

By Representative Wiles

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to law enforcement; creating
3 the Safer Highways Act of 2001; providing
4 legislative intent; providing for the hiring of
5 additional law enforcement personnel; providing
6 for a minimum salary level for highway patrol
7 troopers; providing for the creation of the Law
8 Enforcement Commission; providing for
9 membership and duties of the commission;
10 providing for per diem and other expenses;
11 providing appropriations; providing an
12 effective date.

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

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16 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Safer
17 Highways Act of 2001."

18 Section 2. (1) Five hundred new positions shall be
19 created in the Division of Highway Patrol of the Department of
20 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles over the next 5 years. The
21 positions shall be created at a rate of 100 per year.

22 (2) There is hereby appropriated \$15,000,000 from the
23 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Highway Safety and
24 Motor Vehicles in recurring revenue for each of the fiscal
25 years from 2001-2002 to 2005-2006 to implement the provisions
26 of this section.

27 (3) If a shortage of highway patrol troopers still
28 exists, according to the formula developed by the Northwestern
29 University Center for Public Safety, the 2006 Legislature
30 shall develop a plan to recruit, train, and deploy the
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1 necessary troopers to meet the requirements indicated by the
2 findings of the study.

3 Section 3. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature
4 that Florida's highway patrol troopers be compensated at a
5 wage level competitive with local law enforcement agencies.

6 (2) The Legislature shall appropriate funds as it
7 deems necessary from the General Revenue Fund to the
8 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to ensure that
9 the salary schedule for highway patrol troopers is equal to or
10 higher than the average salary for a law enforcement officer
11 employed by the 15 largest county and municipal law
12 enforcement agencies in this state.

13 Section 4. (1) There is hereby created a Florida Law
14 Enforcement Commission. The commission shall consist of the
15 following 19 members:

16 (a) The Governor, or his or her designee.

17 (b) The executive director of the Department of Law
18 Enforcement.

19 (c) The director of the Division of Highway Patrol.

20 (d) Three elected state attorneys, to be appointed by
21 the Governor.

22 (e) Three highway patrol troopers, to be appointed by
23 the director of the Division of Highway Patrol.

24 (f) Three sheriffs, to be appointed by the Florida
25 Sheriffs Association.

26 (g) Three local police chiefs, to be appointed by the
27 Florida Police Chiefs Association.

28 (h) Four representatives of labor, to be appointed by
29 the Governor.

30 (2) The commission shall meet at least twice annually
31 to discuss the state of law enforcement in Florida and to make

1 recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and
2 executive agencies regarding the needs of law enforcement in
3 Florida. Commission meetings shall be held in various
4 locations in the state.

5 (3) Members of the commission shall not be compensated
6 for their service. However, the Legislature shall appropriate
7 \$100,000 annually to the Executive Office of the Governor in
8 recurring General Revenue to cover per diem and other expenses
9 associated with the operation of the commission.

10 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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12 HOUSE SUMMARY

13
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15 legislative intent. Provides for the hiring of additional
16 law enforcement personnel. Provides for a minimum salary
17 level for highway patrol troopers. Provides for the
18 creation of the Law Enforcement Commission and for
19 membership and duties thereof. Provides for per diem and
20 other expenses. Provides appropriations.
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