

By Senator Brandes

24-00888A-21

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Department of Transportation;
3 requiring the department to allow persons to purchase
4 certain commuter passes for their motor vehicles;
5 requiring that funds collected from the sale of the
6 commuter passes be deposited in specified trust funds
7 and used for the operation and maintenance of the
8 Pinellas Bayway System; requiring the department or
9 the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, as appropriate, to
10 index annual commuter pass costs to certain inflation
11 indicators; requiring the department or the
12 enterprise, as appropriate, to use a specified portion
13 of funds collected from the sale of commuter passes
14 during a specified period of time for landscaping and
15 beautification; beginning on a specified date,
16 requiring the department or the enterprise, as
17 appropriate, to annually use a specified amount of
18 funds for landscaping and beautification; beginning on
19 a specified date, requiring the department or the
20 enterprise, as appropriate, to index the landscaping
21 and beautification allocation amount to certain
22 inflation indicators; specifying that funds provided
23 under this act are in addition to any funds otherwise
24 allocated by the department or the enterprise, as
25 appropriate, for such purposes; providing an effective
26 date.

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28 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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30 Section 1. (1) The Department of Transportation shall allow
31 any person to purchase a commuter pass for each motor vehicle
32 the person owns at an annual cost of \$60 per vehicle which
33 exempts the motor vehicle from any Pinellas Bayway System tolls
34 during the term of the pass. Funds collected from the sale of
35 commuter passes must be deposited in the State Transportation
36 Trust Fund, or in the Turnpike General Reserve Trust Fund if the
37 Pinellas Bayway System is transferred pursuant to s.
38 338.165(11), Florida Statutes, and used for the operation and
39 maintenance of the Pinellas Bayway System.

40 (2) The department or the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, as
41 appropriate, shall index the annual commuter pass cost to the
42 annual Consumer Price Index or similar inflation indicators,
43 rounded to the nearest dollar. Commuter pass cost adjustments
44 for inflation under this section may be made no more frequently
45 than once a year and may be made no less frequently than once
46 every 5 years.

47 (3) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the first \$10 of each
48 commuter pass sold during the first 12 months after July 1,
49 2021, must be used by the department or the turnpike enterprise,
50 as appropriate, for landscaping and beautification of the
51 Pinellas Bayway System.

52 (4) Beginning July 1, 2022, the department or the turnpike
53 enterprise, as appropriate, shall use no less than \$100,000
54 annually for such landscaping and beautification. Beginning July
55 1, 2027, and every 5 years thereafter, the department or the
56 turnpike enterprise, as appropriate, shall index the \$100,000
57 annual limitation to the annual Consumer Price Index or similar
58 inflation indicators, the result of which shall constitute the

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59 annual limitation on use of funds for landscaping and
60 beautification until the next scheduled adjustment. Any amounts
61 that exceed the adjusted annual limitation shall be deposited
62 and used as provided in subsection (1).

63 (5) The funds provided under this section for landscaping
64 and beautification of the Pinellas Bayway System shall be in
65 addition to any funds otherwise allocated by the department or
66 the turnpike enterprise, as appropriate, for such purposes.

67 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.