

Amendment No.

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
OTHER	<u> </u>	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Infrastructure Strategies
 2 Committee

3 Representative Busatta Cabrera offered the following:

4

5 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

6 Remove lines 35-406 and insert:

7 Section 1. Subsection 16 is added to section 341.041,
 8 Florida Statutes, to read:

9 341.041 Transit responsibilities of the department.—The
 10 department shall, within the resources provided pursuant to
 11 chapter 216:

12 (16) Unless otherwise provided by state or federal law,
 13 ensure that all grants and agreements between the department and
 14 entities providing paratransit services include, at a minimum,
 15 the following provisions:

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16 (a) Performance requirements for the delivery of services,
17 including clear penalties for repeated or continuing violations;

18 (b) Minimum liability insurance requirements for all
19 transportation services purchased, provided, or coordinated for
20 the transportation disadvantaged, as defined in s. 427.011,
21 through the contracted vendor or subcontractor thereof; and

22 (c) Complaint and grievance processes for paratransit
23 users, including a requirement that all reported complaints,
24 grievances, and resolutions are reported to the department on a
25 quarterly basis.

26 (d) A requirement that the provisions of paragraphs (a)-
27 (c) must be included in any agreement between the entity
28 receiving the grant or agreement from the department and such
29 entity's contractors or subcontractors that provide paratransit
30 services.

31 Section 2. Section 427.011, Florida Statutes, is amended
32 to read:

33 427.011 Definitions.—For the purposes of ss. 427.011-
34 427.02 ~~ss. 427.011-427.017~~:

35 (1)-(3) "Agency" means an official, officer, commission,
36 authority, council, committee, department, division, bureau,
37 board, section, or any other unit or entity of the state or of a
38 city, town, municipality, county, or other local governing body
39 or a private nonprofit transportation service-providing agency.

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40 ~~(2)-(5)~~ "Community transportation coordinator" means a
41 transportation entity recommended by a metropolitan planning
42 organization, or by the appropriate designated official planning
43 agency as provided for in ss. 427.011-427.017 in an area outside
44 the purview of a metropolitan planning organization, to ensure
45 that coordinated transportation services are provided to the
46 transportation disadvantaged population in a designated service
47 area.

48 ~~(3)-(7)~~ "Coordinating board" means an advisory entity in
49 each designated service area composed of representatives
50 appointed by the metropolitan planning organization or
51 designated official planning agency, to provide assistance to
52 the community transportation coordinator relative to the
53 coordination of transportation services.

54 ~~(4)-(11)~~ "Coordination" means the arrangement for the
55 provision of transportation services to the transportation
56 disadvantaged in a manner that is cost-effective, efficient, and
57 reduces fragmentation and duplication of services.

58 (5) "Immediate family member" means a spouse, child,
59 parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or first cousin of a
60 person or the person's spouse or a person who resides in the
61 primary residence of the person.

62 ~~(6)-(2)~~ "Metropolitan planning organization" means the
63 organization responsible for carrying out transportation

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64 planning and programming in accordance with the provisions of 23
65 U.S.C. s. 134, as provided in 23 U.S.C. s. 104(f)(3).

66 ~~(7)-(12)~~ "Nonsponsored transportation disadvantaged
67 services" means transportation disadvantaged services that are
68 not sponsored or subsidized by any funding source other than the
69 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund.

70 ~~(8)-(9)~~ "Paratransit" means those elements of public
71 transit which provide service between specific origins and
72 destinations selected by the individual user with such service
73 being provided at a time that is agreed upon by the user and
74 provider of the service. Paratransit service is provided by
75 taxis, limousines, "dial-a-ride," buses, and other demand-
76 responsive operations that are characterized by their
77 nonscheduled, nonfixed route nature.

78 ~~(9)-(8)~~ "Purchasing agency" means a department or agency
79 whose head is an ex officio, nonvoting adviser to the
80 commission, or an agency that purchases transportation services
81 for the transportation disadvantaged.

82 (10) "Request for service" means a request made to a
83 transportation service provider by a person with a disability,
84 or by such person's immediate family member, for paratransit
85 service.

