

By the Committee on Transportation; and Senator Artiles

596-02744-17

2017250c1

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to high-occupancy toll lanes and  
3           express lanes; amending s. 338.166, F.S.; specifying  
4           that the Department of Transportation may collect  
5           tolls on high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes  
6           only for the discharge of certain bond indebtedness on  
7           a project existing before a specified date; requiring  
8           that the tolls be eliminated after discharge of the  
9           project's bond indebtedness; prohibiting the creation  
10          of high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes on or  
11          after a specified date; requiring existing lanes to no  
12          longer be high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes  
13          upon elimination of their tolls; creating s. 338.2225,  
14          F.S.; providing a legislative purpose; authorizing the  
15          department to collect a toll on express lanes that,  
16          before a specified date, exist, or are under  
17          construction, on any part of the turnpike system for  
18          the discharge of certain bond indebtedness; requiring  
19          the elimination of the toll after discharge of the  
20          bond indebtedness; prohibiting express lanes from  
21          being on any part of the turnpike system; authorizing  
22          express lanes that, before a specified date, exist, or  
23          are under construction, on any part of the turnpike  
24          system to continue to exist but not as express lanes;  
25          providing an effective date.

26  
27   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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29          Section 1. Section 338.166, Florida Statutes, is amended to

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30 read:

31 338.166 Termination of high-occupancy toll lanes or express  
32 lanes.—

33 (1) Under s. 11, Art. VII of the State Constitution, the  
34 department may request the Division of Bond Finance to issue  
35 bonds secured by toll revenues collected on high-occupancy toll  
36 lanes or express lanes established on facilities owned by the  
37 department. However,

38 ~~(2) the department may continue to collect a the toll on~~  
39 ~~the high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes~~ only for after  
40 the discharge of any bond indebtedness related to a such project  
41 that exists before July 1, 2017. After the discharge of any bond  
42 indebtedness related to such project, the toll on the high-  
43 occupancy toll lanes or express lanes must be eliminated All  
44 ~~tolls so collected shall first be used to pay the annual cost of~~  
45 ~~the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the high-~~  
46 ~~occupancy toll lanes or express lanes project or associated~~  
47 ~~transportation system.~~

48 (2)(3) High-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes may not  
49 be created on or after July 1, 2017. Upon elimination of the  
50 tolls on existing high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes  
51 pursuant to subsection (1), such lanes may continue to exist but  
52 not as high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes Any remaining  
53 ~~toll revenue from the high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes~~  
54 ~~shall be used by the department for the construction,~~  
55 ~~maintenance, or improvement of any road on the State Highway~~  
56 ~~System within the county or counties in which the toll revenues~~  
57 ~~were collected or to support express bus service on the facility~~  
58 ~~where the toll revenues were collected.~~

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59       ~~(3)(4)~~ The department may implement variable rate tolls on  
60 high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes.

61       ~~(4)(5)~~ Except for high-occupancy toll lanes or express  
62 lanes, tolls may not be charged for use of an interstate highway  
63 where tolls were not charged as of July 1, 1997.

64       ~~(5)(6)~~ This section does not apply to the turnpike system  
65 as defined under the Florida Turnpike Enterprise Law.

66       Section 2. Section 338.2225, Florida Statutes, is created  
67 to read:

68       338.2225 Express lanes on any part of the turnpike system;  
69 prohibition.-

70       (1) The purpose of this section is to eliminate all express  
71 lanes that exist, or are under construction, on any part of the  
72 Florida Turnpike System and to prohibit the creation of such  
73 express lanes.

74       (2) The department may collect a toll on express lanes  
75 that, before July 1, 2017, exist, or are under construction, on  
76 any part of the turnpike system, but such collection may be only  
77 for the discharge of any bond indebtedness that relates to the  
78 expense of constructing the express lanes. After the discharge  
79 of such bond indebtedness, the toll on the express lanes must be  
80 eliminated.

81       (3) Except for express lanes that, before July 1, 2017,  
82 exist, or are under construction, on any part of the turnpike  
83 system, no express lanes shall be on any part of the turnpike  
84 system. Upon elimination of the tolls on express lanes pursuant  
85 to subsection (2), such lanes may continue to exist but not as  
86 express lanes.

87       Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.