

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS/CS/HB 1397 (2025)

Amendment No. 1

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WITHDRAWN	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>	

Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Commerce Committee
Representative Abbott offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove lines 197-1397 and insert:

(b) The mission of the Institute shall be to advance
Florida's transportation infrastructure and systems through
research, education and engagement for a safer, more efficient,
resilient, and innovative movement of people and goods
throughout the state.

(c) The Institute shall report to the department and shall
be composed of members from the University of Florida, Indian
River State College, the University of Central Florida, the
University of South Florida, and Florida International
University.

(d) The department shall select a representative from one

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17 of the entities referenced in paragraph (c) to serve as the
18 administrative lead for the Institute. The department shall
19 assess the performance of the administrative lead periodically
20 to ensure accountability and assess the attainment of
21 performance expectations.

22 (e) The Institute may award grants in alignment with its
23 mission of furthering research and innovation and supporting
24 workforce development in this state to support the needs of the
25 transportation industry. Such grants may be directed to member
26 and nonmember institutions that have a proven expertise relevant
27 to the grant, including not-for-profit organizations and
28 institutions of higher education.

29 (f) The Institute may expend state funds as allocated by
30 the department from the State Transportation Trust Fund. Annual
31 funding may be expended for the Institute's operations and
32 programs to support research and innovation projects that
33 provide solutions to this state's transportation needs.

34 (g) The secretary shall appoint a member of the department
35 to serve as the executive director of the Institute. The
36 department shall coordinate with the entities referenced in
37 paragraph (b) to adopt and approve additional policies
38 establishing the Institute's executive committee and mission
39 statement.

40 (h) The Institute shall submit an annual report to the
41 Office of the Secretary and the commission containing

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42 performance metrics, including, but not limited to, expenditures
43 of appropriated funds provided by the department, ongoing and
44 proposed research efforts, and the application and success of
45 past research efforts.

46 (3)(2)(a)1. The Florida Transportation Commission is
47 hereby created and shall consist of nine members appointed by
48 the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate. Members of
49 the commission shall serve terms of 4 years each.

50 2. Members shall be appointed in such a manner as to
51 equitably represent all geographic areas of this ~~the~~ state. At
52 least three members of the commission shall represent or have
53 expertise in higher education, transportation, or workforce
54 development ~~Each member must be a registered voter and a citizen~~
55 ~~of the state. Each member of the commission must also possess~~
56 ~~business managerial experience in the private sector.~~

57 3. A member of the commission shall represent the
58 transportation needs of the state as a whole and may not
59 subordinate the needs of the state to those of any particular
60 area of the state.

61 4. The commission is assigned to the Office of the
62 Secretary of the Department of Transportation for administrative
63 and fiscal accountability purposes, but it shall otherwise
64 function independently of the control and direction of the
65 department.

66 (b) The commission shall:

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67 1. Recommend major transportation policies for the
68 Governor's approval and assure that approved policies and any
69 revisions are properly executed.

70 2. Periodically review the status of the state
71 transportation system, including highway, transit, rail,
72 seaport, intermodal development, and aviation components of the
73 system, and recommend improvements to the Governor and the
74 Legislature.

75 3. Perform an in-depth evaluation of the annual department
76 budget request, the Florida Transportation Plan, and the
77 tentative work program for compliance with all applicable laws
78 and established departmental policies. Except as specifically
79 provided in s. 339.135(4)(c)2., (d), and (f), the commission may
80 not consider individual construction projects but shall consider
81 methods of accomplishing the goals of the department in the most
82 effective, efficient, and businesslike manner.

83 4. Monitor the financial status of the department on a
84 regular basis to assure that the department is managing revenue
85 and bond proceeds responsibly and in accordance with law and
86 established policy.

87 5. Monitor on at least a quarterly basis the efficiency,
88 productivity, and management of the department using performance
89 and production standards developed by the commission pursuant to
90 s. 334.045.

91 6. Perform an in-depth evaluation of the factors causing

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92 disruption of project schedules in the adopted work program and
93 recommend to the Governor and the Legislature methods to
94 eliminate or reduce the disruptive effects of these factors.

95 7. Recommend to the Governor and the Legislature
96 improvements to the department's organization in order to
97 streamline and optimize the efficiency of the department. In
98 reviewing the department's organization, the commission shall
99 determine if the current district organizational structure is
100 responsive to this state's changing economic and demographic
101 development patterns. The report by the commission must be
102 delivered to the Governor and the Legislature by December 15
103 each year, as appropriate. The commission may retain experts as
104 necessary to carry out this subparagraph, and the department
105 shall pay the expenses of the experts.

