

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Department of Transportation;  
3           creating s. 316.0898, F.S.; requiring the department,  
4           in consultation with the Department of Highway Safety  
5           and Motor Vehicles, to develop the Florida Smart City  
6           Challenge Grant Program; providing requirements for  
7           grant applicants; establishing goals for the grant  
8           program; requiring the Department of Transportation to  
9           develop specified criteria for receipt of grants and a  
10          plan for promotion of the grant program; authorizing  
11          the department to contract with a third party for  
12          certain purposes; requiring the department to submit  
13          certain information to the Governor and Legislature;  
14          providing for future repeal; amending s. 316.545,  
15          F.S.; providing for assessment and calculation of a  
16          fine for unlawful weight and load of a vehicle fueled  
17          by natural gas; requiring written certification of  
18          certain weight information; providing gross vehicle  
19          weight requirements; providing an exception; amending  
20          s. 335.074, F.S.; requiring inspection of certain  
21          bridges at intervals required by the Federal Highway  
22          Administration; amending s. 337.11, F.S.; revising the  
23          amount for which the department may enter into certain  
24          construction and maintenance contracts; amending s.  
25          337.401, F.S.; authorizing the department and certain

26 | local governmental entities to prescribe and enforce  
27 | rules or regulations regarding the placing and  
28 | maintaining of certain voice or data communications  
29 | services lines or wireless facilities on certain  
30 | rights-of-way; amending s. 338.227, F.S.; providing  
31 | requirements for the validation of turnpike revenue  
32 | bonds and related complaints; amending s. 338.2275,  
33 | F.S.; authorizing the department to include the  
34 | acquisition of the Garcon Point Bridge in its work  
35 | program under certain circumstances; providing for the  
36 | purchase of bonds; authorizing certain agreements;  
37 | approving the issuance of revenue bonds; requiring  
38 | settlement of claims of certain bondholders;  
39 | prohibiting certain toll rate increases; prohibiting  
40 | the department and the state from incurring certain  
41 | financial obligations; providing for the termination  
42 | of a lease-purchase agreement; providing for the  
43 | repeal of part IV of chapter 348, F.S., under certain  
44 | circumstances; amending s. 339.135, F.S.; waiving  
45 | requirements for approval of certain work program  
46 | amendments by the Legislative Budget Commission under  
47 | certain conditions; amending s. 339.2405, F.S.;

48 | deleting provisions relating to the Florida Highway  
49 | Beautification Council; transferring certain powers  
50 | and duties of the council to the department; amending

51 s. 343.52, F.S.; defining the term "department";  
52 amending s. 343.53, F.S.; conforming a cross-  
53 reference; amending s. 343.54, F.S.; prohibiting the  
54 South Florida Regional Transportation Authority from  
55 entering into certain contracts or agreements without  
56 department approval of the authority's expenditures;  
57 amending s. 343.58, F.S.; providing that certain funds  
58 provided to the authority constitute state financial  
59 assistance; requiring a written agreement for  
60 provision of such funds; authorizing the department to  
61 advance a certain amount of funds under certain  
62 circumstances; requiring the department to submit to  
63 the Governor and Legislature a review of the  
64 boundaries and headquarters of department districts  
65 and a study on the expenses associated with creating  
66 an additional district; authorizing the Secretary of  
67 Transportation to enroll the state in federal pilot  
68 programs or projects for the collection and study of  
69 certain data; amending s. 215.82, F.S.; conforming  
70 provisions to changes made by the act; providing an  
71 effective date.

72  
73 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

74  
75 Section 1. Section 316.0898, Florida Statutes, is created

76 to read:

77 316.0898 Florida Smart City Challenge Grant Program.—

78 (1) The Department of Transportation, in consultation with  
79 the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, shall,  
80 subject to appropriation, develop the Florida Smart City  
81 Challenge Grant Program and establish grant award requirements  
82 for municipalities or regions for the purpose of receiving grant  
83 awards. Grant applicants must demonstrate and document the  
84 adoption of emerging technologies and their impact on the  
85 transportation system and must address at least the following  
86 focus areas:

87 (a) Autonomous vehicles.