86 ~~(11)-(1)~~ "Transportation disadvantaged" means those persons
87 who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or
88 age are unable to transport themselves or to purchase

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89 transportation and are, therefore, dependent upon others to
90 obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping,
91 social activities, or other life-sustaining activities, or
92 children who are handicapped or high-risk or at-risk as defined
93 in s. 411.202.

94 ~~(12)-(10)~~ "Transportation disadvantaged funds" means any
95 local government, state, or available federal funds that are for
96 the transportation of the transportation disadvantaged. Such
97 funds may include, but are not limited to, funds for planning,
98 Medicaid transportation, administration, operation, procurement,
99 and maintenance of vehicles or equipment and capital
100 investments. Transportation disadvantaged funds do not include
101 funds for the transportation of children to public schools.

102 ~~(13)-(4)~~ "Transportation improvement program" means a
103 staged multiyear program of transportation improvements,
104 including an annual element, which is developed by a
105 metropolitan planning organization or designated official
106 planning agency.

107 ~~(14)-(6)~~ "Transportation operator" means one or more
108 public, private for-profit, or private nonprofit entities
109 engaged by the community transportation coordinator to provide
110 service to transportation disadvantaged persons pursuant to a
111 coordinated system service plan.

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112 (15) "Transportation service provider" means an
113 organization or entity that contracts with a local government to
114 provide paratransit service for persons with disabilities.

115 Section 3. Section 427.012, Florida Statutes, is amended
116 to read:

117 427.012 The Commission for the Transportation
118 Disadvantaged.—There is created the Commission for the
119 Transportation Disadvantaged in the Department of
120 Transportation.

121 (1) The commission shall consist of 11 ~~seven~~ members, all
122 of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, in accordance with
123 the requirements of s. 20.052.

124 (2) The commission shall be comprised of the following
125 members:

126 (a) The Secretary of Transportation or his or her
127 designee.

128 (b) The director of the Agency for Persons with
129 Disabilities or his or her designee.

130 (c) The Secretary of Elderly Affairs or his or her
131 designee.

132 (d) The director of the Division of Blind Services.

133 (e) Two county managers or administrators, one from a
134 rural county and one from a county with a population of more
135 than 150,000 according to the last state census.

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136 (f) Five members who have experience in transportation,
137 workforce development, transit services, management, insurance,
138 or service of persons with disabilities or who have a disability
139 and use transportation for the transportation disadvantaged.

140 (3) A member appointed under paragraphs (2)(e) or (2)(f)
141 shall serve a 4-year term and may be reappointed for one
142 additional 4-year term. A member appointed under paragraphs
143 (2)(e) or (2)(f) whose term has expired shall continue to serve
144 on the commission until such time as a replacement is appointed.

145 (4) Each member must be a resident of the state.

146 ~~(a) Five of the members must have significant experience~~
147 ~~in the operation of a business, and it is the intent of the~~
148 ~~Legislature that, when making an appointment, the Governor~~
149 ~~select persons who reflect the broad diversity of the business~~
150 ~~community in this state, as well as the racial, ethnic,~~
151 ~~geographical, and gender diversity of the population of this~~
152 ~~state.~~

153 ~~(b) Two of the members must have a disability and use the~~
154 ~~transportation disadvantaged system.~~

155 ~~(c) Each member shall represent the needs of the~~
156 ~~transportation disadvantaged throughout the state. A member may~~
157 ~~not subordinate the needs of the transportation disadvantaged in~~
158 ~~general in order to favor the needs of others residing in a~~
159 ~~specific location in the state.~~

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160 ~~(d) Each member shall be appointed to a term of 4 years. A~~
161 ~~member may be reappointed for one additional 4-year term.~~

162 ~~(e) Each member must be a resident of the state and a~~
163 ~~registered voter.~~

164 ~~(f) At any given time, at least one member must be at~~
165 ~~least 65 years of age.~~

166 ~~(g) The Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of~~
167 ~~Children and Families, the Secretary of Economic Opportunity,~~
168 ~~the executive director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs,~~
169 ~~the Secretary of Elderly Affairs, the Secretary of Health Care~~
170 ~~Administration, the director of the Agency for Persons with~~
171 ~~Disabilities, and a county manager or administrator who is~~
172 ~~appointed by the Governor, or a senior management level~~
173 ~~representative of each, shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting~~
174 ~~advisors to the commission.~~