106 8. Monitor the efficiency, productivity, and management of
107 the agencies and authorities created under chapters 348 and 349;
108 the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority re-created pursuant to chapter
109 2000-411, Laws of Florida; ~~and~~ any authority formed under
110 chapter 343; and any transit entity that is a recipient of
111 funding from the department's public transit block grant program
112 as created in s. 341.052. The commission shall also conduct
113 periodic reviews of each agency's and authority's operations and
114 budget, acquisition of property, management of revenue and bond
115 proceeds, and compliance with applicable laws and generally
116 accepted accounting principles.

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117 (g) A member of the commission shall follow standards of
118 conduct for public officers as provided in s. 112.313 ~~may not~~
119 ~~have any interest, direct or indirect, in any contract,~~
120 ~~franchise, privilege, or other benefit granted or awarded by the~~
121 ~~department~~ during the term of his or her appointment and for 2
122 years after the termination of such appointment.

123 ~~(4)~~ (3)

124 (b) The secretary may appoint positions at the level of
125 deputy assistant secretary or director which the secretary deems
126 necessary to accomplish the mission and goals of the department,
127 including, but not limited to, the areas of program
128 responsibility provided in this paragraph, each of whom shall be
129 appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the secretary. The
130 secretary may combine, separate, or delete offices as needed in
131 consultation with the Executive Office of the Governor. The
132 department's areas of program responsibility include, but are
133 not limited to, all of the following:

- 134 1. Administration.
- 135 2. Planning.
- 136 3. Supply chain and modal development.
- 137 4. Design.
- 138 5. Highway operations.
- 139 6. Right-of-way.
- 140 7. Toll operations.
- 141 8. Transportation technology.

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9. Information technology systems.
10. Motor carrier weight inspection.
11. Work program and budget.
12. Comptroller.
13. Construction.
14. Statewide corridors.
15. Maintenance.
16. Forecasting and performance.
17. Emergency management.
18. Safety.
19. Materials.
20. Infrastructure and innovation.
21. Permitting.
22. Traffic operations.
23. Operational technology.

Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 311.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

311.07 Florida seaport transportation and economic development funding.—

(3)

(b) Projects eligible for funding by grants under the program are limited to the following port facilities or port transportation projects:

1. Transportation facilities within the jurisdiction of the port.

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2. The dredging or deepening of channels, turning basins, or harbors.

3. The construction or rehabilitation of wharves, docks, structures, jetties, piers, storage facilities, cruise terminals, automated people mover systems, or any facilities necessary or useful in connection with any of the foregoing.

4. The acquisition of vessel tracking systems, container cranes, or other mechanized equipment used in the movement of cargo or passengers in international commerce.

5. The acquisition of land to be used for port purposes.

6. The acquisition, improvement, enlargement, or extension of existing port facilities.

7. Environmental protection projects which are necessary because of requirements imposed by a state agency as a condition of a permit or other form of state approval; which are necessary for environmental mitigation required as a condition of a state, federal, or local environmental permit; which are necessary for the acquisition of spoil disposal sites and improvements to existing and future spoil sites; or which result from the funding of eligible projects listed in this paragraph.

8. Transportation facilities as defined in s. 334.03(30) which are not otherwise part of the Department of Transportation's adopted work program.

9. Intermodal access projects.

10. Construction or rehabilitation of port facilities as

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defined in s. 315.02, excluding any park or recreational facilities, in ports listed in s. 311.09(1) with operating revenues of \$5 million or less, provided that such projects create economic development opportunities, capital improvements, and positive financial returns to such ports.

11. Seaport master plan or strategic plan development or updates, including the purchase of data to support such plans.

12. Spaceport or space industry-related planning or construction of facilities on seaport property which is necessary or useful to advance the space industry in this state when such project provides economic benefit to the community in which the seaport is located.

13. Commercial shipbuilding and manufacturing facilities on seaport property, if such projects provide economic benefit to the community in which the seaport is located.

Section 3. Subsections (1), (3), and (11) of section 311.09, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

311.09 Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council.—

(1) The Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council is created within the Department of Transportation to support the growth of the seaports of this state through the review, development, and financing of port transportation and port facilities. The council is composed ~~consists~~ of the following 18 members: the port director, or the

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port director's designee, of each of the ports of Jacksonville, Port Canaveral, Port Citrus, Fort Pierce, Palm Beach, Port Everglades, Miami, Port Manatee, St. Petersburg, Putnam County, Tampa, Port St. Joe, Panama City, Pensacola, Key West, and Fernandina; the secretary of the Department of Transportation or his or her designee; and the secretary of the Department of Commerce or his or her designee.

