

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: CS/SB 1086

INTRODUCER: Transportation Committee and Senator Garcia

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged

DATE: March 28, 2017

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Price	Miller	TR	Fav/CS
2.			ATD	
3.			AP	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1086 revises the duties of community transportation coordinators and coordinating boards with respect to services provided to transportation disadvantaged persons. The bill requires community transportation coordinators, in cooperation with their respective coordinating boards, to plan and use regional fare payment systems when available and cost effective that enhance cross-county mobility for the transportation disadvantaged to access employment, health care, education, shopping, or other life-sustaining services across one or more county lines.

The bill also requires coordinating boards to include in their evaluations of multicounty or regional transportation opportunities regional fare payment systems, when available, that enhance cross-county mobility for the transportation disadvantaged for the specified access purposes.

The fiscal impact of the bill is indeterminate. However, this revision may increase mobility for the transportation disadvantaged.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

II. Present Situation:

The Transportation Disadvantaged Program

The Legislature created the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program in Part I of ch. 427, F.S., in 1979.¹ The TD Program coordinates a network of local and state programs providing transportation services for elderly, disabled, and low-income citizens. In 1989, the Legislature created the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (Commission) as an independent entity within the Florida Department of Transportation.² The purpose of the Commission is to accomplish the coordination of transportation services provided to the transportation disadvantaged,³ with the goal of such coordination to assure the cost-effective provision of transportation by qualified community transportation coordinators⁴ or transportation operators.⁵ The Commission describes the program “a shared-ride service which, depending on location, may be provided using the fixed route transit or paratransit (door-to-door) service.”⁶

Each metropolitan planning organization (MPO), or the designated official planning agency in an area outside the purview of an MPO, recommends to the Commission a single community transportation coordinator.⁷ A “community transportation coordinator” is a transportation entity responsible for ensuring that coordinated transportation services are provided to the transportation-disadvantaged population in a designated service area.⁸

Coordinators are currently charged with various powers and duties, including, but not limited to establishing eligibility guidelines and priorities with respect to recipients of nonsponsored transportation disadvantaged services,⁹ developing cost-effective coordination strategies and a service plan for the delivery of services, executing uniform contracts for services, and annually reviewing all transportation operator contracts.¹⁰

Coordinators undergo an annual performance evaluation by the local coordinating board.¹¹ A “coordinating board” is an advisory entity in each designated service area, composed of

¹ 79-180, L.O.F.

² 89-376, L.O.F.

³ A “transportation disadvantaged person” is a person who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age is unable to transport himself or herself or to purchase transportation and is, therefore, dependent on others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life-sustaining activities, or children who are handicapped or high-risk or at-risk as defined in s. 411.202, F.S. Section 427.011(1), F.S.

⁴ Section 427.011(5), F.S.

⁵ A “transportation operator” is one or more public, private for-profit, or private nonprofit entities engaged by the community transportation coordinator to provide service to transportation disadvantaged persons pursuant to a coordinated system service plan. Section 427.011(6), F.S.

⁶ See the Commission’s website available at: <http://www.fdot.gov/ctd/communitytransystem.htm>. (Last visited March 27, 2017.)

⁷ Section 427.015(2), F.S.

⁸ A “designated service area” is a geographical area recommended to and approved by the Commission, which defines the community where coordinated transportation services will be provided to the transportation disadvantaged.

⁹ “Nonsponsored transportation disadvantaged services” means transportation disadvantaged services that are not sponsored or subsidized by any funding source other than the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund. Section 427.011(12), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 427.0155, F.S.

¹¹ A coordinator may provide all or a portion of needed transportation services for the transportation disadvantaged and must subcontract or broker those services that are more cost-effectively and efficiently provided by subcontracting or brokering. Section 427.015(2), F.S.

representatives appointed by the MPO or the designated official planning agency, to provide assistance to the community transportation coordinators relative to the coordination of transportation services.¹² These boards develop local service needs and provide information, advice, and direction to the coordinators.

Section 427.0157, F.S., currently assigns a number of powers and duties to the coordinating boards, including, but not limited to, assisting the coordinators in establishing guidelines and priorities, approving the service plan and services provided in meeting the plan, reviewing coordination strategies, and evaluating multicounty or regional transportation opportunities.

Inter-County Trips and Seamless Regional Travel

Designated service areas may include just one county or multiple counties. Trips involving travel in more than one county are provided to eligible transportation disadvantaged persons on a regular basis.¹³ However, issues may arise for transportation disadvantaged persons who must travel across county boundaries, for example, to go to work and return home, because eligibility for transportation disadvantaged services is determined by application in the county of residence.¹⁴

Solutions to such problems may arise in ongoing efforts to address regional multimodal travel through fare collection systems that are interoperable. One such effort in South Florida involves an agreement between Tri-Rail,¹⁵ Broward County Transit, and Palm Tran to allow for the use of a pay card and mobile app on any of their respective transportation modes.¹⁶ Such a system, designed to allow a transportation disadvantaged person deemed eligible in his or her county of residence to move freely across county boundaries in the same or another designated service area, could increase mobility for the transportation disadvantaged person.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 427.0155, F.S., to add to the powers and duties of coordinators, in cooperation with their coordinating boards, planning and using regional fare payment systems when available and cost-effective, which enhance cross-county mobility for the transportation disadvantaged to access employment, health care, education, shopping, or other life-sustaining services across one or more county.

Section 2 amends s. 427.0157, F.S., relating to the powers and duties of coordinating boards. The bill provides additional direction to coordinating boards with respect to the boards' existing duty to evaluate multicounty or regional transportation opportunities during quarterly

¹² Section 427.011(7), F.S.

¹³ Telephone conversation with Commission staff. March 24, 2017.

¹⁴ Individuals are directed to the local community transportation coordinator to find out if they are eligible for transportation disadvantaged services. See the Commission's website available at: <http://www.fdot.gov/ctd/communitytransystem.htm>. (Last visited March 24, 2017.)

¹⁵ Tri-Rail provides commuter rail service in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties.

¹⁶ See the Miami-Dade County News Release available at: http://www.miamidade.gov/releases/2017-03-10-dtpw-regional-fare-collection.asp?utm_source=media&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=release-distribution&utm_term=transit. (Last visited March 24, 2017.)

meetings.¹⁷The bill requires the boards to include evaluations of regional fare payment systems, when available, that enhance cross-county mobility for the transportation disadvantaged to access employment, health care, education, shopping, or other life-sustaining activities.

Section 3 provides the bill take effect July 1, 2017.

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

IV. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

To the extent that regional fare payment systems are implemented, transportation disadvantaged persons may benefit from increased mobility.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Coordinators and coordinating boards will experience administrative expenses associated with planning for regional fare payment systems. Coordinating boards will experience administrative expenses associated with including regional fare payment systems in their evaluations of multicounty and regional transportation opportunities. The fiscal impact of implementing regional fare payment systems is unknown.

V. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VI. Related Issues:

None.

¹⁷ That section requires coordinating boards to meet “at least” quarterly.

VII. Statutes Affected:

This bill amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 427.011, 427.0157, and 427.0159

VIII. Additional Information:

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

CS by Transportation on March 28, 2017:

The CS removed the as-filed language from the bill and replaced it with revision of the duties of community transportation coordinators and coordinating boards as follows:

- Community transportation coordinators, in cooperation with their respective coordinating boards, must plan and use regional fare payment systems, when available and cost effective, that enhance cross-county mobility for the transportation disadvantaged, and
- Coordinating boards must include, in their evaluations of multicounty or regional transportation opportunities, regional fare payment systems, when available, that enhance cross-county mobility for the transportation disadvantaged.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.