

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Northeast Florida regional
3 transportation; creating the Northeast Florida Regional
4 Transportation Study Commission; providing for membership
5 and organization; providing for reimbursement of expenses;
6 providing for removal and suspension of commission
7 members; providing for staff of the Jacksonville
8 Transportation Authority to act as staff to the
9 commission; providing for funding of staff and facilities;
10 providing for committees within the commission; providing
11 for commission meetings; providing for the commission to
12 make available to the public its meeting minutes, reports,
13 and recommendations and publish its reports and
14 recommendations electronically; directing the authority to
15 make its Internet site available for such purposes;
16 requiring the commission to submit reports to the Governor
17 and the Legislature; providing that a county's membership
18 in the commission and participation of a county's
19 appointees does not constitute consent of the county to
20 inclusion within the jurisdiction of a regional
21 transportation authority; providing for expiration of the
22 act and termination of the commission; providing an
23 effective date.

24
25 WHEREAS, pursuant to House Bill 1213, 2009, the Department
26 of Transportation directed the Jacksonville Transportation
27 Authority to prepare a report to recommend to the Legislature
28 the framework for a regional transportation authority for the

29 | northeast region of the state comprised of Baker, Clay, Duval,
 30 | Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties, and

31 | WHEREAS, the report was completed and received by the
 32 | Legislature on February 1, 2010, and

33 | WHEREAS, based upon the recommendations of the report, it
 34 | is necessary and appropriate to create a study commission to
 35 | continue the work commenced, NOW, THEREFORE,

36 |

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

38 |

39 | Section 1. Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Study
 40 | Commission.-

41 | (1) There is created the Northeast Florida Regional
 42 | Transportation Study Commission, which shall be composed of 20
 43 | members designated and to be appointed as follows:

44 | (a) Two citizens of Baker County appointed by the Board of
 45 | County Commissioners of Baker County.

46 | (b) Two citizens of Clay County appointed by the Board of
 47 | County Commissioners of Clay County.

48 | (c) Four citizens of Duval County appointed by the City
 49 | Council of the City of Jacksonville.

50 | (d) Two citizens of Flagler County appointed by the Board
 51 | of County Commissioners of Flagler County.

52 | (e) Two citizens of Nassau County appointed by the Board
 53 | of County Commissioners of Nassau County.

54 | (f) Two citizens of Putnam County appointed by the Board
 55 | of County Commissioners of Putnam County.

56 | (g) Two citizens of St. Johns County appointed by the

57 Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County.

58 (h) The chair of the Jacksonville Transportation
 59 Authority, who shall serve as chair of the commission.

60 (i) The Department of Transportation's district secretary
 61 serving in district II, who shall be a nonvoting member of the
 62 commission.

63 (j) The chair of the Northeast Florida Regional Council,
 64 who shall be a nonvoting member of the commission.

65 (k) The chair of the North Florida Transportation Planning
 66 Organization, who shall be a nonvoting member of the commission.

67 (2) (a) Members shall serve until the work of the
 68 commission is completed and the commission is terminated, except
 69 that persons serving under paragraphs (1) (h)-(k) shall cease
 70 membership if they no longer serve in the position indicated in
 71 paragraphs (1) (h)-(k) and shall be replaced by the person
 72 replacing them in such position.

73 (b) Members of the commission shall serve without
 74 compensation but shall be reimbursed for all necessary expenses
 75 in the performance of their duties, including travel expenses,
 76 in accordance with s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

77 (c) A county commission, or the city council in the case
 78 of Duval County, may remove or suspend a member appointed by it
 79 for cause, including, but not limited to, failure to attend two
 80 or more meetings of the commission during any 9-month period.

81 (3) The staff of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority
 82 shall act as staff to the commission and, subject to the
 83 appropriation of funding by the board of the Jacksonville
 84 Transportation Authority and such other funds as the commission

85 may receive, shall supply such information, assistance, and
86 facilities as are deemed necessary for the commission to carry
87 out its duties under this act.

88 (4) The commission shall have such committees with such
89 membership, duties, and other matters as the chair shall
90 determine. Members of such committees need not be members of the
91 commission and may include persons from airport authorities,
92 port authorities, rail or other transportation industries, and
93 others. All committees shall report to the commission at each
94 commission meeting and shall present their final reports for
95 consideration by the commission in accordance with the direction
96 of the chair.

97 (5) (a) The commission shall meet at the times and
98 locations as the chair shall determine. There shall be regular
99 monthly meetings, to the extent reasonably convenient, that are
100 held in one or more central locations; however, at least one
101 meeting must be held in each of the counties throughout the
102 region. Each meeting must include provision for public comments.

103 (b) The commission shall make available to the public its
104 meeting minutes, reports, and recommendations upon request and,
105 to the extent feasible, shall publish its reports and
106 recommendations electronically. The Jacksonville Transportation
107 Authority shall make its Internet website available to the
108 commission for such purposes.

109 (6) By December 31, 2012, the commission shall prepare and
110 submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
111 Speaker of the House of Representatives a report detailing its
112 findings and making specific legislative recommendations,

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2010

113 including a regional transportation elements plan, the defining
114 characteristics of transportation elements of regional
115 significance, and an implementation plan for undertaking a
116 regional transportation elements plan, and which may include the
117 establishment of the regional transportation authority, draft
118 legislation consistent with this act, and any other
119 recommendations it deems appropriate.

120 (7) A county's membership in the commission, and the
121 participation of a county's appointees in the work of the
122 commission, is not intended to constitute the consent of the
123 county to inclusion within the jurisdiction of a regional
124 transportation authority.

125 (8) This act shall expire and the commission shall
126 terminate upon delivery of the final report required in
127 subsection (6).

128 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.