a period  
22          of time to offset the market value of certain  
23          property to establish a value for the disposal  
24          of the property; creating s. 338.161, F.S.;  
25          authorizing the Department of Transportation to  
26          advertise and promote electronic toll  
27          collection; amending s. 339.12, F.S.; revising  
28          language with respect to aid and contributions  
29          by governmental entities for department  
30          projects; amending s. 479.16, F.S.; allowing  
31          certain unpermitted signs in rural areas;

1 prohibiting the implementation of this  
2 provision in certain circumstances; amending s.  
3 479.261, F.S.; revising language with respect  
4 to the logo sign program; revising requirements  
5 for placement of such signs; repealing s.  
6 339.121, F.S., relating to aid and contribution  
7 by local governmental entities for public  
8 transportation projects; providing an effective  
9 date.

10

11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12

13 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and  
14 paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 316.302, Florida  
15 Statutes, 1996 Supplement, are amended to read:

16 316.302 Commercial motor vehicles; safety regulations;  
17 transporters and shippers of hazardous materials;  
18 enforcement.--

19 (1)

20 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, all  
21 owners or drivers of commercial motor vehicles that are  
22 engaged in intrastate commerce are subject to the rules and  
23 regulations contained in 49 C.F.R. parts 382, 385, and  
24 390-397, with the exception of 49 C.F.R. s. 390.5 as it  
25 relates to the definition of bus, as such rules and  
26 regulations existed on March 1, 1997 ~~1995~~.

27 (2)

28 (b) A person who operates a commercial motor vehicle  
29 solely in intrastate commerce not transporting any hazardous  
30 material is exempt from 49 C.F.R. s. 395.3(a) and (b) and may,  
31 after 8 hours' rest, and following the required initial motor

1 vehicle inspection, be permitted to drive any part of the  
2 first 15 on-duty hours in any 24-hour period, but may not be  
3 permitted to operate a commercial motor vehicle after that  
4 until the requirement of another 8 hours' rest has been  
5 fulfilled. The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to  
6 drivers of public utility vehicles or authorized emergency  
7 vehicles during periods of severe weather or other  
8 emergencies.

9 Section 2. Subsections (3) and (4) and paragraph (b)  
10 of subsection (7) of section 316.515, Florida Statutes, are  
11 amended to read:

12 316.515 Maximum width, height, length.--

13 (3) LENGTH LIMITATION.--Except as otherwise provided  
14 in this section, length limitations apply solely to a  
15 semitrailer or trailer, and not to a truck tractor or to the  
16 overall length of a combination of vehicles. No combination  
17 of commercial motor vehicles coupled together and operating on  
18 the public roads may consist of more than one truck tractor  
19 and two trailing units. Unless otherwise specifically provided  
20 for in this section, a combination of vehicles not qualifying  
21 as commercial motor vehicles may consist of no more than two  
22 units coupled together; such nonqualifying combination of  
23 vehicles may not exceed a total length of 65 feet, inclusive  
24 of the load carried thereon, but exclusive of safety and  
25 energy conservation devices approved by the department for use  
26 on vehicles using public roads. Notwithstanding any other  
27 provision of this section, a truck tractor-semitrailer  
28 combination engaged in the transportation of automobiles or  
29 boats may transport motor vehicles or boats on part of the  
30 power unit; and, except as may otherwise be mandated under  
31 federal law, an automobile or boat transporter semitrailer may

