

By Senator Thrasher

8-01495B-10

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

26  
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

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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,

38  
39 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

40  
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 of  
55 County Commissioners of Nassau County.

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

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

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59 of County Commissioners of St. Johns County.

60 (h) The chair of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority,  
61 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 commission  
70 is completed and the commission is terminated, except that  
71 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 of  
80 Duval County, may remove or suspend a member appointed by it for  
81 cause, including, but not limited to, failure to attend two or  
82 more meetings of the commission during any 9-month period.

83 (3) The staff of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority  
84 shall act as staff to the commission and, subject to the  
85 appropriation of funding by the board of the Jacksonville  
86 Transportation Authority and such other funds as the commission  
87 may receive, shall supply such information, assistance, and

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88 facilities as are deemed necessary for the commission to carry  
89 out its duties under this act.

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

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

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

111 (6) By December 31, 2012, the commission shall prepare and  
112 submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
113 Speaker of the House of Representatives a report detailing its  
114 findings and making specific legislative recommendations,  
115 including a regional transportation elements plan, the defining  
116 characteristics of transportation elements of regional

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117 significance, and an implementation plan for undertaking a  
118 regional transportation elements plan, and which may include the  
119 establishment of the regional transportation authority, draft  
120 legislation consistent with this act, and any other  
121 recommendations it deems appropriate.

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

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

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