175 ~~(h) A member may not, within the 5 years immediately~~
176 ~~before his or her appointment, or during his or her term on the~~
177 ~~commission, have or have had a financial relationship with, or~~
178 ~~represent or have represented as a lobbyist as defined in s.~~
179 ~~11.045, the following:~~

- 180 ~~1. A transportation operator;~~
- 181 ~~2. A community transportation coordinator;~~
- 182 ~~3. A metropolitan planning organization;~~
- 183 ~~4. A designated official planning agency;~~
- 184 ~~5. A purchaser agency;~~

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185 ~~6. A local coordinating board;~~

186 ~~7. A broker of transportation; or~~

187 ~~8. A provider of transportation services.~~

188 ~~(5)(2)~~ The chair of the commission ~~chairperson~~ shall be
189 appointed by the Governor, and the vice chair ~~chairperson~~ of the
190 commission shall be elected annually from the membership of the
191 commission.

192 ~~(6)(3)~~ Members of the commission shall serve without
193 compensation but shall be allowed per diem and travel expenses,
194 as provided in s. 112.061.

195 ~~(7)(4)~~ The commission shall meet at least quarterly, or
196 more frequently at the call of the chair ~~chairperson~~. Six ~~Four~~
197 members of the commission constitute a quorum, and a majority
198 vote of the members present is necessary for any action taken by
199 the commission. A commission member's participation in a meeting
200 via telephone, real-time videoconferencing, or similar real-time
201 telephonic, electronic, or video communication counts toward a
202 quorum, and such member may vote as if physically present.

203 ~~(8)(5)~~ The Governor may remove any member of the
204 commission for cause.

205 ~~(6)~~ ~~Each candidate for appointment to the commission must,~~
206 ~~before accepting the appointment, undergo background screening~~
207 ~~under s. 435.04 by filing with the Department of Transportation~~
208 ~~a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized law~~
209 ~~enforcement agency. The fingerprints must be submitted to the~~

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210 ~~Department of Law Enforcement for state processing, and that~~
211 ~~department shall submit the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau~~
212 ~~of Investigation for federal processing. The Department of~~
213 ~~Transportation shall screen the background results and inform~~
214 ~~the commission of any candidate who does not meet level 2~~
215 ~~screening standards. A candidate who has not met level 2~~
216 ~~screening standards may not be appointed to the commission. The~~
217 ~~cost of the background screening may be borne by the Department~~
218 ~~of Transportation or the candidate.~~

219 ~~(9)(7)~~ The commission shall appoint an executive director
220 who shall serve under the direction, supervision, and control of
221 the commission. The executive director, with the consent of the
222 commission, shall employ such personnel as may be necessary to
223 perform adequately the functions of the commission within
224 budgetary limitations. Employees of the commission are exempt
225 from the Career Service System.

226 ~~(8)~~ ~~The commission shall appoint a technical working group~~
227 ~~that includes representatives of private paratransit providers.~~
228 ~~The technical working group shall advise the commission on~~
229 ~~issues of importance to the state, including information,~~
230 ~~advice, and direction regarding the coordination of services for~~
231 ~~the transportation disadvantaged. The commission may appoint~~
232 ~~other technical working groups whose members may include~~
233 ~~representatives of community transportation coordinators;~~
234 ~~metropolitan planning organizations; regional planning councils;~~

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235 ~~experts in insurance, marketing, economic development, or~~
236 ~~financial planning; and persons who use transportation for the~~
237 ~~transportation disadvantaged, or their relatives, parents,~~
238 ~~guardians, or service professionals who tend to their needs.~~

239 (10)~~(9)~~ The commission is assigned to the office of the
240 secretary of the Department of Transportation for administrative
241 and fiscal accountability purposes, but it shall otherwise
242 function independently of the control, supervision, and
243 direction of the department.