88 (b) Connected vehicles.

89 (c) Sensor-based infrastructure.

90 (d) Collecting and using data.

91 (e) Electric vehicles, including charging stations.

92 (f) Developing strategic models and partnerships.

93 (2) The goals of the grant program include, but are not  
94 limited to:

95 (a) Identifying transportation challenges and identifying  
96 how emerging technologies can address those challenges.

97 (b) Determining the emerging technologies and strategies  
98 that have the potential to provide the most significant impacts.

99 (c) Encouraging municipalities to take significant steps  
100 to integrate emerging technologies into their day-to-day

101 operations.

102 (d) Identifying the barriers to implementing the grant  
103 program and communicating those barriers to the Legislature and  
104 appropriate agencies and organizations.

105 (e) Leveraging the initial grant to attract additional  
106 public and private investments.

107 (f) Increasing the state's competitiveness in the pursuit  
108 of grants from the United States Department of Transportation,  
109 the United States Department of Energy, and other federal  
110 agencies.

111 (g) Committing to the continued operation of programs  
112 implemented in connection with the grant.

113 (h) Serving as a model for municipalities nationwide.

114 (i) Documenting the costs and impacts of the grant program  
115 and lessons learned during implementation.

116 (j) Identifying solutions that will demonstrate local or  
117 regional economic impact.

118 (3) The Department of Transportation shall develop  
119 eligibility, application, and selection criteria for the receipt  
120 of grants and a plan for the promotion of the grant program to  
121 municipalities or regions of this state as an opportunity to  
122 compete for grant funding, including the award of grants to a  
123 single recipient and secondary grants to specific projects of  
124 merit within other applications. The Department of  
125 Transportation may contract with a third party that demonstrates

126 knowledge and expertise in the focuses and goals of this section  
127 to provide guidance in the development of the requirements of  
128 this section.

129 (4) On or before January 1, 2018, the Department of  
130 Transportation shall submit the grant program guidelines and  
131 plans for promotion of the grant program to the Governor, the  
132 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
133 Representatives.

134 (5) This section expires July 1, 2018.

135 Section 2. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (3) of  
136 section 316.545, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
137 paragraphs (d) and (e), respectively, and a new paragraph (c) is  
138 added to that subsection to read:

139 316.545 Weight and load unlawful; special fuel and motor  
140 fuel tax enforcement; inspection; penalty; review.—

141 (3)

142 (c)1. For a vehicle fueled by natural gas, the fine is  
143 calculated by reducing the actual gross vehicle weight by the  
144 certified weight difference between the natural gas tank and  
145 fueling system and a comparable diesel tank and fueling system.  
146 Upon request by any weight inspector or law enforcement officer,  
147 the vehicle operator must present written certification that  
148 identifies the weight of the natural gas tank and fueling system  
149 and the difference in weight of a comparable diesel tank and  
150 fueling system. The written certification must originate from

151 the vehicle manufacturer or the installer of the natural gas  
152 tank and fueling system.

153 2. The actual gross vehicle weight for vehicles fueled by  
154 natural gas may not exceed 82,000 pounds, excluding the weight  
155 allowed for idle-reduction technology under paragraph (b).

156 3. This paragraph does not apply to those vehicles  
157 described in s. 316.535(6).

158 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 335.074, Florida  
159 Statutes, is amended to read:

160 335.074 Safety inspection of bridges.—

161 (2) At regular intervals as required by the Federal  
162 Highway Administration ~~not to exceed 2 years~~, each bridge on a  
163 public transportation facility shall be inspected for structural  
164 soundness and safety for the passage of traffic on such bridge.  
165 The thoroughness with which bridges are to be inspected shall  
166 depend on such factors as age, traffic characteristics, state of  
167 maintenance, and known deficiencies. The governmental entity  
168 responsible for ~~having~~ maintenance of responsibility ~~for~~ any  
169 such bridge is ~~shall be~~ responsible for having inspections  
170 performed and reports prepared in accordance with this section  
171 ~~the provisions contained herein.~~

172 Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (6) of section  
173 337.11, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

174 337.11 Contracting authority of department; bids;  
175 emergency repairs, supplemental agreements, and change orders;