1 not exceed 50 feet in length, exclusive of the load; however,  
2 the load may extend up to an additional 6 ~~4~~ feet beyond the  
3 rear of the trailer. The 50-foot length limitation does not  
4 apply to non-stinger-steered automobile or boat transporters  
5 that are 65 feet or less in overall length, exclusive of the  
6 load carried thereon, or to stinger-steered automobile or boat  
7 transporters that are 75 feet or less in overall length,  
8 exclusive of the load carried thereon. For purposes of this  
9 subsection, a "stinger-steered automobile or boat transporter"  
10 is an automobile or boat transporter configured as a  
11 semitrailer combination wherein the fifth wheel is located on  
12 a drop frame located behind and below the rearmost axle of the  
13 power unit. Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), any  
14 straight truck or truck tractor-semitrailer combination  
15 engaged in the transportation of horticultural trees may allow  
16 the load to extend up to an additional 10 feet beyond the rear  
17 of the vehicle, provided said trees are resting against a  
18 retaining bar mounted above the truck bed so that the root  
19 balls of the trees rest on the floor and to the front of the  
20 truck bed and the tops of the trees extend up over and to the  
21 rear of the truck bed, and provided the overhanging portion of  
22 the load is covered with protective fabric.

23 (a) Straight trucks.--No straight truck may exceed a  
24 length of 40 feet in extreme overall dimension, exclusive of  
25 safety and energy conservation devices approved by the  
26 department for use on vehicles using public roads. Any  
27 straight truck, excluding recreational vehicles, in excess of  
28 35 feet in length may have no fewer than three load-bearing  
29 axles. A straight truck may tow no more than one trailer, and  
30 such trailer may not exceed a length of 28 feet. However, such  
31 trailer limitation does not apply if the overall length of the

1 truck-trailer combination is 65 feet or less, including the  
2 load thereon. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this  
3 section, a truck-trailer combination engaged in the  
4 transportation of boats shall not exceed the length  
5 limitations of this paragraph exclusive of the load; however,  
6 the load may extend up to an additional 6 ~~4~~ feet beyond the  
7 rear of the trailer.

8 (b) Semitrailers.--

9 1. A semitrailer operating in a truck  
10 tractor-semitrailer combination may not exceed 48 feet in  
11 extreme overall outside dimension, measured from the front of  
12 the unit to the rear of the unit and the load carried thereon,  
13 exclusive of safety and energy conservation devices approved  
14 by the department for use on vehicles using public roads,  
15 unless it complies with subparagraph 2. A semitrailer which  
16 exceeds 48 feet in length and is used to transport divisible  
17 loads may operate in this state only if issued a permit under  
18 s. 316.550 and if such trailer meets the requirements of this  
19 chapter relating to vehicle equipment and safety. Except for  
20 highways on the tandem trailer truck highway network, public  
21 roads deemed unsafe for longer semitrailer vehicles or those  
22 roads on which such longer vehicles are determined not to be  
23 in the interest of public convenience shall, in conformance  
24 with s. 316.006, be restricted by the Department of  
25 Transportation or by the local authority to use by  
26 semitrailers not exceeding a length of 48 feet, inclusive of  
27 the load carried thereon but exclusive of safety and energy  
28 conservation devices approved by the department for use on  
29 vehicles using public roads. Truck tractor-semitrailer  
30 combinations shall be afforded reasonable access to terminals;  
31

1 facilities for food, fuel, repairs, and rest; and points of  
2 loading and unloading.

3           2. A semitrailer which is more than 48 feet but not  
4 more than 53 feet in extreme overall outside dimension, as  
5 measured pursuant to subparagraph 1., may operate on public  
6 roads, except roads on the State Highway System which are  
7 restricted by the Department of Transportation or other roads  
8 restricted by local authorities, if:

9           a. The distance between the kingpin or other peg which  
10 locks into the fifth wheel of a truck tractor and the center  
11 of the rear axle or rear group of axles does not exceed 41  
12 feet; and

13           b. It is equipped with a substantial rear-end  
14 underride protection device meeting the requirements of 49  
15 C.F.R. s. 393.86, "Rear End Protection."

16           (c) Tandem trailer trucks.--

17           1. Except for semitrailers and trailers of up to 28  
18 1/2 feet in length which existed on December 1, 1982, and  
19 which were actually and lawfully operating on that date, no  
20 semitrailer or trailer operating in a truck  
21 tractor-semitrailer-trailer combination may exceed a length of  
22 28 feet in extreme overall outside dimension, measured from  
23 the front of the unit to the rear of the unit and the load  
24 carried thereon, exclusive of safety and energy conservation  
25 devices approved by the Department of Transportation for use  
26 on vehicles using public roads.

