

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

BILL: SB 1276

INTRODUCER: Senator Flores

SUBJECT: Expressway Authorities

DATE: March 19, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Price	Eichin	TR	Favorable
2.			EE	
3.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 1276 reduces the Miami-Dade County Expressway Authority (MDX) governing body from thirteen to nine members, prohibits appointment of a person to serve as an MDX governing body member under certain circumstances, and provides for immediate termination from the MDX governing body for specified violations.

II. Present Situation:

The Miami-Dade County Expressway Authority

The Florida Expressway Authority Act (Act), codified in part I of Ch. 348, F.S.,¹ authorizes any county or two or more contiguous counties within a single district of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to form an expressway authority by resolution adopted by the board of county commissioners. The Miami-Dade County Expressway Authority (MDX), an agency of the state,² is the only expressway authority created under the Act.

The qualifications, terms of office, and obligations and rights of the members of the MDX, by statute, are determined by resolution or ordinance of the Miami-Dade County Commission consistent with specified statutory provisions relating to the MDX governing body.³ The MDX was created by the Miami-Dade County Commission in 1994, pursuant to Chapter 2 Article XVIII of the Miami-Dade County Code of Ordinances.⁴

¹Part I of ch. 348, F.S., consists of ss. 348.0001 through 348.0012, F.S. Per the exemptions in s. 348.0012, F.S., Part I applies only to the Miami-Dade County Expressway Authority.

² Section 348.0003(1), F.S.

³ Section 348.0003(2)(d), F.S.

⁴ A copy of the ordinance is available at <http://mdxway.com/about/history> (Last visited March 13, 2015).

The MDX's system consists of the following roadways in Miami-Dade County:

- Airport Expressway (State Road 112);
- Dolphin Expressway (State Road 836);
- Don Shula Expressway (State Road 874);
- Snapper Creek Expressway (State Road 878); and
- Gratigny Parkway (State Road 924).⁵

The MDX Governing Body

Section 348.0003(2)(d), F.S., provides the MDX governing body consists of up to 13 members, seven of whom are appointed by the County Commission and five of whom are appointed by the Governor. The 13th member is the FDOT's district six secretary, who is an ex-officio voting member. If the MDX governing body includes any member originally appointed by the County Commission as a nonvoting member, that member is replaced by a Governor's appointee when the nonvoting member's term expires, until the MDX governing body is composed of seven members appointed by the County Commission and five members appointed by the Governor.⁶

Members of the MDX governing body must comply with the applicable financial disclosure requirements of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution.⁷ A lobbyist may not serve as a member.⁸

Post-Employment Restrictions, Ethical Prohibitions, and Financial Disclosures

A member and the MDX executive director are prohibited from:

- Personally representing another person or entity for compensation before the MDX for two years after leaving his or her position;
- Having an employment or contractual relationship, after retirement or termination, with a business entity other than an agency⁹ in connection with a contract in which the member or executive director personally and substantially participated while he or she was a member or employee;¹⁰ and
- Engaging in any relationship that may adversely affect their judgment in carrying out authority business.¹¹

⁵ See the Florida Transportation Commission's *Transportation Authority Monitoring and Oversight Fiscal Year 2013 Report*: <http://www.ftc.state.fl.us/reports/TAMO.shtm>. Last visited March 13, 2015.

⁶ Section 348.0003(2)(d), F.S.

⁷ Section 348.0003(4)(c), F.S.

⁸ Section 348.0003(5)(a), F.S.

⁹ Defined to mean "any state, regional, county,, local, or municipal government entity of this state, whether executive, judicial, or legislative; any department, division, bureau, commission, authority, or political subdivision of this state therein; any public school, community college, or state university; or any special district as defined in s. 189.012." Section 112.312(2), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 348.0003(5)(b), F.S.

¹¹ Section 348.0003(5)(d), F.S.

The MDX members must make the following annual disclosures:

- Any relationship that affords a current or future financial benefit to a member, or a member's relative¹² or business associate, that a reasonable person would conclude has the potential to create a prohibited conflict of interest.¹³
- Whether a relative of the member is a registered lobbyist and the names of any such lobbyist's clients.¹⁴
- All interests in real property that a member or a member's immediate family has, if such property is located in or within a ½ mile radius of any actual or prospective authority roadway project.¹⁵

Violations and Penalties

These restrictions, prohibitions, and financial disclosure requirements are in addition to requirements that members and the executive director are required to follow under chapter 112, F.S.¹⁶ Violations of the prohibitions and financial disclosure requirements are punishable in accordance with s. 112.317, F.S., generally punishable by a number of measures. The possible penalties range, for example, from impeachment or removal from office, suspension or dismissal from employment, and loss of some portion of salary, to public censure and reprimand, a \$10,000 civil penalty, and restitution of any benefits received because of a violation.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 reduces the MDX governing body from thirteen to nine members, providing that four members each be appointed by the Governor and the Miami-Dade County Commission, and retaining the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) district six secretary as an ex-officio voting member.

The bill makes an exception from the requirement that qualifications, terms, obligations and rights of the MDX members be determined by resolution or ordinance of the Miami-Dade County Commission and prohibits a person from being appointed to or serve as a member of the governing body of the MDX if the person currently represents or represented in the previous ten years:

- Any client for compensation before any state or municipal governmental body, including any agency, quasi-governmental entity, or body staffed by public employees, or entity that has its operations paid for by public dollars; or
- Any person or entity that is doing business or has in the previous ten years done business with any state or municipal governmental agency or body.

The exception obviates the need for the Miami-Dade County Commission to amend its ordinance to include the prohibitions.

¹² See s. 112.312(21), F.S., for the broad definition of "relative."

¹³ Section 348.0003(5)(d)1., F.S.

¹⁴ Section 348.0003(5)(d)2., F.S.

¹⁵ Section 348.0003(5)(d)3., F.S.

¹⁶ Section 348.0003(5)(j), F.S.

In addition to existing penalties under s. 112.317, F.S., the bill also requires immediate termination of a member from the MDX governing body upon a finding of a violation of s. 348.0003(5), F.S., chapter 112, F.S., or for failure to comply within 90 days after receiving a notice of failure to comply with financial disclosure requirements.

Section 2 provides the bill takes effect upon becoming law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

To the extent that any of the penalties for specified violations are applied to any individual, that individual may experience a negative fiscal impact.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Indeterminate.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 348.0003 of the Florida Statutes:

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
