

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 4101 Department of Transportation

SPONSOR(S): Brandes

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Transportation & Highway Safety Subcommittee	11 Y, 0 N	Johnson	Kruse
2) Economic Affairs Committee	15 Y, 0 N	Johnson	Tinker

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill repeals a section of law that is currently not being used. Section 479.28, F.S., requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to implement a rest area information panel or device program in rest areas along the interstate highway system and the federal-aid primary highway system to present information in the specific interest of the traveling public and to promote tourist-oriented businesses.

According to DOT, it has only received two letters of interest related to the program, and neither company participated past a trial period.

The bill repeals s. 479.28, F.S., relating to the rest area information panel or device program.

The bill does not have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation

Section 479.28, F.S., requires DOT to implement a rest area information panel or device program in rest areas along the interstate highway system and the federal-aid primary highway system to present information in the specific interest of the traveling public and to promote tourist-oriented businesses. The statute provides that the information panel be designed to accommodate the names, locations, and short messages regarding numerous businesses. It authorizes DOT to contract with private persons for the construction, erection, and maintenance of the devices, whose compensation would be from fees it charged participating businesses. DOT is required to receive from the contractors sufficient revenues to cover the cost of administering the program.

According to DOT, since the law was passed in 1984,¹ it has only received two letters of interest related to the program, and neither company participated past a trial period. DOT has not received any further requests for participation.

Proposed Changes

The bill repeals s. 479.28, F.S., relating to the rest area information panel or device program, which is not being used.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2012.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 Repeals s. 449.28, F.S., relating to the rest area information panel or device program.

Section 2 Provides an effective date.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

¹ Ch. 84-227, L.O.F. It was also readopted from a scheduled 1994 repeal in 1991 (ch. 91-429, L.O.F.).

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not Applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

Repealing s. 479.28, F.S., will enable DOT to repeal ch. 14-99.001, F.A.C., its rule related to the rest area information panel or device program.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES