

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 1488

SPONSOR: Senator Sebesta

SUBJECT: The Tampa Bay Commuter Rail Authority

DATE: April 7, 2004

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Eichin</u>	<u>Meyer</u>	<u>TR</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>CP</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill redesignates the Tampa Bay Commuter Rail Authority as the Tampa Bay Commuter Transit Authority. Additionally, the authority's membership is expanded to include representation from Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

This bill substantially amends sections 343.71, 343.72, 343.73 and 343.74 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The Tampa Bay Commuter Rail Authority was created by the Florida Legislature in 1990 for the purposes of developing and operating a commuter rail or ferry system. The authority board comprises elected and citizen representatives from Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, and Polk Counties, as well as the affected Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Secretaries or their designees, and an appointee of the Governor. Representatives from each of the five counties' local transit authorities serve as ex officio members. The authority has directed some organizational work and feasibility studies; however, the authority has been dormant for several years due to a lack of consensus among local authorities regarding the funding of a system, routes and design features.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 - Section 343.71 is amended to redesignate the authority as the Tampa Bay Commuter Transit Authority.

Section 2 -The definition of "Authority" in section 343.72, is amended to reflect the name change.

Section 3 – Section 343.73 is amended to include representation of Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

Section 4 – Section 343.74 is amended to expand the geographic area in which the authority may operate a commuter rail or ferry system to include Manatee and Sarasota.

Section 5 – Provides the act takes effect upon becoming law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The represented local governments and transit authorities may be responsible for travel expenses incurred by their representatives. No fiscal impact to FDOT.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