(3) The council shall prepare a 5-year Florida Seaport Mission Plan defining the goals and objectives of the council concerning the development of port facilities and an intermodal transportation system consistent with the goals of the Florida Transportation Plan developed pursuant to s. 339.155. The Florida Seaport Mission Plan shall include specific recommendations for the construction of transportation facilities connecting any port to another transportation mode, the construction of transportation facilities connecting any port to the space and aerospace industries, and ~~for~~ the efficient, cost-effective development of transportation facilities or port facilities for the purpose of enhancing trade, promoting cargo flow, increasing cruise passenger movements, increasing port revenues, and providing economic benefits to this ~~the~~ state. The council shall develop a priority list of projects based on these recommendations annually and submit the list to the Department of Transportation. The council shall update the 5-year Florida Seaport Mission Plan annually

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and shall submit the plan no later than February 1 of each year to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Transportation. The council shall develop programs, based on an examination of existing programs in Florida and other states, for the training of ~~minorities~~ and secondary school students in job skills associated with employment opportunities in the maritime industry, and report on progress and recommendations for further action to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives annually. Each member of the council shall submit semiannual reports to the Department of Transportation relating to seaport operations and their support of this state's economic competitiveness and supply chain. Each report must include information prescribed by the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Department of Commerce, including, but, not limited to:

- (a) Bulk break capacity.
- (b) Liquid storage and capacity.
- (c) Fuel storage and capacity.
- (d) Container capacity.
- (e) Supply chain disruptions.

(11) Members of the council shall serve without compensation but are entitled to receive reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061. The council may elect to provide an administrative staff to provide services

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to the council on matters relating to the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Program and the council. The cost for such administrative services shall be paid by all ports that receive funding from the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Program, based upon a pro rata formula measured by each recipient's share of the funds as compared to the total funds disbursed to all recipients during the year. The share of costs for administrative services shall be paid in its total amount by the recipient port upon execution by the port and the Department of Transportation of a joint participation agreement for each council-approved project, and such payment is in addition to the matching funds required to be paid by the recipient port. Except as otherwise exempted by law, all moneys derived from the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Program shall be expended in accordance with ~~the provisions of~~ s. 287.057. Seaports subject to competitive negotiation requirements of a local governing body shall abide by ~~the provisions of~~ s. 287.055.

Section 4. Subsection (4) is added to section 311.10, Florida Statutes, to read:

311.10 Strategic Port Investment Initiative.—

(4) As a condition of receiving a project grant under any program established in this chapter and as a condition of receiving state funds as described in s. 215.31, a seaport that

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is located in a county in which real property is designated as
spaceport territory under s. 331.304 and that uses land,
facilities, or infrastructure for the purpose of supporting
spacecraft launch and recovery operations must, in any agreement
with the department, agree that the seaport may not convert any
planned or existing land, facility, or infrastructure dedicated
for such purpose to any alternative purpose unless the
Legislature expressly approves the use of state funds for a
project that includes such a conversion.

**Section 5. Subsection (83) of section 316.003, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:**

316.003 Definitions.—The following words and phrases, when
used in this chapter, shall have the meanings respectively
ascribed to them in this section, except where the context
otherwise requires:

(83) SPECIAL MOBILE EQUIPMENT.—Any vehicle not designed or
used primarily for the transportation of persons or property and
only incidentally operated or moved over a highway, including,
but not limited to, ditchdigging apparatus, well-boring
apparatus, and road construction and maintenance machinery, such
as asphalt spreaders, bituminous mixers, bucket loaders,
tractors other than truck tractors, ditchers, leveling graders,
finishing machines, motor graders, road rollers, scarifiers,
earthmoving carryalls and scrapers, power shovels and draglines,
mobile and self-propelled cranes and accessory support vehicles,

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and earthmoving equipment. The term does not include house trailers, dump trucks, truck-mounted transit mixers, ~~cranes or shovels~~, or other vehicles designed for the transportation of persons or property to which machinery has been attached.

Section 6. Subsection (7) of section 316.0745, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.0745 Uniform signals and devices.—

(7) The Department of Transportation may, upon receipt and investigation of reported noncompliance and after hearing pursuant to 14 days' notice, direct the removal of any purported traffic control device that fails to meet the requirements of this section, wherever the device is located and without regard to assigned responsibility under s. 316.1895. The public agency erecting or installing the same shall immediately bring it into compliance with the requirements of this section or remove said device or signal upon the direction of the Department of Transportation and may not, for a period of 5 years, install any replacement or new traffic control devices paid for in part or in full with revenues raised by the state unless written prior approval is received from the Department of Transportation. Any additional violation by a public body or official shall be cause for the withholding of state funds ~~for traffic control purposes~~ until such public body or official demonstrates to the Department of Transportation that it is complying with this section.

