

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to regional transportation planning;
 3 providing legislative findings and intent; requiring
 4 the Department of Transportation to conduct a study of
 5 the organizational structure and operation of the
 6 Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority;
 7 specifying requirements of the study; requiring the
 8 department to submit a specified report to the
 9 Governor and Legislature; providing an effective date.

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

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 13 Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that, given this
 14 state's rapid population growth, effective coordination of
 15 transportation planning and service delivery, particularly
 16 regional transportation mobility, is critical to the safe and
 17 efficient development, management, operation, and maintenance of
 18 public transit systems. The Legislature questions whether
 19 changes to the organizational structure and governance of the
 20 Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) would result
 21 in operational efficiencies and improvements to transit
 22 services. It is the intent of the Legislature to explore
 23 transformative changes to the policy management structure of
 24 HART to achieve organizational efficiencies with the goal of
 25 streamlining decisionmaking, improving transparency, and

26 enhancing the effectiveness of local and regional public transit
27 service delivery.

28 (2) The Department of Transportation, or its consultant,
29 shall conduct a study reviewing aspects of HART's organizational
30 structure and operation, including, but not limited to, the
31 following:

32 (a) The HART charter to evaluate the authority's
33 governance structure, including governing board membership,
34 funding, representation, terms, powers, duties, and
35 responsibilities.

36 (b) Financial assets and obligations.

37 (c) Facilities and operations.

38 (d) Issues, advantages, disadvantages, and actions
39 required regarding the dissolution of HART as an agency and
40 options to continue transit services in Hillsborough County in
41 the absence of HART, including service delivery, funding, and
42 asset management.

43 (e) Issues, advantages, disadvantages, and actions
44 required regarding collaboration, consolidation, or merger with
45 other transportation service providers in the Tampa Bay region
46 within or adjacent to Hillsborough County, including service
47 delivery, funding, and asset management.

48 (f) Policies adopted by the HART governing board and the
49 proposal of amendments thereto related to governance, roles, and
50 responsibilities of governing board officers, the executive

51 administrator or chief executive officer, and the general
52 counsel.

53 (g) Any other matters deemed necessary or appropriate by
54 the department.

55 (3) By January 1, 2024, the department shall submit a
56 report detailing the results of the study to the Governor, the
57 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
58 Representatives.

59 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.