

By Senator Rouson

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Tampa Bay Area Regional  
3           Transportation Authority; repealing part V of ch. 343,  
4           F.S., relating to the Tampa Bay Area Regional  
5           Transportation Authority; terminating the Tampa Bay  
6           Area Regional Transportation Authority; amending ss.  
7           339.175 and 341.302, F.S.; conforming provisions to  
8           changes made by the act; providing an effective date.  
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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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12           Section 1. Part V of chapter 343, Florida Statutes,  
13 consisting of sections 343.90, 343.91, 343.92, 343.922, 343.94,  
14 343.941, 343.943, 343.944, 343.947, 343.95, 343.96, 343.962,  
15 343.97, 343.973, 343.975, and 343.976, is repealed.

16           Section 2. Paragraph (i) of subsection (6) of section  
17 339.175, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18           339.175 Metropolitan planning organization.—

19           (6) POWERS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The powers,  
20 privileges, and authority of an M.P.O. are those specified in  
21 this section or incorporated in an interlocal agreement  
22 authorized under s. 163.01. Each M.P.O. shall perform all acts  
23 required by federal or state laws or rules, now and subsequently  
24 applicable, which are necessary to qualify for federal aid. It  
25 is the intent of this section that each M.P.O. shall be involved  
26 in the planning and programming of transportation facilities,  
27 including, but not limited to, airports, intercity and high-  
28 speed rail lines, seaports, and intermodal facilities, to the  
29 extent permitted by state or federal law.

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30 ~~(i) The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority~~  
31 ~~Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs Coordinating Committee~~  
32 ~~is created within the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation~~  
33 ~~Authority, composed of the M.P.O.'s serving Citrus, Hernando,~~  
34 ~~Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota~~  
35 ~~Counties. The authority shall provide administrative support and~~  
36 ~~direction to the committee. The committee must, at a minimum:~~

37 ~~1. Coordinate transportation projects deemed to be~~  
38 ~~regionally significant by the committee.~~

39 ~~2. Review the impact of regionally significant land use~~  
40 ~~decisions on the region.~~

41 ~~3. Review all proposed regionally significant~~  
42 ~~transportation projects in the respective transportation~~  
43 ~~improvement programs which affect more than one of the M.P.O.'s~~  
44 ~~represented on the committee.~~

45 ~~4. Institute a conflict resolution process to address any~~  
46 ~~conflict that may arise in the planning and programming of such~~  
47 ~~regionally significant projects.~~

48 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section  
49 341.302, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

50 341.302 Rail program; duties and responsibilities of the  
51 department.—The department, in conjunction with other  
52 governmental entities, including the rail enterprise and the  
53 private sector, shall develop and implement a rail program of  
54 statewide application designed to ensure the proper maintenance,  
55 safety, revitalization, and expansion of the rail system to  
56 assure its continued and increased availability to respond to  
57 statewide mobility needs. Within the resources provided pursuant  
58 to chapter 216, and as authorized under federal law, the

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59 department shall:

60 (3) Develop and periodically update the rail system plan,  
61 on the basis of an analysis of statewide transportation needs.

62 (b) In recognition of the department's role in the  
63 enhancement of the state's rail system to improve freight and  
64 passenger mobility, the department shall:

65 1. Work closely with all affected communities along an  
66 impacted freight rail corridor to identify and address  
67 anticipated impacts associated with an increase in freight rail  
68 traffic due to implementation of passenger rail.

69 2. In coordination with the affected local governments and  
70 CSX Transportation, Inc., finalize all viable alternatives from  
71 the department's Rail Traffic Evaluation Study to identify and  
72 develop an alternative route for through freight rail traffic  
73 moving through Central Florida, including the counties of Polk  
74 and Hillsborough, which would address, to the extent  
75 practicable, the effects of commuter rail.

76 3. Provide technical assistance to a coalition of local  
77 governments in Central Florida, including the counties of  
78 Brevard, Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lake, Marion, Orange,  
79 Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, Seminole,  
80 Sumter, and Volusia, and the municipalities within those  
81 counties, to develop a regional rail system plan that addresses  
82 passenger and freight opportunities in the region, is consistent  
83 with the Florida Rail System Plan, and incorporates appropriate  
84 elements of ~~the Tampa Bay Area Regional Authority Master Plan,~~  
85 the Metroplan Orlando Regional Transit System Concept Plan,  
86 including the SunRail project, and the Florida Department of  
87 Transportation Alternate Rail Traffic Evaluation.

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Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.