

Bill No. HB 1737

Amendment No.      Barcode 175754

<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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Senator Laurent moved the following amendment:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

On page 8, between lines 8 and 9,

insert:

Section 3. High-Speed Rail Commission created.--

(1) The High-Speed Rail Commission is created within the Legislature. The commission shall consist of 10 members to be appointed as follows:

(a) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members from among the members of the House of Representatives.

(b) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members from among the members of the Senate.

(c) The Governor shall appoint five members in the following manner: one member shall be a developer; one member shall be an expert in the field of transportation; one member shall be an expert in the field of bond finance; and two members shall represent the business community.

(d) The Secretary of the Department of Transportation

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1 shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the  
2 commission.

3  
4 The commission shall elect a chair and a vice chair from its  
5 membership at its first meeting.

6 (2) The commission shall be appointed no later than  
7 June 1, 2001, and its first meeting shall be no later than  
8 June 15, 2001. The commission shall meet periodically at the  
9 request of the chair.

10 (3) Members of the commission shall serve without  
11 compensation, except for per diem and reimbursement for travel  
12 expenses as provided by s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

13 (4) A vacancy in the commission shall be filled within  
14 30 days after its occurrence in the same manner as the  
15 original appointment.

16 (5)(a) The Department of Transportation shall serve as  
17 primary staff to the commission, providing technical and  
18 administrative assistance and ensuring that commission  
19 meetings are electronically recorded. Such recordings shall be  
20 preserved pursuant to chapters 119 and 257, Florida Statutes.

21 (b) The Florida Transportation Commission, the  
22 Department of Community Affairs, and the Department of  
23 Environmental Protection shall, at the commission's request,  
24 provide technical, scientific, or other assistance.

25 (c) The commission may request that the Office of  
26 Legislative Services provide administrative support to assist  
27 the commission in its efforts.

28 (6) The commission shall study and make  
29 recommendations on:

30 (a) The total cost of the high-speed rail project,  
31 which includes the costs of rights-of-way and improvements;

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1 the rolling stock and other equipment necessary to build and  
2 operate a high-speed rail system; system design, engineering,  
3 and construction; the use of existing rail; annual operation  
4 and maintenance; and all other associated expenses. Such costs  
5 should be based, where applicable and appropriate, on  
6 demonstrated expenditures for similar projects.

7 (b) The feasibility of technology to be used for the  
8 development of the high-speed rail.

9 (c) The route to be used for phase 1 of the high-speed  
10 rail, including the names of at least two cities between which  
11 the route would be constructed.

12 (d) Funding sources, including federal and local  
13 funds, private investment, revenue generated by ridership,  
14 cargo, or other users, franchise fees and licenses, lease  
15 fees, and other reasonably potential sources of funds.

16 (e) The format and types of information that must be  
17 included in a financial or business plan for the high-speed  
18 rail system.

19 (f) The commission is tasked with providing the  
20 documentation necessary to seek and obtain federal funding in  
21 order to build a high-speed rail system in Florida.

22 (g) The possibility and costs of using existing rail.

23 (h) Any other issues the commission deems relevant to  
24 the development of a high-speed rail system.

25 (7) The commission shall prepare a report of its  
26 findings and recommendations and submit the report to the  
27 Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the  
28 President of the Senate on or before January 1, 2002. The  
29 report also may include suggested legislation. The commission  
30 is dissolved at the time it submits its report.

31 Section 4. The Department of Transportation is

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1 directed to begin, as soon as possible, collecting and  
2 organizing existing research, studies, and reports on  
3 high-speed rail systems, in preparation for the commission's  
4 first meeting.

5           Section 5. There is appropriated from the State  
6 Transportation Trust Fund to the High-Speed Rail Commission  
7 the sum of \$4.5 million for the purpose of conducting the  
8 study described in section 1.

9  
10 (Redesignate subsequent sections.)

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13 ===== T I T L E    A M E N D M E N T =====

14 And the title is amended as follows:

15           On page 1, line 15, delete that line

16  
17 and insert:

18           creating the High-Speed Rail Commission;  
19           providing for membership and appointment;  
20           providing for staff; providing for duties of  
21           the commission; providing for dissolution of  
22           the commission upon submission of a required  
23           report; directing the Department of  
24           Transportation to begin collecting and  
25           organizing existing data on high-speed rail  
26           systems; providing an appropriation; providing  
27           an effective date.

28  
29           WHEREAS, the voters on November 7, 2000, approved a  
30 constitutional amendment directing the Legislature, the  
31 Cabinet, and the Governor to proceed with development of a

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1 high-speed rail system capable of speeds in excess of 120  
2 miles per hour, and

3 WHEREAS, the constitutional amendment called for the  
4 high-speed rail system to be developed by the state and a  
5 private entity pursuant to state approval and authorization,  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, construction of the system must begin on or  
8 before November 1, 2003, and

9 WHEREAS, the constitutional amendment left many  
10 technical and financial questions unanswered, NOW, THEREFORE,

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