176 combined design and construction contracts; progress payments;  
177 records; requirements of vehicle registration.—

178 (6)

179 (c) When the department determines that it is in the best  
180 interest of the public for reasons of public concern, economy,  
181 improved operations, or safety, and only when circumstances  
182 dictate rapid completion of the work, the department may, up to  
183 the amount of \$250,000 ~~\$120,000~~, enter into contracts for  
184 construction and maintenance without advertising and receiving  
185 competitive bids. The department may enter into such contracts  
186 only upon a determination that the work is necessary for one of  
187 the following reasons:

188 1. To ensure timely completion of projects or avoidance of  
189 undue delay for other projects;

190 2. To accomplish minor repairs or construction and  
191 maintenance activities for which time is of the essence and for  
192 which significant cost savings would occur; or

193 3. To accomplish nonemergency work necessary to ensure  
194 avoidance of adverse conditions that affect the safe and  
195 efficient flow of traffic.

196

197 The department shall make a good faith effort to obtain two or  
198 more quotes, if available, from qualified contractors before  
199 entering into any contract. The department shall give  
200 consideration to disadvantaged business enterprise



201 participation. However, when the work exists within the limits  
 202 of an existing contract, the department shall make a good faith  
 203 effort to negotiate and enter into a contract with the prime  
 204 contractor on the existing contract.

205 Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
 206 337.401, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

207 337.401 Use of right-of-way for utilities subject to  
 208 regulation; permit; fees.—

209 (1) (a) The department and local governmental entities,  
 210 referred to in this section and in ss. 337.402, 337.403, and  
 211 337.404 as the "authority," that have jurisdiction and control  
 212 of public roads or publicly owned rail corridors are authorized  
 213 to prescribe and enforce reasonable rules or regulations with  
 214 reference to the placing and maintaining across, on, or within  
 215 the right-of-way limits of any road or publicly owned rail  
 216 corridors under their respective jurisdictions any electric  
 217 transmission, voice telephone, telegraph, data, or other  
 218 communications services lines or wireless facilities; pole  
 219 lines; poles; railways; ditches; sewers; water, heat, or gas  
 220 mains; pipelines; fences; gasoline tanks and pumps; or other  
 221 structures referred to in this section and in ss. 337.402,  
 222 337.403, and 337.404 as the "utility." The department may enter  
 223 into a permit-delegation agreement with a governmental entity if  
 224 issuance of a permit is based on requirements that the  
 225 department finds will ensure the safety and integrity of

226 facilities of the Department of Transportation; however, the  
227 permit-delegation agreement does not apply to facilities of  
228 electric utilities as defined in s. 366.02(2).

229 Section 6. Subsection (5) is added to section 338.227,  
230 Florida Statutes, to read:

231 338.227 Turnpike revenue bonds.—

232 (5) Notwithstanding s. 215.82, bonds issued pursuant to  
233 this section are not required to be validated pursuant to  
234 chapter 75 but may be validated at the option of the Division of  
235 Bond Finance. A complaint about such validation must be filed in  
236 the circuit court of the county in which the seat of state  
237 government is situated. The notice required to be published by  
238 s. 75.06 must be published only in the county in which the  
239 complaint is filed. The complaint and order of the circuit court  
240 must be served only on the state attorney of the circuit in  
241 which the action is pending.

242 Section 7. Subsection (4) is added to section 338.2275,  
243 Florida Statutes, to read:

244 338.2275 Approved turnpike projects.—

245 (4) (a) Subject to the verification of economic feasibility  
246 by the department in accordance with s. 338.221(8), the  
247 department may include the acquisition of the Garcon Point  
248 Bridge and related assets as a turnpike project in its tentative  
249 work program in accordance with s. 338.223. Upon approval of the  
250 acquisition through approval of the department's tentative work

251 program in accordance with s. 339.135, the department may  
252 acquire the Garcon Point Bridge, including related assets, and  
253 as part of such acquisition may purchase outstanding Santa Rosa  
254 Bay Bridge Authority bonds. The department may enter into any  
255 agreements necessary to implement the acquisition, including the  
256 purchase of Santa Rosa Bay Bridge Authority bonds, and to  
257 specify the terms and conditions thereof. Upon acquisition, the  
258 Garcon Point Bridge shall become a part of the turnpike system.  
259 Pursuant to s. 11(f), Art. VII of the State Constitution, the  
260 issuance of revenue bonds to finance the department's  
261 acquisition of the Garcon Point Bridge is approved.