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Section 7. Subsection (3) of section 316.550, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.550 Operations not in conformity with law; special permits.—

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), the Department of Transportation may issue a mobile crane special blanket permit for any of the following purposes:

(a) To authorize a mobile crane to operate on and ~~A permit may authorize a self-propelled truck crane operating~~ off the Interstate Highway System while towing ~~to tow~~ a motor vehicle that ~~which~~ does not weigh more than 5,000 pounds if the combined weight of the crane and such motor vehicle does not exceed 95,000 pounds. Notwithstanding s. 320.01(7) or (12), mobile ~~truck~~ cranes that tow another motor vehicle under ~~the provision of~~ this subsection shall be taxed under ~~the provisions of~~ s. 320.08(5) (b) .

(b) To authorize a mobile crane and accessory support vehicles that are up to 12 feet in width, 14 feet 6 inches in height, and 100 feet in length to operate on and off the Interstate Highway System at all hours except as restricted under a local travel-related curfew.

(c) To authorize a mobile crane and accessory support vehicles that, due to their design for special use, exceed the weight limits established in s. 316.535 to operate on and off the Interstate Highway System.

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367 **Section 8. Section 330.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to**
368 **read:**

369 330.27 Definitions, ~~when used in ss. 330.29-330.39.~~ As
370 used in ss. 330.29-330.39, the term:

371 (1) "Air ambulance operation" means a flight with a
372 patient or medical personnel on board for the purpose of medical
373 transportation.

374 (2)(1) "Aircraft" means a powered or unpowered machine or
375 device capable of atmospheric flight, including, but not limited
376 to, an airplane, autogyro, glider, gyrodyne, helicopter, lift
377 and cruise, multicopter, paramotor, powered lift, seaplane,
378 tiltrotor, ultralight, or vectored thrust. The term does not
379 include except a parachute or other such device used primarily
380 as safety equipment.

381 (3)(2) "Airport" means a specific an area of land or water
382 or a structure used for, or intended to be used for, landing and
383 takeoff of aircraft operations, which may include including
384 appurtenant areas, buildings, facilities, or rights-of-way
385 necessary to facilitate such use or intended use. The term
386 includes, but is not limited to, an airpark, airport,
387 gliderport, heliport, helistop, seaplane base, ultralight
388 flightpark, vertiport, or vertistop.

389 (4) "Commercial air tour operation" means a flight
390 conducted for compensation or hire in an aircraft when the
391 purpose of the flight is sightseeing.

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392 (5) "Commuter operation" means any scheduled operation
393 conducted by a person operating an aircraft with a frequency of
394 operations of at least five round trips per week on at least one
395 route between two or more points according to the published
396 flight schedule.

397 (6)~~(3)~~ "Department" means the Department of
398 Transportation.

399 (7)~~(4)~~ "Limited airport" means any airport limited
400 exclusively to the specific conditions stated on the site
401 approval order or license.

402 (8) "On-demand operation" means any scheduled passenger-
403 carrying operation for compensation or hire conducted by a
404 person operating an aircraft with a frequency of operations of
405 fewer than five round trips per week on at least one route
406 between two or more points according to the published flight
407 schedule.

408 (9)~~(5)~~ "Private airport" means an airport, publicly or
409 privately owned, which is not open or available for use by the
410 public, but may be made available to others by invitation of the
411 owner or manager.

412 (10) "Private airport of public interest" means a private
413 airport serving any of the following operations: air ambulance
414 operation, commercial air tour operation, commuter operation,
415 on-demand operation, public charter operation, scheduled
416 operation, or supplemental operation.

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417 (11)(6) "Public airport" means an airport, publicly or
418 privately owned, which is open for use by the public.

419 (12) "Public charter operation" means a one-way or round-
420 trip charter flight performed by one or more direct air carriers
421 which is arranged and sponsored by a charter operator.

422 (13) "Scheduled operation" means any common carriage
423 passenger-carrying operation for compensation or hire conducted
424 by an air carrier or commercial operator for which the
425 certificateholder or its representative offers in advance the
426 departure location, departure time, and arrival location.

427 (14) "Supplemental operation" means any common carriage
428 operation for compensation or hire conducted with an aircraft
429 for which the departure time, departure location, and arrival
430 location are specifically negotiated with the customer or
431 customer's representative.

432 (15)(7) "Temporary airport" means an airport at which
433 flight operations are conducted under visual flight rules
434 established by the Federal Aviation Administration and which is
435 used for less than 30 consecutive days with no more than 10
436 operations per day.