244 (11)~~(10)~~ The commission shall develop a budget pursuant to
245 chapter 216. The budget is not subject to change by the
246 department staff after it has been approved by the commission,
247 but it shall be transmitted to the Governor, as head of the
248 department, along with the budget of the department.

249 Section 4. Subsections (5) through (7) of section 427.013,
250 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4) through (6),
251 respectively, subsections (10) through (13) of that section are
252 renumbered as (9) through (12), respectively, subsections (16)
253 through (19) of that section are renumbered as (13) through
254 (16), respectively, subsection (27) is renumbered as (19),
255 subsections (1), (2), and (4) and present subsections (5), (7),
256 (9), (13) through (15), (18) through (21), and (23) through (29)
257 are amended, and new subsections (7) and (17) are added to that
258 section, to read:

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259 427.013 The Commission for the Transportation
260 Disadvantaged; purpose and responsibilities.—The purpose of the
261 commission is to accomplish the coordination of transportation
262 services provided to the transportation disadvantaged. The goal
263 of this coordination is to assure the cost-effective provision
264 of transportation by qualified community transportation
265 coordinators or transportation operators for the transportation
266 disadvantaged without any bias or presumption in favor of
267 multioperator systems or not-for-profit transportation operators
268 over single operator systems or for-profit transportation
269 operators. In carrying out this purpose, the commission shall:

270 (1) Compile all available information on the
271 transportation operations for and needs of the transportation
272 disadvantaged in the state. This must include any data provided
273 by agencies.

274 (2) Establish and maintain statewide objectives for
275 providing transportation services for the transportation
276 disadvantaged.

277 ~~(4) Identify barriers prohibiting the coordination and~~
278 ~~accessibility of transportation services to the transportation~~
279 ~~disadvantaged and aggressively pursue the elimination of these~~
280 ~~barriers.~~

281 (4)-(5) Serve as a clearinghouse for information about
282 transportation disadvantaged services, training, funding

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283 sources, innovations, and coordination efforts and provide best
284 practices and latest technology innovations.

285 ~~(6)-(7)~~ Unless otherwise provided by state or federal law,
286 ensure that all contracts, procedures, guidelines, and
287 directives issued by the commission, participating state agency,
288 or community transportation coordinator purchasing agencies are
289 conducive to the coordination of transportation services.

290 (7) Develop by rule standards for community transportation
291 coordinators and any transportation operator or coordination
292 contractor from whom service is purchased or arranged by the
293 community transportation coordinator covering coordination,
294 operation, safety, insurance, eligibility for service, costs,
295 and utilization of transportation disadvantaged services. These
296 standards and rules must include, but are not limited to:

297 (a) Minimum performance standards for the delivery of
298 services. These standards must be included in community
299 transportation coordinator contracts and transportation operator
300 contracts, with clear penalties for repeated or continuing
301 violations. Any subcontract must also include similar
302 provisions.

303 (b) Minimum liability insurance requirements for all
304 transportation services purchased, provided, or coordinated for
305 the transportation disadvantaged through the contracted vendor
306 or subcontractor thereof.

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307 (c) Required complaint and grievance processes including a
308 requirement that all reported complaints, grievances, and
309 resolutions are reported to the commission on a quarterly basis.
310 These standards must be included in coordinator contracts and
311 transportation operator contracts, including any subcontractor,
312 with clear penalties for repeated or continuing violations.

313 ~~(9) Unless the purchasing agency has negotiated with the~~
314 ~~commission pursuant to the requirements of s. 427.0135(3),~~
315 ~~develop by rule standards for community transportation~~
316 ~~coordinators and any transportation operator or coordination~~
317 ~~contractor from whom service is purchased or arranged by the~~
318 ~~community transportation coordinator covering coordination,~~
319 ~~operation, safety, insurance, eligibility for service, costs,~~
320 ~~and utilization of transportation disadvantaged services. These~~
321 ~~standards and rules must include, but are not limited to:~~

322 ~~(a) Minimum performance standards for the delivery of~~
323 ~~services. These standards must be included in coordinator~~
324 ~~contracts and transportation operator contracts with clear~~
325 ~~penalties for repeated or continuing violations.~~

326 ~~(b) Minimum liability insurance requirements for all~~
327 ~~transportation services purchased, provided, or coordinated for~~
328 ~~the transportation disadvantaged through the community~~
329 ~~transportation coordinator.~~

330 (12)~~(13)~~ Make an annual report to the Governor, the
331 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of

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332 Representatives by January 1 of each year. The report must
333 include:

334 (a) A consolidated report of each state agency's actual
335 expenditures, together with the actual expenditures of each
336 local government and directly federally funded agency and the
337 amounts collected by each official planning agency.

