CS/HB 1055 2009

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the taxation of public-private transportation facilities; amending s. 334.30, F.S.; providing legislative recognition; exempting certain public-private transportation facilities from certain specified taxes and special assessments; excluding certain taxes from such exemption; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 334.30, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

334.30 Public-private transportation facilities.—The Legislature finds and declares that there is a public need for the rapid construction of safe and efficient transportation facilities for the purpose of traveling within the state, and that it is in the public's interest to provide for the construction of additional safe, convenient, and economical transportation facilities.

(1) The department may receive or solicit proposals and, with legislative approval as evidenced by approval of the project in the department's work program, enter into agreements with private entities, or consortia thereof, for the building, operation, ownership, or financing of transportation facilities. The department may advance projects programmed in the adopted 5-year work program or projects increasing transportation capacity and greater than \$500 million in the 10-year Strategic Intermodal Plan using funds provided by public-private

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partnerships or private entities to be reimbursed from department funds for the project as programmed in the adopted work program. The department shall by rule establish an application fee for the submission of unsolicited proposals under this section. The fee must be sufficient to pay the costs of evaluating the proposals. The department may engage the services of private consultants to assist in the evaluation. Before approval, the department must determine that the proposed project:

(a) Is in the public's best interest;

- (b) Would not require state funds to be used unless the project is on the State Highway System;
- (c) Would have adequate safeguards in place to ensure that no additional costs or service disruptions would be realized by the traveling public and residents of the state in the event of default or cancellation of the agreement by the department;
- (d) Would have adequate safeguards in place to ensure that the department or the private entity has the opportunity to add capacity to the proposed project and other transportation facilities serving similar origins and destinations; and
- (e) Would be owned by the department upon completion or termination of the agreement.

The department shall ensure that all reasonable costs to the state, related to transportation facilities that are not part of the State Highway System, are borne by the private entity. The department shall also ensure that all reasonable costs to the state and substantially affected local governments and

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utilities, related to the private transportation facility, are borne by the private entity for transportation facilities that are owned by private entities. For projects on the State Highway System, the department may use state resources to participate in funding and financing the project as provided for under the department's enabling legislation. Because the Legislature recognizes the private entities or consortia thereof would perform a governmental or public purpose or function, the transportation facilities built, operated, owned, or financed by private entities or consortia thereof, together with any interest of, revenues received by, and payments made to the state by, any private entities or consortia thereof, shall be exempt from all taxes and special assessments of the state or any city, town, county, special district, or political subdivision of the state, including, without limitation, ad valorem taxes to the extent the property is owned by the state or other government entity, documentary stamp taxes, intangible taxes, and any sales taxes; however, excluded from such exemption are any applicable corporate taxes, unemployment compensation taxes, any taxes due as a result of subleases, sublicenses, or retail sales agreements, and any sales tax due on the sale of tangible personal property.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.