437 ~~(8) "Ultralight aircraft" means any aircraft meeting the~~
438 ~~criteria established by part 103 of the Federal Aviation~~
439 ~~Regulations.~~

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440 **Section 9. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (2) and**
441 **subsection (4) of section 330.30, Florida Statutes, are amended**
442 **to read:**

443 330.30 Approval of airport sites; registration,
444 certification, and licensure of airports.—

445 (2) LICENSES, CERTIFICATES, AND REGISTRATIONS;
446 REQUIREMENTS, RENEWAL, REVOCATION.—

447 (a) Except as provided in subsection (3), the owner or
448 lessee of an airport in this state shall have a public airport
449 license, private airport registration, or temporary airport
450 registration before the operation of aircraft to or from the
451 airport. Application for a license or registration shall be made
452 in a form and manner prescribed by the department.

453 1. For a public airport, upon granting site approval, the
454 department shall issue a license after a final airport
455 inspection finds that the airport is ~~to be~~ in compliance with
456 all requirements for the license. The license may be subject to
457 any reasonable conditions the department deems necessary to
458 protect the public health, safety, or welfare.

459 2. For a private airport, upon granting site approval, the
460 department shall provide controlled electronic access to the
461 state aviation facility data system to permit the applicant to
462 complete the registration process. Registration shall be
463 completed upon self-certification by the registrant of
464 operational and configuration data deemed necessary by the

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465 department.

466 3. For a temporary airport, the department must publish
467 notice of receipt of a completed registration application in the
468 next available publication of the Florida Administrative
469 Register and may not approve a registration application less
470 than 14 days after the date of publication of the notice. The
471 department must approve or deny a registration application
472 within 30 days after receipt of a completed application and must
473 issue the temporary airport registration concurrent with the
474 airport site approval. A completed registration application that
475 is not approved or denied within 30 days after the department
476 receives the completed application is considered approved and
477 shall be issued, subject to such reasonable conditions as are
478 authorized by law. An applicant seeking to claim registration by
479 default under this subparagraph must notify the agency clerk of
480 the department, in writing, of the intent to rely upon the
481 default registration provision of this subparagraph and may not
482 take any action based upon the default registration until after
483 receipt of such notice by the agency clerk.

484 4. A private airport of public interest as defined in s.
485 330.27 must obtain a certificate from the department before
486 allowing aircraft operations. The department shall issue a
487 certificate after a final inspection finds that the private
488 airport of public interest is in compliance with all of the
489 requirements for a certificate. The certificate is subject to

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any reasonable conditions that the department deems necessary to protect the health, safety, or welfare of the public. A private airport that was engaged in operations associated with a private airport of public interest on or before July 1, 2025, may continue its operations but must obtain a certificate from the department before July 1, 2030.

(d)1. Each public airport license shall expire no later than 1 year after the effective date of the license, except that the expiration date of a license may be adjusted to provide a maximum license period of 18 months to facilitate airport inspections, recognize seasonal airport operations, or improve administrative efficiency.

2. Registration for private airports shall remain valid provided specific elements of airport data, established by the department, are periodically recertified by the airport registrant. The ability to recertify private airport registration data shall be available at all times by electronic submittal. A private airport registration that has not been recertified in the 24-month period following the last certification shall expire, unless the registration period has been adjusted by the department for purposes of informing private airport owners of their registration responsibilities or promoting administrative efficiency. The expiration date of the current registration period will be clearly identifiable from the state aviation facility data system.

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515 3. The effective date and expiration date shall be shown
516 on public airport licenses. Upon receiving an application for
517 renewal of an airport license in a form and manner prescribed by
518 the department and receiving a favorable inspection report
519 indicating compliance with all applicable requirements and
520 conditions, the department shall renew the license, subject to
521 any conditions deemed necessary to protect the public health,
522 safety, or welfare.

523 4. The department may require a new site approval for any
524 airport if the license or registration has expired.

525 5. If the renewal application for a public airport license
526 has not been received by the department or no private airport
527 registration recertification has been accomplished within 15
528 days after the date of expiration, the department may revoke the
529 airport license or registration.

530 6. After initial registration, the department may issue a
531 certificate to a private airport of public interest if the
532 airport is in compliance with all of the requirements for a
533 certificate after a final inspection of the private airport of
534 public interest. The certificate is subject to any reasonable
535 conditions that the department deems necessary to protect the
536 health, safety, or welfare of the public. A certificate issued
537 to a private airport of public interest expires 5 years after
538 the effective date of the certificate.

539 (4) EXCEPTIONS.—Private airports with 10 or more based

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aircraft may request to be inspected and licensed by the department. Private airports licensed according to this subsection shall be considered private airports as defined in s. 330.27 ~~s. 330.27(5)~~ in all other respects.

