

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 the Jacksonville Transportation  
8           Authority to staff the commission; providing for funding  
9           of the commission; providing that the costs of staffing  
10          and the amount of funding are determined by the board of  
11          the Jacksonville Transportation Authority; providing for  
12          committees within the commission; providing for commission  
13          meetings; providing for the commission to make available  
14          to the public its meeting minutes, reports, and  
15          recommendations and publish its reports and  
16          recommendations electronically; directing the authority to  
17          make its Internet site available for such purposes;  
18          requiring the commission to submit reports to the Governor  
19          and the Legislature; providing that a county's membership  
20          in the commission and participation of a county's  
21          appointees does not constitute consent of the county to  
22          inclusion within the jurisdiction of a regional  
23          transportation authority; providing for expiration of the  
24          act and termination of the commission; providing an  
25          effective date.

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27           WHEREAS, pursuant to House Bill 1213, 2009, the Department  
28           of Transportation directed the Jacksonville Transportation

29 Authority to prepare a report to recommend to the Legislature  
 30 the framework for a regional transportation authority for the  
 31 northeast region of the state comprised of Baker, Clay, Duval,  
 32 Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties, and

33 WHEREAS, the report was completed and received by the  
 34 Legislature on February 1, 2010, and

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

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

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41 Section 1. Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Study  
 42 Commission.-

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

46 (a) Two citizens of Baker County appointed by the Board of  
 47 County Commissioners of Baker County.

48 (b) Two citizens of Clay County appointed by the Board of  
 49 County Commissioners of Clay County.

50 (c) Four citizens of Duval County appointed by the City  
 51 Council of the City of Jacksonville.

52 (d) Two citizens of Flagler County appointed by the Board  
 53 of County Commissioners of Flagler County.

54 (e) Two citizens of Nassau County appointed by the Board  
 55 of County Commissioners of Nassau County.

56 (f) Two citizens of Putnam County appointed by the Board

57 of County Commissioners of Putnam County.

58 (g) Two citizens of St. Johns County appointed by the  
 59 Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

83 (3) The Jacksonville Transportation Authority shall staff  
 84 the commission and shall supply such information, assistance,

85 and facilities as are deemed necessary for the commission to  
86 carry out its duties. The commission shall be funded by the  
87 Jacksonville Transportation Authority with its existing  
88 resources and by such other funds that may be provided from its  
89 constituent counties. The amount of funding, including the costs  
90 of staffing, provided by the Jacksonville Transportation  
91 Authority to the commission shall be determined by the board of  
92 the authority.

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

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

108 (b) The commission shall make available to the public its  
109 meeting minutes, reports, and recommendations upon request and,  
110 to the extent feasible, shall publish its reports and  
111 recommendations electronically. The Jacksonville Transportation  
112 Authority shall make its Internet website available to the

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113 commission for such purposes.

114 (6) By December 31, 2012, the commission shall prepare and  
115 submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
116 Speaker of the House of Representatives a report detailing its  
117 findings and making specific legislative recommendations,  
118 including a regional transportation elements plan, the defining  
119 characteristics of transportation elements of regional  
120 significance, and an implementation plan for undertaking a  
121 regional transportation elements plan, and which may include the  
122 establishment of the regional transportation authority, draft  
123 legislation consistent with this act, and any other  
124 recommendations it deems appropriate.

125 (7) A county's membership in the commission, and the  
126 participation of a county's appointees in the work of the  
127 commission, is not intended to constitute the consent of the  
128 county to inclusion within the jurisdiction of a regional  
129 transportation authority.

130 (8) This act shall expire and the commission shall  
131 terminate upon delivery of the final report required in  
132 subsection (6).

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