27           2. Tandem trailer trucks conforming to the weight and  
28 size limitations of this chapter and in immediate transit to  
29 or from a terminal facility as defined in this chapter may  
30 operate on the public roads of this state except for  
31 residential neighborhood streets restricted by the Department

1 of Transportation or local jurisdictions. In addition, the  
2 Department of Transportation or local jurisdictions may  
3 restrict these vehicles from using streets and roads under  
4 their maintenance responsibility on the basis of safety and  
5 engineering analyses, provided that the restrictions are  
6 consistent with the provisions of this chapter. The  
7 Department of Transportation shall develop safety and  
8 engineering standards to be used by all jurisdictions when  
9 identifying public roads and streets to be restricted from  
10 tandem trailer truck operations.

11 3. Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
12 within 5 miles of the Federal National Network for large  
13 trucks, tandem trailer trucks shall be afforded access to  
14 terminals; facilities for food, fuel, repairs, and rest; and  
15 points of loading and unloading.

16 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or  
17 special law to the contrary, all local system tandem trailer  
18 truck route review procedures must be consistent with those  
19 adopted by the Department of Transportation.

20 5. Tandem trailer trucks employed as household goods  
21 carriers and conforming to the weight and size limitations of  
22 this chapter shall be afforded access to points of loading and  
23 unloading on the public streets and roads of this state,  
24 except for streets and roads that have been restricted from  
25 use by such vehicles on the basis of safety and engineering  
26 analyses by the jurisdiction responsible for maintenance of  
27 the streets and roads.

28 (d) Maxi-cube vehicles.--Maxi-cube vehicles shall be  
29 allowed to operate on routes open to tandem trailer trucks  
30 under the same conditions applicable to tandem trailer trucks  
31 as specified by this section.

1           (4) LOAD EXTENSION LIMITATION.--The load upon any  
2 vehicle operated alone, or the load upon the front vehicle of  
3 a combination of vehicles, may not extend more than 3 feet  
4 beyond the front wheels of the vehicle or the front bumper of  
5 the vehicle if it is equipped with a bumper. The limitations  
6 of this subsection do not apply to bicycle racks carrying  
7 bicycles on public sector transit vehicles.

8           (7) FIRE OR EMERGENCY VEHICLES, UTILITY VEHICLES, AND  
9 OTHER VEHICLES TRANSPORTING NONDIVISIBLE LOADS.--The length  
10 limitations imposed by this section do not apply to:

11           (b) Utility vehicles owned or operated by governmental  
12 entities or public utility corporations, or operated under  
13 contract with such entities or corporations:

14           1. When transporting poles during daytime, except on  
15 weekends and holidays, as defined in the rules of the  
16 Department of Transportation, and when the vehicle and load do  
17 not exceed 120 feet in overall length, provided proper flags  
18 are located at the rearmost end of the load. However, such  
19 movements with an overall length in excess of 75 feet:

20           a. Shall be equipped with a working warning light  
21 device.

22           b. Shall be accompanied by a company-provided  
23 flasher-equipped escort vehicle when making turns within  
24 corporate city limits.

25           2. When transporting poles during nighttime and when  
26 the vehicle and load do not exceed 120 feet in overall length.  
27 Such movements shall be equipped with a working warning light  
28 device and shall be accompanied by one leading and one  
29 trailing company-provided flasher-equipped escort vehicle.

30           3. When transporting poles during emergencies or  
31 required maintenance. Such movements may be made on all days



1 and at all hours, provided the respective daytime or nighttime  
2 requirements are otherwise met.