Section 10. Section 331.371, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

331.371 Strategic space infrastructure investment.—

(1) In consultation with Space Florida, the Department of Transportation may fund spaceport discretionary capacity improvement projects, as defined in s. 331.303, at up to 100 percent of the project's cost if:

(a) ~~(1)~~ Important access and on-spaceport-territory space transportation capacity improvements are provided. ~~;~~

(b) ~~(2)~~ Capital improvements that strategically position the state to maximize opportunities in international trade are achieved. ~~;~~

(c) ~~(3)~~ Goals of an integrated intermodal transportation system for the state are achieved. ~~;~~ ~~and~~

(d) ~~(4)~~ Feasibility and availability of matching funds through federal, local, or private partners are demonstrated.

(2) (a) In consultation with the Department of Commerce and the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation may fund infrastructure to support aerospace and launch support facilities projects and projects associated with critical infrastructure facilities as defined in s. 692.201

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565 within or outside a spaceport territory if the project supports
566 aerospace or launch support facilities within an adjacent
567 spaceport territory boundary.

568 (b) The Department of Transportation, the Department of
569 Commerce, and the Department of Environmental Protection shall
570 coordinate in funding projects under this subsection to optimize
571 the use of available funds.

572 **Section 11. Section 332.003, Florida Statutes, is amended**
573 **to read:**

574 332.003 Florida Airport Development and Accountability
575 ~~Assistance~~ Act; short title.—Sections 332.003–332.007 may be
576 cited as the "Florida Airport Development and Accountability
577 ~~Assistance~~ Act."

578 **Section 12. Section 332.005, Florida Statutes, is amended**
579 **to read:**

580 332.005 Restrictions on authority of Department of
581 Transportation.—

582 (1) This act specifically prohibits the Department of
583 Transportation from regulating commercial air carriers operating
584 within the state pursuant to federal authority and regulations;
585 from participating in or exercising control in the management
586 and operation of a sponsor's airport, except when officially
587 requested by the sponsor; or from expanding the design or
588 operational capability of the department in the area of airport
589 and aviation consultants' contract work, other than to provide

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technical assistance as requested.

(2) (a) Notwithstanding subsection (1), upon the declaration of a state of emergency issued by the Governor in preparation for or in response to a natural disaster, an airport must provide the Department of Transportation, at no cost, with the opportunity to use any property not subject to existing lease agreements with a third party that is not within the air navigation facility as defined in s. 332.01(4) for the staging of equipment and personnel to support emergency preparedness and response operations.

(b) After 60 days of use under paragraph (a), any further use of airport property by the Department of Transportation must be conducted pursuant to a written agreement between the airport and the department.

Section 13. Subsection (7) of section 332.006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

332.006 Duties and responsibilities of the Department of Transportation.—The Department of Transportation shall, within the resources provided pursuant to chapter 216:

(7) Develop, promote, and distribute supporting information and educational services, including, but not limited to, educational services with a focus on retention and growth of the aviation industry workforce.

Section 14. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7), subsection (8), and paragraph (b) of subsection (9) of section 332.007,

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Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (c) is added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:

332.007 Administration and financing of aviation and airport programs and projects; state plan.—

(2)

(c) Each commercial service airport as defined in 332.0075 shall establish and maintain an airport infrastructure program to ensure the ongoing preservation of airport infrastructure and facilities in safe and serviceable condition. For purposes of this paragraph, airport infrastructure means the facilities, systems, and structural components of an airport necessary for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. Beginning November 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, each commercial service airport shall provide a certification to the department, in a manner prescribed by the department, that it has established and maintains a comprehensive program. All documents and records related to the program shall be open to inspection by the department and must be maintained by the airport for no less than five years. The comprehensive program must, at a minimum, include:

1. Identification of airport infrastructure subject to inspection and the schedule for the completion of such inspections, taking into consideration the age, type, intended use and criticality of the infrastructure to undisrupted commercial or cargo operations.

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640 2. A preventative maintenance program for routine
641 maintenance of airport infrastructure for both commercial and
642 cargo operations.

643 3. A plan to complete any necessary repairs to, or
644 rehabilitation or reconstruction of, airport infrastructure,
645 including prioritization and anticipated timeframe for
646 completion of the work.

647 4. A progress report of inspections and their outcomes,
648 preventative maintenance, and previously identified repair to,
649 or rehabilitation or reconstruction of, airport infrastructure.
650 The progress report should include any changes in timeline for
651 completion, change in cost estimates, and reasons an inspection,
652 preventative maintenance, or repair or rehabilitation did not
653 take place.