262 (b) The acquisition price paid by the department shall  
263 first be used to settle all claims of bondholders of the Santa  
264 Rosa Bay Bridge Authority Revenue Bonds, Series 1996.

265 (c) A toll rate increase may not be imposed on the Garcon  
266 Point Bridge by the authority, the department, or the trustee  
267 for bondholders in connection with the acquisition of the bridge  
268 by the department. Following any acquisition by the department,  
269 an increase in tolls for use of the bridge shall not be  
270 permitted except as required by law or as required to comply  
271 with the covenants contained in any resolution under which bonds  
272 have been issued.

273 (d) Neither the department nor the state shall incur any  
274 financial obligation in the acquisition of the Garcon Point  
275 Bridge in excess of forecasted gross revenues from the operation

276 of the bridge. Therefore, the total acquisition price paid by  
277 the department may not exceed the present value of the gross  
278 revenues, calculated without any increase in the toll rate,  
279 anticipated to be collected from the operation of the bridge  
280 between the date of a purchase agreement in accordance with this  
281 section and the end of the anticipated remaining useful life of  
282 the bridge as it exists as of the date of the purchase  
283 agreement.

284 (e) Upon the acquisition of the Garcon Point Bridge as  
285 authorized by this subsection, the lease-purchase agreement  
286 dated October 23, 1996, between the authority and the  
287 department, as amended, shall be terminated.

288 Section 8. Upon acquisition of the Garcon Point Bridge as  
289 authorized by s. 338.2275(4), Florida Statutes, as created by  
290 this act, part IV of chapter 348, Florida Statutes, consisting  
291 of ss. 348.965, 348.966, 348.967, 348.968, 348.969, 348.97,  
292 348.971, 348.972, 348.973, 348.974, 348.9751, 348.9761,  
293 348.9771, and 348.9781, is repealed.

294 Section 9. Paragraph (e) of subsection (7) of section  
295 339.135, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

296 339.135 Work program; legislative budget request;  
297 definitions; preparation, adoption, execution, and amendment.—

298 (7) AMENDMENT OF THE ADOPTED WORK PROGRAM.—

299 (e) Notwithstanding paragraphs (d), ~~and~~ (g), and (h) and  
300 ss. 216.177(2) and 216.351, the secretary may request the

301 Executive Office of the Governor to amend the adopted work  
 302 program when an emergency exists, as defined in s. 252.34, and  
 303 the emergency relates to the repair or rehabilitation of any  
 304 state transportation facility. The Executive Office of the  
 305 Governor may approve the amendment to the adopted work program  
 306 and amend that portion of the department's approved budget if a  
 307 delay incident to the notification requirements in paragraph (d)  
 308 would be detrimental to the interests of the state. However, the  
 309 department shall immediately notify the parties specified in  
 310 paragraph (d) and provide such parties written justification for  
 311 the emergency action within 7 days after approval by the  
 312 Executive Office of the Governor of the amendment to the adopted  
 313 work program and the department's budget. The adopted work  
 314 program may not be amended under this subsection without  
 315 certification by the comptroller of the department that there  
 316 are sufficient funds available pursuant to the 36-month cash  
 317 forecast and applicable statutes.