3 4. When operating flasher-equipped straight truck  
4 utility vehicles that have permanently mounted equipment that  
5 extends up to 9 feet beyond the front bumper, provided:

6 a. Such equipment, when in the travel position, is  
7 supported in such a manner that it has a minimum of 80 inches  
8 clearance above the roadway;

9 b. Such equipment is illuminated on the forward most  
10 sides with high visibility reflective tape;

11 c. The respective daytime and nighttime requirements  
12 for operation are otherwise met;

13 d. Nighttime emergency or required maintenance  
14 operation of such utility vehicles with overall lengths in  
15 excess of 50 feet are led by a company-provided  
16 flasher-equipped escort vehicle; and

17 e. Trailers are not pulled by utility vehicles over 50  
18 feet in length.

19  
20 A flasher-equipped escort vehicle is defined as an automobile  
21 or truck that closely accompanies an over dimensional vehicle  
22 or load carried thereon to alert approaching traffic of that  
23 vehicle or load. Such escort vehicles shall be equipped with  
24 a working warning light device, as defined in this subsection,  
25 except that such device shall be located on top of the escort  
26 vehicle. Warning light devices required in this subsection  
27 shall be consistent with size, color, type, intensity, and  
28 mounting requirements developed by the Department of  
29 Transportation.

30 Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 316.516, Florida  
31 Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

1           316.516 Width, height, and length; inspection;  
2 penalties.--  
3           (4) Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter,  
4 penalties for violation of the maximum limits for width,  
5 height, and length provided for in s. 316.515 are as follows:  
6           (a) Two hundred and fifty dollars per foot of  
7 violation or any portion thereof for width and height limit  
8 violations.  
9           (b)1. Forty dollars for length limit violations not  
10 exceeding 2 feet over the length limit;  
11           2. One hundred dollars for length limit violations of  
12 greater than 2 feet but not exceeding 10 feet over the length  
13 limit; or  
14           3. Two hundred and fifty dollars for length limit  
15 violations of greater than 10 feet, plus \$250 for every  
16 additional foot or any portion thereof that exceeds 11 feet  
17 over the length limit.  
18           (c) No individual penalty issued under the provisions  
19 of this subsection shall exceed \$1,000 for each width, height,  
20 or length violation.~~Penalties for violation of the width,~~  
21 ~~height, and length limits contained in this chapter shall be~~  
22 ~~as provided in the rules of the Department of Transportation,~~  
23 ~~except that no such individual penalty shall exceed \$1,000 per~~  
24 ~~width, height, or length violation.~~  
25           Section 4. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) and  
26 subsection (5) of section 322.53, Florida Statutes, 1996  
27 Supplement, are amended to read:  
28           322.53 License required; exemptions.--  
29           (2) The following persons are exempt from the  
30 requirement to obtain a commercial driver's license:  
31

1           ~~(g) A driver operating any bus owned and operated by a~~  
2 ~~church, when the driver does not receive any form of~~  
3 ~~compensation for operating the bus, and when the bus is used~~  
4 ~~to transport people to or from church-related activities at no~~  
5 ~~charge.~~

6           (5) A resident who is exempt from obtaining a  
7 commercial driver's license pursuant to paragraph (2)(b),  
8 paragraph (2)(d), paragraph (2)(e), or paragraph (2)(f), ~~or~~  
9 ~~paragraph (2)(g)~~ may drive a commercial motor vehicle pursuant  
10 to the exemption granted in paragraph (2)(b), paragraph  
11 (2)(d), paragraph (2)(e), or paragraph (2)(f), ~~or paragraph~~  
12 ~~(2)(g)~~ if he or she possesses a valid Class D or Class E  
13 driver's license or a military license.

14           Section 5. Section 334.27, Florida Statutes, 1996  
15 Supplement, is amended to read:

16           334.27 Governmental transportation entities; property  
17 acquired for transportation purposes; limitation on soil or  
18 groundwater contamination liability.--

19           (1) For the purposes of this section, the term  
20 "governmental transportation entity" means the department; an  
21 authority created pursuant to chapter 343, chapter 348, or  
22 chapter 349; a port enumerated in s. 311.09(1); a county; or a  
23 municipality.

