Florida Senate - 2005

CS for SB 1168

 $\ensuremath{\textbf{By}}$ the Committee on Transportation; and Senators Constantine and Alexander

596-1928-05

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to the Commission for the
3	Transportation Disadvantaged; amending s.
4	427.012, F.S.; revising the membership of the
5	commission; establishing term limits; directing
6	each member of the commission to serve without
7	regional bias; providing qualifications for
8	appointment to membership on the commission;
9	requiring candidates for appointment to the
10	commission to meet certain standards for
11	background screening; requiring the Department
12	of Transportation to inform the commission if a
13	candidate fails to meet the screening
14	standards; providing that costs of screening be
15	borne by the department or the candidate for
16	appointment; authorizing the commission to
17	appoint technical advisory committees;
18	providing an effective date.
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20	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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22	Section 1. Section 427.012, Florida Statutes, is
23	amended to read:
24	427.012 The Commission for the Transportation
25	DisadvantagedThere is created the Commission for the
26	Transportation Disadvantaged in the Department of
27	Transportation.
28	(1) The commission shall consist of the following
29	members:
30	(a) The secretary of the Department of Transportation
31	or the secretary's designee.

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1 (b) The secretary of the Department of Children and 2 Family Services or the secretary's designee. 3 (c) The Commissioner of Education or the 4 commissioner's designee. 5 (c)(d) The director of Workforce Innovation or the 6 director's secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment 7 Security or the secretary's designee. (d)(e) The executive director of the Department of 8 Veterans' Affairs or the executive director's designee. 9 10 (e)(f) The secretary of the Department of Elderly Affairs or the secretary's designee. 11 12 (f)(q) The director of the Agency for Health Care 13 Administration or the director's designee. (g) The director of the Agency for Persons with 14 Disabilities or the director's designee. 15 (h) The chair of the commission, who shall be 16 17 appointed by the Governor A representative of the Florida 18 Association for Community Action, who shall serve at the pleasure of that association. 19 (i) <u>Seven members appointed by the Governor for terms</u> 20 21 of 4 years, who shall be from each of the seven districts of the Department of Transportation. One of the members must be a 2.2 23 person over the age of 60 who uses paratransit services and one member must be a person with a disability who uses 2.4 25 paratransit services A representative of the Florida Transit Association, who shall serve at the pleasure of that 26 27 association. 28 (j) A person over the age of 60 who is a member of a recognized statewide organization representing elderly 29 30 Floridians. Such person shall be appointed by the Governor to 31

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1 represent elderly Floridians and shall be appointed to serve a 2 term of 4 years. 3 (k) A handicapped person who is a member of a recognized statewide organization representing handicapped 4 Floridians. Such person shall be appointed by the Governor to 5 6 represent handicapped Floridians and shall be appointed to 7 serve a term of 4 years. 8 (1) Two citizen advocate representatives who shall be 9 appointed by the Governor for a term of 4 years, one 10 representing rural citizens and one representing urban 11 citizens. 12 (m) A representative of the community transportation 13 coordinators. Such person shall be appointed by the Governor to represent all community transportation coordinators and 14 15 shall be appointed to serve a term of 4 years. (n) One member of the Early Childhood Council. Such 16 17 person shall be appointed by the Governor to represent maternal and child health care providers and shall be 18 19 appointed to serve a term of 4 years. 20 (o) Two representatives of current private for profit 21 or private not for profit transportation operators each of 2.2 which have a minimum of 5 years of continuous experience 23 operating a broad based system of ambulatory and wheelchair/stretcher type transportation, utilizing not less 2.4 25 than 50 vehicles and including dispatch and scheduling responsibilities. Such persons shall be appointed by the 26 Commissioner of Agriculture to serve a term of 4 years. 27 28 (p) Four representatives of current private for profit or private not for profit transportation operators, each of 29 30 which having a minimum of 5 years of continuous experience operating a broad based system of ambulatory and wheelchair or 31

