

By Senator Smith

17-00795A-25

20251366__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to toll discounts for veteran-owned
3 businesses; amending s. 338.155, F.S.; providing a
4 discount for certain veteran-owned businesses on
5 payment of tolls for the use of toll facilities under
6 a pilot program established by the Department of
7 Transportation; providing eligibility requirements for
8 the pilot program; requiring the Florida Turnpike
9 Enterprise in coordination with the Department of
10 Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Management
11 Services to administer the pilot program; requiring
12 the Department of Transportation to prepare a certain
13 report and submit findings to the Legislature by a
14 specified date; providing an effective date.

15
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17
18 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
19 338.155, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20 338.155 Payment of toll on toll facilities required;
21 exemptions.—

22 (1) (a) A person may not use a toll facility without payment
23 of tolls, except:

24 1. An employee of the agency operating the toll project
25 when using the toll facility on official state business.

26 2. State military personnel while on official military
27 business.

28 3. A person with a disability as provided in subsection
29 (3).

17-00795A-25

20251366__

30 4. A person exempt from toll payment by the authorizing
31 resolution for bonds issued to finance the facility.

32 5. A person exempt on a temporary basis where use of such
33 toll facility is required as a detour route.

34 6. A law enforcement officer operating an official vehicle
35 while on official law enforcement business.

36 7. A person operating a fire vehicle while on official
37 business or a rescue vehicle while on official business.

38 8. A person participating in the funeral procession of a
39 law enforcement officer or firefighter killed in the line of
40 duty.

41 9.a. A veteran-owned business, pursuant to a 2-year pilot
42 program established by the department consistent with this
43 subparagraph. To be eligible, the business must:

44 (I) Be a veteran business enterprise as defined in s.
45 295.187(3) and be certified by the Department of Management
46 Services.

47 (II) Demonstrate regular commercial use of toll roads
48 through automated toll accounts.

49 b. Eligible businesses shall receive a 50 percent discount
50 on business-related toll expenses incurred on Florida toll
51 roads. The discount applies only to registered commercial
52 vehicles used for business operations.

53 c. The program will be administered by the Florida Turnpike
54 Enterprise in coordination with the Department of Veterans'
55 Affairs and the Department of Management Services.

56 d. Veteran-owned businesses must apply annually, providing
57 proof of veteran ownership and toll usage.

58 e. Discounts will be applied through automated toll

17-00795A-25

20251366__

59 accounts.

60 f. The department shall prepare a review and impact report
61 of the pilot program and submit its findings to the Legislature
62 by July 1, 2026. The report must assess participation rates and
63 fiscal impact and provide recommendations for continuation or
64 expansion.

65 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.