318 Section 10. Section 339.2405, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 319 to read:

320 339.2405 Florida highway beautification grants Council.-

321 (1) The department shall ~~There is created within the~~  
 322 ~~Department of Transportation the Florida Highway Beautification~~  
 323 ~~Council. It shall consist of seven members appointed by the~~  
 324 ~~Governor. All appointed members must be residents of this state.~~  
 325 ~~One member must be a licensed landscape architect, one member~~

326 ~~must be a representative of the Florida Federation of Garden~~  
327 ~~Clubs, Inc., one member must be a representative of the Florida~~  
328 ~~Nurserymen and Growers Association, one member must be a~~  
329 ~~representative of the department as designated by the head of~~  
330 ~~the department, one member must be a representative of the~~  
331 ~~Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and two members~~  
332 ~~must be private citizens. The members of the council shall serve~~  
333 ~~at the pleasure of the Governor.~~

334 ~~(2) Each chair shall be selected by the council members~~  
335 ~~and shall serve a 2-year term.~~

336 ~~(3) The council shall meet no less than semiannually at~~  
337 ~~the call of the chair or, in the chair's absence or incapacity,~~  
338 ~~at the call of the head of the department. Four members shall~~  
339 ~~constitute a quorum for the purpose of exercising all of the~~  
340 ~~powers of the council. A vote of the majority of the members~~  
341 ~~present shall be sufficient for all actions of the council.~~

342 ~~(4) The council members shall serve without pay but shall~~  
343 ~~be entitled to per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.~~  
344 ~~112.061.~~

345 ~~(5) A member of the council may not participate in any~~  
346 ~~discussion or decision to recommend grants to any qualified~~  
347 ~~local government with which the member is associated as a member~~  
348 ~~of the governing body or as an employee or with which the member~~  
349 ~~has entered into a contractual arrangement.~~

350 ~~(6) The council may prescribe, amend, and repeal bylaws~~

351 ~~governing the manner in which the business of the council is~~  
352 ~~conducted.~~

353 ~~(7)(a) The duties of the council shall be to:~~

354 (a)1. Provide information to local governments and local  
355 highway beautification councils regarding the state highway  
356 beautification grants program.

357 (b)2. Accept grant requests from local governments.

358 (c)3. Review grant requests for compliance with department  
359 ~~council~~ rules.

360 (d)4. Establish rules for evaluating and prioritizing the  
361 grant requests. The rules must include, but are not limited to,  
362 an examination of each grant's aesthetic value, cost-  
363 effectiveness, level of local support, feasibility of  
364 installation and maintenance, and compliance with state and  
365 federal regulations. Rules adopted by the department council  
366 which it uses to evaluate grant applications must take into  
367 consideration the contributions made by the highway  
368 beautification project in preventing litter.

369 (e)5. Maintain a prioritized list of approved grant  
370 requests. The list must include recommended funding levels for  
371 each request and, if staged implementation is appropriate,  
372 provide funding requirements for each stage ~~shall be provided.~~

373 ~~6. Assess the feasibility of planting and maintaining~~  
374 ~~indigenous wildflowers and plants, instead of sod groundcovers,~~  
375 ~~along the rights-of-way of state roads and highways. In making~~

376 ~~such assessment, the council shall utilize data from other~~  
 377 ~~states which include indigenous wildflower and plant species in~~  
 378 ~~their highway vegetative management systems.~~

379 ~~(b) The council may, at the request of the head of the~~  
 380 ~~department, review and make recommendations on any other highway~~  
 381 ~~beautification matters relating to the State Highway System.~~

382 ~~(8) The head of the department shall provide from existing~~  
 383 ~~personnel such staff support services to the council as are~~  
 384 ~~necessary to enable the council to fulfill its duties and~~  
 385 ~~responsibilities.~~

386 (2)~~(9)~~ Local highway beautification councils may be  
 387 created by local governmental entities or by the Legislature.  
 388 Before ~~Prior to~~ being submitted to the department ~~council~~, a  
 389 grant request must be approved by the local government or  
 390 governments of the area in which the project is located.

391 (3)~~(10)~~ The head of the department, ~~after receiving~~  
 392 ~~recommendations from the council,~~ shall award grants to local  
 393 governmental entities that have submitted grant requests for  
 394 beautification of roads on the State Highway System and which  
 395 requests are on the ~~council's~~ approved list. The grants shall be  
 396 awarded in the order they appear on the ~~council's~~ prioritized  
 397 list and in accordance with available funding.