24           (2) When a governmental transportation entity acquires  
25 property for a transportation facility or in a transportation  
26 corridor through the exercise of eminent domain authority, or  
27 by purchase or donation, it is not subject to any liability  
28 imposed by chapter 376 or chapter 403 for preexisting soil or  
29 groundwater contamination due solely to its ownership. This  
30 section does not affect the rights or liabilities of any past  
31 or future owners of the acquired property nor does it affect

1 the liability of any governmental entity for the results of  
2 its actions which create or exacerbate a pollution source. A  
3 governmental transportation entity and the Department of  
4 Environmental Protection may enter into interagency agreements  
5 for the performance, funding, and reimbursement of the  
6 investigative and remedial acts necessary for property  
7 acquired by the governmental transportation entity ~~department~~.

8 Section 6. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (4) of  
9 section 337.25, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, to read:

10 337.25 Acquisition, lease, and disposal of real and  
11 personal property.--

12 (4) The department may sell, in the name of the state,  
13 any land, building, or other property, real or personal, which  
14 was acquired under the provisions of subsection (1) and which  
15 the department has determined is not needed for the  
16 construction, operation, and maintenance of a transportation  
17 facility. With the exception of any parcel governed by  
18 paragraph (c), paragraph (d), paragraph (f), paragraph (g), or  
19 paragraph (i), the department shall afford first right of  
20 refusal to the local government in the jurisdiction of which  
21 the parcel is situated. When such a determination has been  
22 made, property may be disposed of in the following manner:

23 (j) If the department determines that the property  
24 will require significant costs to be incurred or that  
25 continued ownership of the property exposes the department to  
26 significant liability risks, the department may use the  
27 projected maintenance costs over the next 5 years to offset  
28 the market value in establishing a value for disposal of the  
29 property, even if that value is zero.

30 Section 7. Section 338.161, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created to read:

1           338.161 Authority of department to advertise and  
2 promote electronic toll collection.--

3           (1) The department is authorized to incur expenses for  
4 paid advertising, marketing, and promotion of electronic toll  
5 collection products and services. Promotions may include  
6 discounts and free products.

7           (2) The department is authorized to receive funds from  
8 advertising placed on electronic toll collection products and  
9 promotional materials to defray the costs of products and  
10 services.

11           Section 8. Section 339.12, Florida Statutes, 1996  
12 Supplement, is amended to read:

13           339.12 Aid and contributions by governmental entities  
14 for department projects ~~rights-of-way, construction, or~~  
15 ~~maintenance of roads in State Highway System;~~ federal aid.--

16           (1) Any governmental entity may aid in any project or  
17 project phase included in the adopted work program, ~~including,~~  
18 ~~but not limited to, preliminary engineering, design,~~  
19 ~~acquisition of rights-of-way, construction, or maintenance of~~  
20 ~~any road on the State Highway System,~~ by contributions to the  
21 department of cash, bond proceeds, time warrants, or other  
22 goods or services of value.

23           (2) The department may accept and receive any such aid  
24 and contributions and dispose of and use the same for any  
25 project or project phase included in the adopted work program,  
26 ~~including, but not limited to, preliminary engineering,~~  
27 ~~design, acquisition of rights-of-way, construction, or~~  
28 ~~maintenance of such state roads.~~ The Executive Office of the  
29 Governor is authorized to amend the department's budget and  
30 adopted work program in the appropriate categories to utilize  
31 contributions received.

1           (3) In case any such aid or contribution is given or  
2 made by any governmental entity, such aid or contribution  
3 shall be used by the department only for the project or  
4 project phase included in the adopted work program ~~or~~  
5 ~~maintenance of such state roads~~ as are designated and agreed  
6 upon by the department and the governing body of the  
7 governmental entity.

