

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to the transportation disadvantaged;  
3 amending s. 427.0155, F.S.; requiring community  
4 transportation coordinators, in cooperation with the  
5 coordinating board, to increase and support programs  
6 that enhance cross-county mobility for specified  
7 purposes for the transportation disadvantaged;  
8 amending s. 427.0157, F.S.; requiring each  
9 coordinating board to evaluate multicounty or regional  
10 transportation opportunities to increase and support  
11 programs that enhance cross-county mobility for  
12 specified purposes for the transportation  
13 disadvantaged; creating s. 427.01585, F.S.; requiring  
14 the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged to  
15 develop a disability sensitivity training program for  
16 certain purposes; providing program requirements;  
17 creating s. 427.01587, F.S.; requiring the commission  
18 to develop the A Ride Away Program for certain  
19 purposes; providing program requirements; creating s.  
20 427.01589, F.S.; requiring motor vehicle operators  
21 providing services to the transportation  
22 disadvantaged, and transportation disadvantaged  
23 persons who use such services, to possess  
24 identification issued by the commission; requiring  
25 motor vehicles used to provide such services to be

26 equipped with cameras and a global positioning system  
27 device; providing an effective date.

28

29 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

30

31 Section 1. Subsection (10) is added to section 427.0155,  
32 Florida Statutes, to read:

33 427.0155 Community transportation coordinators; powers and  
34 duties.—Community transportation coordinators shall have the  
35 following powers and duties:

36 (10) In cooperation with the coordinating board, increase  
37 and support programs that enhance cross-county mobility for the  
38 transportation disadvantaged to access employment, health care,  
39 education, shopping, or other life-sustaining services across  
40 one or more county lines.

41 Section 2. Section 427.0157, Florida Statutes, is amended  
42 to read:

43 427.0157 Coordinating boards; powers and duties.—The  
44 purpose of each coordinating board is to develop local service  
45 needs and to provide information, advice, and direction to the  
46 community transportation coordinators on the coordination of  
47 services to be provided to the transportation disadvantaged. The  
48 commission shall, by rule, establish the membership of  
49 coordinating boards. The members of each board shall be  
50 appointed by the metropolitan planning organization or

51 designated official planning agency. The appointing authority  
 52 shall provide each board with sufficient staff support and  
 53 resources to enable the board to fulfill its responsibilities  
 54 under this section. Each board shall meet at least quarterly and  
 55 shall:

56 (1) Review and approve the coordinated community  
 57 transportation disadvantaged service plan, including the  
 58 memorandum of agreement, prior to submittal to the commission.~~†~~

59 (2) Evaluate services provided in meeting the approved  
 60 plan.~~†~~

61 (3) In cooperation with the community transportation  
 62 coordinator, review and provide recommendations to the  
 63 commission on funding applications affecting the transportation  
 64 disadvantaged.~~†~~

65 (4) Assist the community transportation coordinator in  
 66 establishing eligibility guidelines and priorities with regard  
 67 to the recipients of nonsponsored transportation disadvantaged  
 68 services that are purchased with Transportation Disadvantaged  
 69 Trust Fund moneys.

70 (5) Review the coordination strategies of service  
 71 provision to the transportation disadvantaged in the designated  
 72 service area.~~†~~ and

73 (6) Evaluate multicounty or regional transportation  
 74 opportunities to increase and support programs that enhance  
 75 cross-county mobility for the transportation disadvantaged to

76 access employment, health care, education, shopping, or other  
77 life-sustaining services across one or more county lines.

78 (7) Work cooperatively with local workforce development  
79 boards established in chapter 445 to provide assistance in the  
80 development of innovative transportation services for  
81 participants in the welfare transition program.

82 Section 3. Section 427.01585, Florida Statutes, is created  
83 to read:

84 427.01585 Disability sensitivity training program.—

85 (1) The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged  
86 shall develop a disability sensitivity training program to  
87 provide instruction in appropriate and respectful interactions  
88 with the transportation disadvantaged to each employee of a  
89 transportation operator or paratransit service provider who  
90 operates a motor vehicle used to provide transportation services  
91 to the transportation disadvantaged.

92 (2) Disability sensitivity training shall provide  
93 instruction in subjects including, but not limited to:

94 (a) Prohibition of the use of a wireless communications  
95 device while driving as provided in ss. 316.305 and 316.306.

96 (b) Prohibition of sexual harassment according to the  
97 policies and rules adopted by the Department of Management  
98 Services pursuant to s. 110.1221.

99 (c) Appropriate responses to incidents relating to a  
100 person's physical or mental disability, including, but not

101 limited to, seizures, sensory disturbances, and mobility  
102 difficulties.

103 (d) Operation of mobility aids for persons with  
104 disabilities, including, but not limited to, motorized scooters,  
105 manual or motorized wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and  
106 orthopedic canes.

107 (3) A transportation operator or paratransit service  
108 provider shall provide disability sensitivity training:

109 (a) To each new employee described in subsection (1)  
110 within 6 weeks after the date of his or her employment.

111 (b) To each current employee described in subsection (1)  
112 at least once per year.

113 Section 4. Section 427.01587, Florida Statutes, is created  
114 to read:

115 427.01587 A Ride Away Program.—

116 (1) The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged  
117 shall develop the A Ride Away Program to provide instruction in  
118 the various modes of transportation available to the  
119 transportation disadvantaged, particularly to persons with  
120 disabilities, and how to use each mode of transportation safely  
121 and effectively.

122 (2) The A Ride Away Program shall provide travel  
123 experience training in subjects including, but not limited to:

124 (a) Paratransit and other on-demand transportation  
125 services.

- 126        (b) Ride-sharing mobility services.
- 127        (c) Cross-county or regional transportation services.
- 128        (d) Public transportation services.
- 129        (3) Individuals who provide travel experience training  
 130 under the A Ride Away Program shall consider each person's age,  
 131 background, prior transit experience, and ability to master new  
 132 skills when determining which lesson plans and discussions are  
 133 most appropriate for the persons being trained.

134        Section 5. Section 427.01589, Florida Statutes, is created  
 135 to read:

136        427.01589 Identification and equipment required.—

137        (1) An employee of a transportation operator or  
 138 paratransit service provider, while operating a motor vehicle  
 139 used to provide transportation services to the transportation  
 140 disadvantaged, must display on his or her person an  
 141 identification card issued by the Commission for the  
 142 Transportation Disadvantaged bearing his or her first and last  
 143 name, photograph, and employer name.

144        (2) A transportation disadvantaged person who uses the  
 145 services of a transportation operator or paratransit service  
 146 provider must possess an identification card issued by the  
 147 Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged bearing his or  
 148 her first and last name, address, photograph, and emergency  
 149 contact information.

150        (3) A motor vehicle used by a transportation operator or

HB 551

2020

151 paratransit service provider to provide transportation services  
152 to the transportation disadvantaged must be equipped with an  
153 interior camera, an exterior camera, and a global positioning  
154 system device.

155 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.