654 (7) Subject to the availability of appropriated funds in
655 addition to aviation fuel tax revenues, the department may
656 participate in the capital cost of eligible public airport and
657 aviation discretionary capacity improvement projects. The annual
658 legislative budget request shall be based on the funding
659 required for discretionary capacity improvement projects in the
660 aviation and airport work program.

661 (a) The department shall provide priority funding in
662 support of:

663 1. Terminal and parking expansion projects that increase
664 capacity at airports that provide commercial service in counties

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665 with a population of 500,000 or less.

666 2.1. Land acquisition which provides additional capacity
667 at the qualifying international airport or at that airport's
668 supplemental air carrier airport.

669 3.2. Runway and taxiway projects that add capacity or are
670 necessary to accommodate technological changes in the aviation
671 industry.

672 4.3. Airport access transportation projects that improve
673 direct airport access and are approved by the airport sponsor.

674 5.4. International terminal projects that increase
675 international gate capacity.

676 6. Projects that improve the safe and efficient operation
677 of this state's airports.

678 7. Emerging technology, workforce development projects,
679 and projects that benefit the strategic intermodal system
680 through intermodal connectivity.

681 (8) The department may also fund eligible projects
682 performed by not-for-profit organizations and postsecondary
683 education institutions, as defined in s. 1008.47(1), which
684 support the training of pilots, air traffic control personnel,
685 or aircraft maintenance technical personnel ~~that represent a~~
686 ~~majority of public airports in this state.~~ Eligible projects may
687 include activities associated with aviation master planning,
688 professional education, safety and security planning, enhancing
689 economic development and efficiency at airports in this state,

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or other planning efforts to improve the viability and safety of airports in this state. The department may also fund programs that support the transition of honorably discharged military personnel to the aviation industry. The department may match funds provided by the Department of Commerce for such programs.

(9) The department may fund strategic airport investment projects at up to 100 percent of the project's cost if:

(b) Capital improvements that strategically position the state to maximize opportunities in tourism, international trade, logistics, and the aviation industry are provided;

Section 15. Subsections (1), (2), and (5) of section 332.0075, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

332.0075 Commercial service airports; transparency and accountability; penalty.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Commercial service airport" means an airport providing commercial services, including large, medium, small, and nonhub airports as classified ~~a primary airport as defined in 49 U.S.C. s. 47102 which is classified as a large, medium, or small hub airport~~ by the Federal Aviation Administration.

(b) "Consent agenda" means an agenda which consists of items voted on collectively or as a group and which does not provide the opportunity for public comment on each such item before approval or disapproval by the governing body.

(c) "Department" means the Department of Transportation.

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(d) "Governing body" means the governing body of the county, municipality, or special district that operates a commercial service airport. The term includes an appointed board or oversight entity serving as the governing body on behalf of the county, municipality, or special district.

(2) Each governing body shall establish and maintain a website to post information relating to the operation of a commercial service airport, and such information must remain on the website for at least 5 years or for as long as the information is actively in use by the entity. Information that must be posted on the governing body's website includes including:

(a) All published notices of meetings and published meeting agendas of the governing body.

(b) The official minutes of each meeting of the governing body, which must ~~shall~~ be posted within 7 business days after the date of the meeting in which the minutes were approved.

(c) The approved budget for the commercial service airport for the current fiscal year, which shall be posted within 7 business days after the date of adoption. Budgets must remain on the website for 5 ~~2~~ years after the conclusion of the fiscal year for which they were adopted.

(d) Copies of ~~A link to~~ the current Airport Master Plan and the immediately preceding Airport Master Plan for the commercial service airport and a link to the current Airport

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740 Master Plan on the commercial service airport's website.

741 (e) A link to all financial and statistical reports for
742 the commercial service airport on the Federal Aviation
743 Administration's website.

744 (f) Any contract or contract amendment for the purchase of
745 commodities or contractual services executed by or on behalf of
746 the commercial service airport in excess of the threshold amount
747 provided in s. 287.017 for CATEGORY FIVE, which must ~~shall~~ be
748 posted no later than 7 business days after the commercial
749 service airport executes the contract or contract amendment.

750 However, a contract or contract amendment may not reveal
751 information made confidential or exempt by law. Each commercial
752 service airport must redact confidential or exempt information
753 from each contract or contract amendment before posting a copy
754 on its website.

755 (g) Position and rate information for each employee of the
756 commercial service airport, including, at a minimum, the
757 employee's position title, position description, and annual or
758 hourly salary. This information must ~~shall~~ be updated quarterly
759 ~~annually~~.