1	stretcher type transportation, utilizing not less than 50
2	vehicles, and including dispatch and scheduling
3	responsibilities. Such persons shall be appointed by the
4	Commissioner of Agriculture to serve a term of 4 years.
5	(q) Six citizens representing the nontransportation
6	business community of the state, three members appointed by
7	the President of the Senate and three members appointed by the
8	Speaker of the House of Representatives.
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10	Each member of the commission shall represent the needs of the
11	transportation disadvantaged throughout the state. A member
12	may not subordinate the needs of the transportation
13	disadvantaged in general to favor the needs of others residing
14	in a specific location in the state.
15	(2) Members appointed to the commission may not serve
16	more than two full terms. A member must be a citizen of the
17	state and a registered voter. A member, other than a local
18	elected official, may not be an employee or agent of a
19	community transportation coordinator, a contractor or
20	subcontractor of a community transportation coordinator, or a
21	direct or indirect subcontractor to a contractor employed by a
22	community transportation coordinator.
23	(3) A member, other than a local elected official, may
24	not have any interest, direct or indirect, in any contract,
25	franchise, privilege, or other benefit granted or awarded by
26	the commission, the Agency for Health Care Administration, or
27	the Department of Children and Family Services during the term
28	of his or her appointment and for 2 years after the
29	termination of the appointment.
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1	(4)(2) The chairperson shall be appointed by the
1 2	<u>Governor</u> and vice chairperson of the commission shall be
3	elected annually from the membership of the commission.
4	(5)(3) Members of the commission shall serve without
5	compensation but shall be allowed per diem and travel
б	expenses, as provided in s. 112.061.
7	(6)(4) The commission shall meet at least quarterly,
8	or more frequently at the call of the chairperson. Nine
9	members of the commission constitute a quorum, and A majority
10	vote of the members present is necessary for any action taken
11	by the commission.
12	(7) Each candidate for appointment to the commission
13	must, before accepting the appointment, undergo background
14	screening under s. 435.04, by filing with the Department of
15	Transportation a complete set of fingerprints taken by an
16	authorized law enforcement agency. The fingerprints must be
17	submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement for state
18	processing, and that department shall submit the fingerprints
19	to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for federal processing.
20	The Department of Transportation shall screen the background
21	results and inform the commission if any candidate failed to
22	meet level 2 screening standards. A candidate found to have
23	failed to meet level 2 screening standards may not be
24	appointed to the commission. The cost of the background
25	screening may be borne by the Department of Transportation or
26	the candidate for appointment to the commission.
27	(8)(5) The Governor may remove any member of the
28	commission for cause.
29	(9) (6) The commission shall appoint an executive
30	director who shall serve under the direction, supervision, and
31	control of the commission. The executive director, with the
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consent of the commission, shall employ such personnel as may 1 be necessary to perform adequately the functions of the 2 commission within budgetary limitations. All employees of the 3 commission are exempt from the Career Service System. 4 5 (10) The commission shall appoint at least three 6 technical advisory committees to advise the commission on 7 issues of importance to the state and to regions of the state. 8 (a) One technical advisory committee shall provide information, advice, and direction to the commission on the 9 10 coordination of services for the transportation disadvantaged. Its membership may include, but need not be limited to, 11 12 representatives of community transportation coordinators and 13 private paratransit providers. (b) One technical advisory committee shall provide 14 information, advice, and direction to the commission on the 15 transportation planning issues affecting the transportation 16 17 disadvantaged program. Its membership may include, but need 18 not be limited to, representatives of metropolitan planning organizations and regional planning councils. 19 20 (c) One technical advisory committee shall provide 21 information, advice, and direction to the commission on 22 business-related issues affecting the transportation 23 disadvantaged program. Its membership may include, but need not be limited to, persons with expertise in insurance, 2.4 marketing, economic development, or financial planning. 25 (d) The commission may establish the size, 26 27 composition, and focus of any technical advisory committee it 2.8 creates. A member appointed to a technical advisory committee shall serve without compensation. 29 30 (11)(7) The commission is assigned to the office of the secretary of the Department of Transportation for 31 6

1	administrative and fiscal accountability purposes, but it
2	shall otherwise function independently of the control,
3	supervision, and direction of the department.
4	<u>(12)(8)</u> The commission shall develop a budget <u>under</u>
5	pursuant to chapter 216. The budget is not subject to change
б	by the department staff after it has been approved by the
7	commission, but it shall be transmitted to the Governor, as
8	head of the department, along with the budget of the
9	department.
10	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.
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12	STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
13	Senate Bill 1168
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15	The CS revises the membership of the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) within the Department of
16	Transportation and establishes term limits of two 4-year terms for appointed commissioners. The CS also prohibits TD
17	commissioners from either being employed by, or benefiting financially from community transportation coordinators or
18	transportation providers. The provision specifying nine TD commissioners constitute a quorum is deleted. In addition, the
19	CS allows the TD to establish three technical advisory committees to address TD issues related to TD transportation
20	coordinators and providers, transportation planning, and business interests.
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