398 (4)~~(11)~~ State highway beautification grants may be  
 399 requested only for projects to beautify through landscaping  
 400 roads on the State Highway System. The grant request shall



401 identify all costs associated with the project, including  
402 sprinkler systems, plant materials, equipment, and labor. A  
403 grant shall provide for the costs of purchase and installation  
404 of a sprinkler system and, the cost of plant materials and  
405 fertilizer, and may provide for the costs for labor associated  
406 with the installation of the plantings. Each local government  
407 that receives a grant shall be responsible for any costs for  
408 water, for the maintenance of the sprinkler system, for the  
409 maintenance of the landscaped areas in accordance with a  
410 maintenance agreement with the department, and, except as  
411 otherwise provided in the grant, for any costs for labor  
412 associated with the installation of the plantings. The  
413 department may provide, by contract, services to maintain such  
414 landscaping at a level not to exceed the cost of routine  
415 maintenance of an equivalent unlandscaped area.

416 ~~(12) The council shall annually submit to the head of the~~  
417 ~~Department of Transportation a proposal recommending the level~~  
418 ~~of grant funding.~~

419 Section 11. Section 343.52, Florida Statutes, is amended  
420 to read:

421 343.52 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

422 (1)~~(3)~~ "Area served" means Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm  
423 Beach Counties. However, this area may be expanded by mutual  
424 consent of the authority and the board of county commissioners  
425 of Monroe County. The authority may not expand into any

426 additional counties without the department's prior written  
 427 approval.

428 (2)~~(1)~~ "Authority" means the South Florida Regional  
 429 Transportation Authority.

430 (3)~~(2)~~ "Board" means the governing body of the authority.

431 (4) "Department" means the Department of Transportation.

432 (5)~~(7)~~ "Feeder transit services" means a transit system  
 433 that transports passengers to or from stations within or across  
 434 counties.

435 (6) "Member" means the individuals constituting the board.

436 (7)~~(5)~~ "Transit facilities" means property, avenues of  
 437 access, equipment, or buildings built and installed in Miami-  
 438 Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties which are required to  
 439 support a transit system.

440 (8)~~(4)~~ "Transit system" means a system used for the  
 441 transportation of people and goods by means of, without  
 442 limitation, a street railway, an elevated railway having a fixed  
 443 guideway, a commuter railroad, a subway, motor vehicles, or  
 444 motor buses, and includes a complete system of tracks, stations,  
 445 and rolling stock necessary to effectuate passenger service to  
 446 or from the surrounding regional municipalities.

447 Section 12. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section  
 448 343.53, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

449 343.53 South Florida Regional Transportation Authority.—

450 (2) The governing board of the authority shall consist of

451 10 voting members, as follows:

452 (d) If the authority's service area is expanded pursuant  
 453 to s. 343.54(6) ~~343.54(5)~~, the county containing the new service  
 454 area shall have two members appointed to the board as follows:

455 1. The county commission of the county shall elect a  
 456 commissioner as that commission's representative on the board.  
 457 The commissioner must be a member of the county commission when  
 458 elected and for the full extent of his or her term.

459 2. The Governor shall appoint a citizen member to the  
 460 board who is not a member of the county commission but who is a  
 461 resident and a qualified elector of that county.

462 Section 13. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 343.54,  
 463 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5) and (6),  
 464 respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section  
 465 to read:

466 343.54 Powers and duties.—

467 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, the  
 468 authority may not enter into, extend, or renew any contract or  
 469 other agreement that may be funded, in whole or in part, with  
 470 funds provided by the department without the prior review and  
 471 written approval by the department of the authority's proposed  
 472 expenditures.

473 Section 14. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section  
 474 343.58, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

475 343.58 County funding for the South Florida Regional

476 Transportation Authority.—

477 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
478 contrary and effective July 1, 2010, until as provided in  
479 paragraph (d), the department shall transfer annually from the  
480 State Transportation Trust Fund to the South Florida Regional  
481 Transportation Authority the amounts specified in subparagraph  
482 (a)1. or subparagraph (a)2.

