

**STORAGE NAME:** h1543.tr

**DATE:** March 30, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION  
ANALYSIS - LOCAL LEGISLATION**

**BILL #:** House Bill 1543

**RELATING TO:** Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority/Pinellas County

**SPONSOR(S):** Rep. Waters

**TIED BILL(S):** N/A

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:**

- (1) TRANSPORTATION
  - (2) COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
  - (3) FINANCE & TAXATION
  - (4)
  - (5)
- 

**I. SUMMARY:**

The bill codifies all prior special acts relating to the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (Authority) in Pinellas County into a single act.

The bill makes changes to the following areas of the Authority's current charter:

- Adds two members to the Authority and restructures the Authority's membership to reflect municipalities currently included in the Authority's service area. The service area boundaries are also updated.
- Limits members to three terms of three years each for a term limit of nine years.
- Combines the offices of secretary and treasurer into one office.
- Repeals a special act requiring performance audits of the Authority every five years.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- |                                   |                              |                             |   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u>         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u>             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

The Central Pinellas Transit Authority was created in 1970 by Chapter 70-907, Laws of Florida. The name of the Authority was changed to the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority by Chapter 82-368, Laws of Florida. The Authority was created to provide public transit services in the Pinellas County area.

The Authority's service area originally included the communities of Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, Clearwater, Dunedin, Indian Rocks Beach, Largo, Safety Harbor, and unincorporated areas directly between these municipalities. Pursuant to a charter provision allowing other municipalities and unincorporated areas to become part of the service area, the Authority later expanded to include St. Petersburg, Gulfport, Oldsmar, Seminole, Indian Shores, South Pasadena, Madeira Beach, North Redington Beach, Pinellas Park, Redington Beach, Redington Shores, Tarpon Springs, and additional unincorporated areas.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill codifies all prior special acts relating to the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (Authority) in Pinellas County into a single act.

The bill makes changes to the following areas of the Authority's current charter:

- Adds two members to the Authority and restructures the Authority's membership to reflect municipalities currently included in the Authority's service area. The service area boundaries are also updated to include areas currently served by the Authority.
- Limits members to three consecutive terms of three years each for a term limit of nine consecutive years.
- Combines the offices of secretary and treasurer into one office, previously this was required to be two individuals.
- Repeals a special act (Chapter 94-433, Laws of Florida) requiring performance audits of the Authority every five years.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

**Section 1:** Codifies, reenacts, amends, and repeals special acts relating to the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority.

**Section 2:** Recreates and reenacts the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority.

Section 1: Short Title: Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority Act.

Section 2: Provides definitions; including updating service area to reflect current municipalities served.

Section 3: Creates Authority and provides for governing body of the Authority; including restructuring membership to reflect current municipalities in the service area, limiting members terms to nine consecutive years, and combining offices of secretary and treasurer into one office.

Section 4: Provides purposes and powers of the Authority.

Section 5: Provides service area and boundaries of the Authority; updates area to reflect current municipalities in the service area.

Section 6: Exempts Authority transit systems from regulation by the Public Service Commission.

Section 7: Exempts property and revenues of the Authority from taxation.

Section 8: Provides for levy of ad valorem taxes up to three-quarters of a mill; requires voter approval to levy tax.

Section 9: Provides for expansion of the Authority service area if approved by a municipality, or by the county commission for unincorporated areas.

Section 10: Grandfathers existing Authority members as to appointment, term, and term limits in the bill.

Section 11: Provides severability clause.

Section 12: Provides for construction of the act's provisions relating to conflicting laws.

Section 13: Repeals all prior special acts relating to the Authority's charter.

**Section 3:** Provides effective date of upon becoming law.

III. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes [x] No [ ]

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IF YES, WHEN? January 28, 2000

WHERE? Tampa Bay Review, Clearwater, Pinellas County.

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes [ ] No [x]

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached [x] No [ ]

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached [x] No [ ]

IV. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

N/A

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

N/A

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

N/A

V. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

N/A

VI. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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Phillip B. Miller

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John R. Johnston