

596-1055-05

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to the Department of  
3 Transportation; amending s. 20.23, F.S.;  
4 requiring that, to the extent feasible, the  
5 boundaries of the department's districts  
6 conform to the strategic planning regions  
7 established in the state's strategic plan for  
8 economic development; requiring periodic review  
9 and adjustment of the district boundaries;  
10 deleting provisions specifying the location of  
11 district headquarters and duties of the  
12 district director for the Fort Myers Urban  
13 Office; providing an effective date.

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

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17 Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 20.23, Florida  
18 Statutes, is amended to read:

19 20.23 Department of Transportation.--There is created  
20 a Department of Transportation which shall be a decentralized  
21 agency.

22 (4)(a) The operations of the department shall be  
23 organized into ~~seven~~ districts, each headed by a district  
24 secretary and a turnpike enterprise, headed by an executive  
25 director. The district secretaries and the turnpike executive  
26 director shall be registered professional engineers in  
27 accordance with the provisions of chapter 471 or, in lieu of  
28 professional engineer registration, a district secretary or  
29 turnpike executive director may hold an advanced degree in an  
30 appropriate related discipline, such as a Master of Business  
31 Administration. To the maximum extent feasible and by June 30,

1 2006, the district boundaries shall be consistent with the  
2 strategic planning regions established in the state's  
3 strategic plan for economic development developed under s.  
4 288.905. The district boundaries shall be reviewed, and  
5 adjusted as necessary, every 10 years, taking into  
6 consideration the economic diversity of the state and its  
7 regions and the associated industrial clusters and  
8 transportation needs of each respective region. The  
9 ~~headquarters of the districts shall be located in Polk,~~  
10 ~~Columbia, Washington, Broward, Volusia, Dade, and Hillsborough~~  
11 ~~Counties.~~ The headquarters of the turnpike enterprise shall be  
12 located in Orange County. In order to provide for efficient  
13 operations and to expedite the decisionmaking process, the  
14 department shall provide for maximum decentralization to the  
15 districts.

16 (b) Each district secretary may appoint up to three  
17 district directors ~~or, until July 1, 2005, each district~~  
18 ~~secretary may appoint up to four district directors.~~ These  
19 positions are exempt from part II of chapter 110.

20 (c) Within each district, offices shall be established  
21 for managing major functional responsibilities of the  
22 department. The heads of these offices shall be exempt from  
23 part II of chapter 110.

24 ~~(d) The district director for the Fort Myers Urban~~  
25 ~~Office of the Department of Transportation is responsible for~~  
26 ~~developing the 5 year Transportation Plan for Charlotte,~~  
27 ~~Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties. The Fort~~  
28 ~~Myers Urban Office also is responsible for providing policy,~~  
29 ~~direction, local government coordination, and planning for~~  
30 ~~those counties.~~

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1            (d)~~(e)~~1. The responsibility for the turnpike system  
2 shall be delegated by the secretary to the executive director  
3 of the turnpike enterprise, who shall serve at the pleasure of  
4 the secretary. The executive director shall report directly to  
5 the secretary, and the turnpike enterprise shall operate  
6 pursuant to ss. 338.22-338.241.

7            2. To facilitate the most efficient and effective  
8 management of the turnpike enterprise, including the use of  
9 best business practices employed by the private sector, the  
10 turnpike enterprise, except as provided in s. 287.055, shall  
11 be exempt from departmental policies, procedures, and  
12 standards, subject to the secretary having the authority to  
13 apply any such policies, procedures, and standards to the  
14 turnpike enterprise from time to time as deemed appropriate.

15            Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

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18            SENATE SUMMARY

19            Requires that the district boundaries of the Department  
20 of Transportation conform to the strategic planning  
21 regions established in the state's strategic plan for  
22 economic development. Requires that the boundaries be  
23 reviewed and adjusted every 10 years. Deletes obsolete  
24 provisions.  
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