483 (c)1. Funds provided to the authority by the department  
484 under this subsection constitute state financial assistance  
485 provided to a nonstate entity to carry out a state project  
486 subject to ss. 215.97 and 215.971. The department shall provide  
487 the funds in accordance with the terms of a written agreement to  
488 be entered into between the authority and the department, which  
489 shall provide for department review, approval, and audit of  
490 authority expenditure of such funds and shall include such other  
491 provisions as are required by applicable law. The department is  
492 specifically authorized to agree to advance the authority 25  
493 percent of the total funds provided under this subsection for a  
494 state fiscal year at the beginning of each state fiscal year,  
495 with monthly payments over the fiscal year on a reimbursement  
496 basis as supported by invoices and such additional documentation  
497 and information as the department may reasonably require and a  
498 reconciliation of the advance against remaining invoices in the  
499 last quarter of the fiscal year ~~may not be committed by the~~  
500 ~~authority without the approval of the department, which may not~~

501 ~~be unreasonably withheld. At least 90 days before advertising~~  
502 ~~any procurement or renewing any existing contract that will rely~~  
503 ~~on state funds for payment, the authority shall notify the~~  
504 ~~department of the proposed procurement or renewal and the~~  
505 ~~proposed terms thereof. If the department, within 60 days after~~  
506 ~~receipt of notice, objects in writing to the proposed~~  
507 ~~procurement or renewal, specifying its reasons for objection,~~  
508 ~~the authority may not proceed with the proposed procurement or~~  
509 ~~renewal. Failure of the department to object in writing within~~  
510 ~~60 days after notice shall be deemed consent. This requirement~~  
511 ~~does not impair or cause the authority to cancel contracts that~~  
512 ~~exist as of June 30, 2012.~~

513 2. To enable the department to evaluate the authority's  
514 proposed uses of state funds, the authority shall annually  
515 provide the department with its proposed budget for the  
516 following authority fiscal year and shall promptly provide the  
517 department with any additional documentation or information  
518 required by the department for its evaluation of the proposed  
519 uses of the state funds.

520 Section 15. On or before October 31, 2017, the Department  
521 of Transportation shall submit to the Governor, the President of  
522 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a  
523 report providing a comprehensive review of the boundaries and  
524 headquarters of each of the department's districts. Along with  
525 its report, the department shall provide a study on the expenses

526 associated with creating an additional district with the  
527 department's Fort Myers urban office as the district  
528 headquarters.

529 Section 16. The Secretary of Transportation may enroll the  
530 State of Florida in any federal pilot program or project for the  
531 collection and study of data for the review of federal or state  
532 roadway safety, infrastructure sustainability, congestion  
533 mitigation, transportation system efficiency, autonomous vehicle  
534 technology, or capacity challenges.

535 Section 17. Subsection (2) of section 215.82, Florida  
536 Statutes, is amended to read:

537 215.82 Validation; when required.—

538 (2) Any bonds issued pursuant to this act which are  
539 validated shall be validated in the manner provided by chapter  
540 75. In actions to validate bonds to be issued in the name of the  
541 State Board of Education under s. 9(a) and (d), Art. XII of the  
542 State Constitution and bonds to be issued pursuant to chapter  
543 259, the Land Conservation Program, the complaint shall be filed  
544 in the circuit court of the county where the seat of state  
545 government is situated, the notice required to be published by  
546 s. 75.06 shall be published only in the county where the  
547 complaint is filed, and the complaint and order of the circuit  
548 court shall be served only on the state attorney of the circuit  
549 in which the action is pending. In any action to validate bonds  
550 issued pursuant to s. 1010.62 or issued pursuant to s. 9(a)(1),

551 Art. XII of the State Constitution or issued pursuant to s.  
552 215.605 ~~or s. 338.227~~, the complaint shall be filed in the  
553 circuit court of the county where the seat of state government  
554 is situated, the notice required to be published by s. 75.06  
555 shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the  
556 county where the complaint is filed and in two other newspapers  
557 of general circulation in the state, and the complaint and order  
558 of the circuit court shall be served only on the state attorney  
559 of the circuit in which the action is pending; provided,  
560 however, that if publication of notice pursuant to this section  
561 would require publication in more newspapers than would  
562 publication pursuant to s. 75.06, such publication shall be made  
563 pursuant to s. 75.06.

564 Section 18. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.