338 (b) Updates to a strategic plan addressing challenges and
339 opportunities in serving the transportation disadvantaged
340 population to ensure that the most cost-effective and efficient
341 method of providing transportation to the disadvantaged is
342 programmed for development.

343 ~~(14) Consolidate, for each state agency, the amounts of~~
344 ~~each agency's actual expenditures, together with the actual~~
345 ~~expenditures of each local government and directly federally~~
346 ~~funded agency and the amounts collected by each official~~
347 ~~planning agency.~~

348 ~~(15) Prepare a statewide 5-year transportation~~
349 ~~disadvantaged plan which addresses the transportation problems~~
350 ~~and needs of the transportation disadvantaged, which is fully~~
351 ~~coordinated with local transit plans, compatible with local~~
352 ~~government comprehensive plans, and which ensures that the most~~
353 ~~cost-effective and efficient method of providing transportation~~
354 ~~to the disadvantaged is programmed for development.~~

355 (15)(18) Maintain ~~Develop~~ an interagency uniform
356 contracting and billing and accounting system that shall be used

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357 by all community transportation coordinators and their
358 transportation operators.

359 ~~(16)-(19)~~ Develop and maintain a transportation
360 disadvantaged manual for use by community transportation
361 coordinators and transportation operators.

362 ~~(20)~~ Design and develop transportation disadvantaged
363 training programs.

364 ~~(21)~~ Coordinate all transportation disadvantaged programs
365 with appropriate state, local, and federal agencies and public
366 transit agencies to ensure compatibility with existing
367 transportation systems.

368 (18) Develop a need-based, quality assurance and
369 management review program to monitor, based upon approved
370 commission standards, services contracted for by an agency, and
371 those provided by a community transportation operator pursuant
372 to s. 427.0155. This must include a biennial audit of each
373 contract maintained or approved by the commission.

374 ~~(23)~~ Develop need-based criteria that must be used by all
375 community transportation coordinators to prioritize the delivery
376 of nonsponsored transportation disadvantaged services that are
377 purchased with Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund moneys.

378 ~~(24)~~ Establish a review procedure to compare the rates
379 proposed by alternate transportation operators with the rates
380 charged by a community transportation coordinator to determine
381 which rate is more cost-effective.

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382 ~~(25) Conduct a cost-comparison study of single-~~
383 ~~coordinator, multicoordinator, and brokered community~~
384 ~~transportation coordinator networks to ensure that the most~~
385 ~~cost-effective and efficient method of providing transportation~~
386 ~~to the transportation disadvantaged is programmed for~~
387 ~~development.~~

388 ~~(26) Develop a quality assurance and management review~~
389 ~~program to monitor, based upon approved commission standards,~~
390 ~~services contracted for by an agency, and those provided by a~~
391 ~~community transportation operator pursuant to s. 427.0155.~~

392 ~~(19)-(27)~~ Ensure that local community transportation
393 coordinators work cooperatively with local workforce development
394 boards established in chapter 445 to provide assistance in the
395 development of innovative transportation services for
396 individuals seeking or seeking to maintain employment that may
397 be served by other state programs ~~participants in the welfare~~
398 ~~transition program.~~

399 ~~(28) In consultation with the Agency for Health Care~~
400 ~~Administration and the Department of Transportation, develop an~~
401 ~~allocation methodology that equitably distributes all~~
402 ~~transportation funds under the control of the commission to~~
403 ~~compensate counties, community transportation coordinators, and~~
404 ~~other entities providing transportation disadvantaged services.~~
405 ~~The methodology shall separately account for Medicaid~~
406 ~~beneficiaries. The methodology shall consider such factors as~~

