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HB 257

2015 Legislature

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2 An act relating to freight logistics zones; creating
3 s. 311.103, F.S.; defining the term "freight logistics
4 zone"; authorizing a county or two or more contiguous
5 counties to designate a geographic area or areas
6 within its jurisdiction as a freight logistics zone;
7 requiring the adoption of a strategic plan which must
8 include certain information; providing that certain
9 projects within freight logistics zones may be
10 eligible for priority in state funding and certain
11 incentive programs; providing evaluation criteria for
12 freight logistics zones; providing an effective date.

13
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15
16 Section 1. Section 311.103, Florida Statutes, is created
17 to read:

18 311.103 Designation of state freight logistics zones.—

19 (1) As used in this section, the term "freight logistics
20 zone" means a grouping of activities and infrastructure
21 associated with freight transportation and related services
22 within a defined area around an intermodal logistics center as
23 defined in s. 311.101(2).

24 (2) A county, or two or more contiguous counties, may
25 designate a geographic area or areas within its jurisdiction as
26 a freight logistics zone. The designation must be accompanied by

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27 a strategic plan adopted by the county or counties. At a
 28 minimum, the strategic plan must include, but is not limited to:

29 (a) A map depicting the geographic area or areas to be
 30 included within the designation.

31 (b) Identification of the existing or planned freight
 32 facilities or logistics clusters located within the designated
 33 zone.

34 (c) Identification of existing transportation
 35 infrastructure, such as roads, rail, airports, and seaports,
 36 within or in close proximity to the proposed freight logistics
 37 zone.

38 (d) Identification of existing workforce availability
 39 within or in close proximity to the proposed zone.

40 (e) Identification of any existing or planned local,
 41 state, or federal workforce training capabilities available for
 42 a business seeking to locate or expand within the proposed zone.

43 (f) Identification of any local, state, or federal plans,
 44 including transportation, seaport, or airport plans, concerning
 45 the movement of freight within or in close proximity to the
 46 proposed zone.

47 (g) Identification of financial or other local government
 48 incentives to encourage new development, expansion of existing
 49 development, or redevelopment within the proposed zone.

50 (h) Documentation that the plan is consistent with
 51 applicable local government comprehensive plans and adopted
 52 long-range transportation plans of a metropolitan planning

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53 organization, where applicable.

54 (3) Projects within freight logistics zones designated
 55 pursuant to this section, which are consistent with the Freight
 56 Mobility and Trade Plan developed in accordance with s.
 57 334.044(33), may be eligible for priority in state funding and
 58 incentive programs relating to freight logistics zones,
 59 including applicable programs identified in parts I, III, and V
 60 of chapter 288.

61 (4) When evaluating projects within a designated freight
 62 logistics zone for purposes of determining funding or incentive
 63 program eligibility under this section, consideration must be
 64 given to:

65 (a) The presence of an existing or planned intermodal
 66 logistics center within the freight logistics zone.

67 (b) Whether the project serves a strategic state interest.

68 (c) Whether the project facilitates the cost-effective and
 69 efficient movement of goods.

70 (d) The extent to which the project contributes to
 71 economic activity, including job creation, increased wages, and
 72 revenues.

73 (e) The extent to which the project efficiently interacts
 74 with and supports the existing or planned transportation
 75 network.

76 (f) The amount of investment or commitments made by the
 77 owner or developer of the existing or proposed facility.

78 (g) The extent to which the county or counties have

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79 | commitments with private sector businesses planning to locate
80 | operations within the freight logistics zone.

81 | (h) Demonstrated local financial support and commitment to
82 | the project, including in-kind contributions.

83 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.