8           (4)(a) Prior to accepting the contribution of road  
9 bond proceeds, time warrants, or cash for which reimbursement  
10 is sought, the department shall enter into agreements with the  
11 governing body of the governmental entity for the project or  
12 project phases ~~of the roads and bridges~~ in accordance with  
13 specifications agreed upon between the department and the  
14 governing body of the governmental entity. The department in  
15 no instance is to receive from such governmental entity an  
16 amount in excess of the actual cost of the project or project  
17 phase ~~of such state roads~~. By specific provision in the  
18 written agreement between the department and the governing  
19 body of the governmental entity, the department may agree to  
20 reimburse the governmental entity for the actual amount of the  
21 bond proceeds, time warrants, or cash used on a highway  
22 project or project phases ~~in the State Highway System~~ that are  
23 not revenue producing and are contained in the department's  
24 adopted work program, or any public transportation project  
25 contained in the adopted work program. Subject to  
26 appropriation of funds by the Legislature, the department may  
27 commit state funds for reimbursement of such projects or  
28 project phases ~~in the State Highway System~~. Reimbursement to  
29 the governmental entity for such a project or project phase  
30 must be made from funds appropriated by the Legislature, and  
31 reimbursement for the cost of the project or project phase is

1 to begin in the year the project or project phase is scheduled  
2 in the work program as of the date of the agreement. Funds  
3 advanced pursuant to this section, which were originally  
4 designated for transportation purposes and so reimbursed to a  
5 county or municipality, shall be used by the county or  
6 municipality for any transportation expenditure authorized  
7 under s. 336.025(7). Also, cities and counties may receive  
8 funds from persons, and reimburse those persons, for the  
9 purposes of this section. Such persons may include, but are  
10 not limited to, those persons defined in s. 607.01402(18) ~~s.~~  
11 ~~607.108(1)(1)~~.

12 (b) Prior to entering an agreement to advance a  
13 project or project phase pursuant to this subsection and  
14 subsection (5), the department shall first update the  
15 estimated cost of the project or project phase and certify  
16 that the estimate is accurate and consistent with the amount  
17 estimated in the adopted work program. If the original  
18 estimate and the updated estimate vary, the department shall  
19 amend the adopted work program according to the amendatory  
20 procedures for the work program set forth in s. 339.135(7).  
21 The amendment shall reflect all corresponding increases and  
22 decreases to the affected projects within the adopted work  
23 program.

24 (c) The department is authorized to enter into  
25 agreements under this subsection for a project or project  
26 phase not included in the adopted work program. For purposes  
27 of this paragraph, "project phase" is defined as acquisition  
28 of rights-of-way, construction, construction inspection, and  
29 related support phases. The project or project phase must be  
30 a high priority of the governmental entity. Reimbursement for  
31 a project or project phase must be made from funds

1 appropriated by the Legislature pursuant to s. 339.135(5). All  
2 other provisions of this subsection apply to agreements  
3 entered into under this paragraph. At no time shall the total  
4 amount of project agreements for projects or project phases  
5 not included in the adopted work program exceed \$50 million.

6 (5) The department and the governing body of a  
7 governmental entity may enter into an agreement by which the  
8 governmental entity agrees to perform a highway project or  
9 project phase in the department's adopted work program ~~for a~~  
10 ~~road in the State Highway System~~ that is not revenue producing  
11 or any public transportation project in the adopted work  
12 program. By specific provision in the written agreement  
13 between the department and the governing body of the  
14 governmental entity, the department may agree to reimburse the  
15 governmental entity the actual cost ~~of preliminary~~  
16 ~~engineering, project design, acquisition of the right-of-way~~  
17 ~~necessary for the project, construction engineering~~  
18 ~~inspection, or the construction contract~~ for the project or  
19 project phase contained in the adopted work program.  
20 Reimbursement to the governmental entity for such project or  
21 project phases must be made from funds appropriated by the  
22 Legislature, and reimbursement for the cost of the project or  
23 project phase is to begin in the year the project or project  
24 phase is scheduled in the work program as of the date of the  
25 agreement.