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407 ~~the actual costs of each transportation disadvantaged trip based~~
408 ~~on prior-year information, efficiencies that a provider might~~
409 ~~adopt to reduce costs, results of the rate and cost comparisons~~
410 ~~conducted under subsections (24) and (25), as well as cost~~
411 ~~efficiencies of trips when compared to the local cost of~~
412 ~~transporting the general public. This subsection does not~~
413 ~~supersede the authority of the Agency for Health Care~~
414 ~~Administration to distribute Medicaid funds.~~

415 ~~(29) Incur expenses for the purchase of advertisements,~~
416 ~~marketing services, and promotional items.~~

417 Section 5. Subsection (4) of section 427.0159, Florida
418 Statutes, is amended to read:

419 427.0159 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund.—

420 (4) A purchasing agency may deposit funds into the
421 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund for the commission to
422 implement, manage, and administer the purchasing agency's
423 transportation disadvantaged funds, as defined in s. 427.011 ~~s.~~
424 ~~427.011(10)~~.

425 Section 6. Section 427.02, Florida Statutes, is created to
426 read:

427 427.02 Transportation services for persons with
428 disabilities.—

429 (1) For contracts entered into or renewed with a
430 transportation service provider on or after October 1, 2024, a
431 transportation service provider must:

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432 (a) Provide training to each driver of a motor vehicle
433 used to provide paratransit service to persons with disabilities
434 which, at a minimum, meets requirements established by the
435 Agency for Persons with Disabilities for training and
436 professional development of staff providing direct services to
437 clients of the agency.

438 (b) Offer Internet-based, application-based, and
439 smartphone-based ride booking and vehicle tracking services.
440 Each of these services must be provided in accessible formats.

441 (c) Regularly maintain and upgrade all technology-based
442 services.

443 (d) Offer both pre-booking and on-demand service to
444 paratransit service users.

445 (2) For contracts entered into or renewed with a
446 transportation service provider on or after October 1, 2024, a
447 transportation service provider, in collaboration with the local
448 government with which the provider contracts, shall establish:

449 (a) Reasonable time periods between a request for service
450 and the arrival of the transportation service provider at the
451 location specified in the request, taking into account the
452 number of persons requesting paratransit service on the same
453 date, the distance between locations, usual or expected traffic
454 conditions during the provision of paratransit service, and any
455 other factor deemed necessary by the provider or the local
456 government. If a transportation service provider exhibits a

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457 pattern of late arrivals based on such established reasonable
458 time periods, the local government may authorize another
459 provider to provide such paratransit service, including the
460 acceptance of any prepaid vouchers for future paratransit
461 service, notwithstanding the terms of the contract with the
462 original provider.

463 (b) Best practices for limiting the duration of travel
464 times for persons receiving paratransit service. To avoid
465 unreasonably long travel times, the provider and the local
466 government shall consider the level of service offered to
467 persons without disabilities by a public entity operating a
468 fixed route as compared to the level of paratransit service
469 offered by the transportation service provider in accordance
470 with 49 C.F.R. s. 37.121.

471 (c) Transparency regarding the quality of paratransit
472 service provided by the transportation service provider,
473 including, but not limited to, data relating to the timeliness
474 of paratransit service provided and the handling of complaints.

475 (d) An efficient system for the reporting of adverse
476 incidents occurring during the provision of paratransit service
477 to persons with disabilities. Such system may include the
478 assignment of a quick-response code to each motor vehicle used
479 to provide such service for the purpose of reporting adverse
480 incidents with a smartphone or other mobile device. Reports of
481 adverse incidents received by the local government or the

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482 transportation service provider shall be submitted on a
483 quarterly basis to the Commission for the Transportation
484 Disadvantaged.

485 (3) The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged
486 shall establish requirements for the investigation of adverse
487 incidents reported pursuant to paragraph (2)(d), including
488 periodic review of ongoing investigations and documentation of
489 final outcomes thereof. The investigation of a reported adverse
490 incident must commence within 48 hours after receipt of the
491 report by the commission.

