

HB 777

2017

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 purpose; authorizing the department to  
15          collect a toll on certain express lanes for the  
16          discharge of certain bond indebtedness; requiring the  
17          elimination of the toll after discharge of the bond  
18          indebtedness; prohibiting express lanes from being on  
19          any part of the turnpike system; providing that  
20          certain existing lanes are no longer considered  
21          express lanes; providing an effective date.

22  
23   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

24  
25          Section 1.   Section 338.166, Florida Statutes, is amended

26 | to read:

27 |       338.166 Termination of high-occupancy toll lanes or  
 28 | express lanes.—

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

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

44 |       (2)(3) High-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes may not  
 45 | be created on or after July 1, 2017. Upon elimination of the  
 46 | tolls on existing high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes  
 47 | pursuant to subsection (1), such existing lanes are no longer  
 48 | considered high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes ~~Any~~  
 49 | ~~remaining toll revenue from the high-occupancy toll lanes or~~  
 50 | ~~express lanes shall be used by the department for the~~

51 ~~construction, maintenance, or improvement of any road on the~~  
52 ~~State Highway System within the county or counties in which the~~  
53 ~~toll revenues were collected or to support express bus service~~  
54 ~~on the facility where the toll revenues were collected.~~

55 (3)~~(4)~~ The department may implement variable rate tolls on  
56 high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes.

57 (4)~~(5)~~ Except for high-occupancy toll lanes or express  
58 lanes, tolls may not be charged for use of an interstate highway  
59 where tolls were not charged as of July 1, 1997.

60 (5)~~(6)~~ This section does not apply to the turnpike system  
61 as defined under the Florida Turnpike Enterprise Law.

62 Section 2. Section 338.2225, Florida Statutes, is created  
63 to read:

64 338.2225 Express lanes on any part of the turnpike system;  
65 prohibition.-

66 (1) The purpose of this section is to eliminate all  
67 express lanes that exist or are under construction on any part  
68 of the Florida Turnpike System and to prohibit the creation of  
69 such express lanes.

70 (2) The department may collect a toll on express lanes  
71 that existed or were under construction on any part of the  
72 turnpike system before July 1, 2017, but such collection may be  
73 only for the discharge of any bond indebtedness that relates to  
74 the expense of constructing the express lanes. After the  
75 discharge of such bond indebtedness, the toll on the express

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76 | lanes must be eliminated.

77 |       (3) Except for express lanes that, before July 1, 2017,  
78 | exist, or are under construction, on any part of the turnpike  
79 | system, no express lanes shall be on any part of the turnpike  
80 | system. Upon elimination of the tolls on express lanes pursuant  
81 | to subsection (2), such existing lanes are no longer considered  
82 | express lanes.

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