26 (6) The department may propose and obtain the  
27 designation of any project or project phase ~~of the roads and~~  
28 ~~bridges~~ to be constructed as a federal-aid project and obtain  
29 reimbursement from the United States in accordance with  
30 existing regulations. If federal-aid funds are used,  
31 governmental entities other than the department are prohibited



1 from performing projects or project phases authorized in  
2 subsection (5), unless the entity is qualified and authorized  
3 by the Federal Highway Administration to perform the  
4 appropriate project phase.

5 (7) The federal-aid money obtained under subsection  
6 (6) shall first be applied to the completion of the project or  
7 project phase ~~roads~~ for which the bonds have been voted, if  
8 the money from the bonds is not sufficient therefor; and any  
9 residue shall be expended in the acquisition of rights-of-way  
10 or the construction of any project or project phase ~~state road~~  
11 that the department and the governing body of the governmental  
12 entity may agree upon.

13 (8) The financial provisions of any agreement that are  
14 made in accordance with the provisions of this section shall  
15 be approved by the department comptroller.

16 (9) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, prior  
17 to commencement of the project or project phase, governmental  
18 entities are authorized to release control of such  
19 contributions to the department, pursuant to a written  
20 agreement between the governmental entity and the department.

21 Section 9. Subsection (15) of section 479.16, Florida  
22 Statutes, is amended to read:

23 479.16 Signs for which permits are not required.--The  
24 following signs are exempt from the requirement that a permit  
25 for a sign be obtained under the provisions of this chapter  
26 but are required to comply with the provisions of s.  
27 479.11(4)-(8):

28 (15) Signs not in excess of 8 square feet placed at a  
29 road junction with the State Highway System denoting only the  
30 distance or direction of a residence or farm operation, or, in  
31 a rural area where a hardship is created because a small

1 business is not visible from the road junction with the State  
2 Highway System, one sign not in excess of 8 square feet,  
3 denoting only the name of the business and the distance and  
4 direction to the business. The small business sign provision  
5 of this subsection may not be implemented if the Federal  
6 Government notifies the department that implementation will  
7 adversely affect the allocation of federal funds to the  
8 department.

9           Section 10. Subsection (7) of section 479.261, Florida  
10 Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

11           479.261 Logo sign program.--

12           (7) The department may adopt rules to establish  
13 requirements for qualification and location of logo sign  
14 sites, qualification and distance of businesses, permit  
15 application and processing, and other criteria necessary to  
16 implement this program and to provide for variances when  
17 necessary to serve the interest of the traveling public or  
18 when required to ensure equitable treatment of program  
19 participants. However, the department or its agent may erect  
20 logo signs only where spacing requirements allow at least one  
21 ~~three~~ logo sign structure ~~structures~~ on the main road, one  
22 ~~three~~ logo sign structure ~~structures~~ on the ramp, and all  
23 necessary traffic control signs for each direction of travel.

24           Section 11. Section 339.121, Florida Statutes, is  
25 hereby repealed.

26           Section 12. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
27 law.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Provides exceptions to certain safety regulations for public utility vehicles and authorized emergency vehicles during periods of severe weather or other emergencies. Provides exception to length limitations for straight truck utility vehicles under described circumstances. Provides statutory penalties for violation of maximum width, height, and length limitations. Authorized the Department of Transportation to incur expenses for paid advertising, marketing, and promotion of electronic toll collection products and services. Authorizes the department, if it determines that a property owned by the department will require significant costs to be incurred or that the continued ownership of the property exposes the department to significant liability risks, to use the projected maintenance costs over the next 5 years to offset the market value in establishing a value for the disposal of the property, even if that value is zero. Revises language with respect to aid and contributions by governmental entities for department projects. Revises the provision of law dealing with logo signs to provide that the department may erect logo signs only where spacing requirements allow at least one logo sign structure on the main road, one logo sign structure on the ramp, and all necessary control signs for each direction of travel. Exempts described signs in rural areas from permit requirements. Repeals a provision of law relating to aid and contribution by governmental entities for public transportation projects.