492 (4) Contracts entered into or renewed on or after October
493 1, 2024, with transportation service providers for the provision
494 of paratransit service to persons with disabilities must be
495 competitively procured pursuant to s. 287.057. The procurement
496 must use competitive sealed bids, competitive sealed proposals,
497 or competitive sealed replies. The contract may not be awarded
498 using an exceptional purchase provision provided for in s.
499 287.057(3).

500 Section 7. (1) By January 1, 2025, the Department of
501 Transportation must provide to the Governor, the President of
502 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a
503 comprehensive report on the services provided by the Commission
504 for the Transportation Disadvantaged which includes, at a
505 minimum, the following:

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- 506 (a) A review of services rendered by community
507 transportation coordinators or transportation operators
508 coordinated by the commission, specifically outlining:
- 509 1. Timeliness of services;
 - 510 2. Quality of services;
 - 511 3. Training programs for the drivers and customer service
512 representatives;
 - 513 4. Timeliness of the resolution of complaints; and
 - 514 5. Adherence to performance measures by service providers.
- 515 (b) A review of transportation delivery models
516 administered by contract by the commission and a review of
517 potential alternative methods.
- 518 (c) The role of paratransit services as utilized by
519 providers of services for the transportation disadvantaged and
520 the differences between paratransit services and the services
521 provided by the commission. In its review, the department must
522 also consider how the use of paratransit can be leveraged to
523 improve services coordinated by the commission.
- 524 (d) The role of health care transportation services as
525 utilized by the users of services for the transportation
526 disadvantaged, and how the coordination of services can be
527 leveraged to improve services administered by the commission.
- 528 (e) Breakdowns of funding provided by the commission on a
529 contractual level. The report must also include a breakdown of
530 how the funds are utilized by delivery model, including both

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531 fixed route, on-demand, hybrid models, and through an innovation
532 grant outlined in the General Appropriations Act.

533 (f) A review of the eligibility criteria by each
534 coordinating entity, including any relevant demographic
535 information by coordinating entity.

536 (g) A review of the challenges and potential opportunities
537 to better support rural counties in administering such programs.

538 (h) Recommendations on efficiencies and challenges that
539 may result from adopting an alternative format of delivering
540 commission services to improve services for individuals seeking
541 to thrive in community-based settings, including in a workplace
542 setting, that currently receive services provided by the
543 commission.

544 (i) Any additional recommendations relating to areas of
545 review required by paragraphs (a)-(g).

546 (2) The definitions in s. 427.011 apply to subsection (1),
547 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

548 (3) The department is authorized to conduct the report
549 required under subsection (1) independently or by contract.

550

551

552 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

553 Remove lines 4-30 and insert:

554 disadvantaged; amending s. 341.041, F.S.; providing
555 duties of the Department of Transportation, within

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556 specified resources, with respect to entities
557 providing paratransit services; amending s. 427.011,
558 F.S.; providing definitions; amending s. 427.012,
559 F.S.; revising membership of the Commission for the
560 Transportation Disadvantaged and qualifications
561 therefor; providing for length of terms for specified
562 commission members; amending voting and quorum
563 requirements for the commission; removing a
564 requirement for the commission to appoint a specified
565 working group; amending s. 427.013, F.S.; revising
566 duties of the commission; amending s. 427.0159, F.S.;
567 conforming a cross-reference; creating s. 427.02,
568 F.S.; providing responsibilities of a transportation
569 service provider on or after a specified date with
570 respect to driver training and technology-based
571 services; requiring a transportation service provider
572 and the local government with which the provider
573 contracts on or after a specified date to establish
574 standards relating to reasonable time periods between
575 a request for service and the arrival of the provider,
576 limitation of the duration of travel times,
577 transparency regarding the quality of service
578 provided, and a system for the reporting of adverse
579 incidents; requiring reports of adverse incidents to
580 be submitted to the Commission for the Transportation

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COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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581 Disadvantaged; requiring the commission to establish
582 requirements for the investigation of adverse
583 incidents; requiring such an investigation to commence
584 within a certain timeframe; providing requirements for
585 procurement of certain contracts with transportation
586 service providers for the provision of paratransit
587 service to persons with disabilities; requiring a
588 report to the Governor and Legislature; providing
589 report requirements;