760 (5)(a) Each November 1, the governing body of each
761 commercial service airport shall submit the following
762 information to the department:

- 763 1. Its approved budget for the current fiscal year.
764 2. Any financial reports submitted to the Federal Aviation

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Administration during the previous calendar year.

3. A link to its website.

4. A statement, verified as provided in s. 92.525, that it has complied with part III of chapter 112, chapter 287, and this section.

5. The most recent copy of its strategic plan or plans.

6. Contracts related to financial awards received through federally funded grant programs for the preceding year.

(b) The department shall review the information submitted by the governing body of the commercial service airport and posted on the airport's website to determine the accuracy of such information. Each January 15, the department shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report summarizing commercial service airport compliance with this section.

(c) In addition to the requirements of this section, a commercial service airport must:

1. Notify the department within 48 hours after receiving a communication or directive from a federal agency with respect to accommodating public health testing or the transfer of unauthorized aliens into this state.

2. Notify the department as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than 48 hours after discovery, of incidents including, but not limited to, those related to the safety of the public when traveling, potential breaches or security risks

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790 associated with cybersecurity, or other issues of statewide
791 concern as defined by the department.

792 **Section 16. Section 332.15, Florida Statutes, is created**
793 **to read:**

794 332.15 Advanced air mobility.—The Department of
795 Transportation shall:

796 (1) Address the need for vertiports, advanced air
797 mobility, and other advances in aviation technology in the
798 statewide aviation system plan as required under s. 332.006(1)
799 and, as appropriate, in the department's work program.

800 (2) Designate a subject matter expert on advanced air
801 mobility within the department to serve as a resource for local
802 jurisdictions navigating advances in aviation technology.

803 (3) Conduct a review of airport hazard zone regulations.

804 (4) Work with the Department of Commerce to provide
805 coordination and assistance for the development of a viable
806 advanced air mobility system in this state and incorporate those
807 plans in the statewide aviation system plan as required under s.
808 332.006(1) in order to develop and identify the statewide
809 corridors of need and opportunities for growth of the industry.

810 **Section 17. Subsection (5) of section 334.044, Florida**
811 **Statutes, is amended, and subsections (37), (38), and (39) are**
812 **added to that section, to read:**

813 334.044 Powers and duties of the department.—The
814 department shall have the following general powers and duties:

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(5) To purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire property and materials, including the purchase of promotional items as part of public information and education campaigns for the promotion of environmental management, scenic highways, traffic and train safety awareness, ~~alternatives to single-occupant vehicle travel~~, commercial motor vehicle safety, workforce development, electric vehicle use and charging stations, autonomous vehicles, and context classification design for electric vehicles and autonomous vehicles; to purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire equipment and supplies; and to sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of any property that is no longer needed by the department.

(26) To provide for the enhancement of environmental benefits, including air and water quality; to prevent roadside erosion; to conserve the natural roadside growth and scenery; and to provide for the implementation and maintenance of roadside conservation, enhancement, and stabilization programs.

(a) On an annual basis, an amount equal to at least 1.5 percent of the total amount contracted for the average of the previous 3 completed fiscal years of construction projects shall be allocated by the department on a statewide basis for the purchase of plant materials to enhance State Highway System rights-of-way and arterial facilities. Such funds must be allocated on a statewide basis. ~~Department districts may not expend funds for landscaping in connection with any project that~~

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840 ~~is limited to resurfacing existing lanes unless the expenditure~~
841 ~~has been approved by the department's secretary or the~~
842 ~~secretary's designee.~~

843 (b) To the greatest extent practical, at least 50 percent
844 of the funds allocated under paragraph (a) this subsection shall
845 be allocated for large plant materials and the remaining funds
846 for other plant materials.

847 (c) Except as prohibited by applicable federal law or
848 regulation, all plant materials shall be purchased from Florida
849 commercial nursery stock in this state on a uniform competitive
850 bid basis. The department shall develop grades and standards for
851 landscaping materials purchased through this process, which must
852 include standards for landscaping materials native to specific
853 regions of this state which are reflective of this state's
854 heritage and natural landscapes. ~~To accomplish these activities,~~
855 ~~the department may contract with nonprofit organizations having~~
856 ~~the primary purpose of developing youth employment~~
857 ~~opportunities.~~

858 (37) Notwithstanding s. 287.022 or s. 287.025, to enter
859 into contracts for insurance that the department is
860 contractually and legally obligated to provide directly from
861 local, national, or international insurance companies.

862 (38) Notwithstanding s. 287.14, to purchase, lease, or
863 acquire heavy equipment and motor vehicles for roadway
864 operations and emergency response purposes, regardless of

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whether the department has exchanged or ceased the operation of motor vehicles or heavy equipment already under the department's ownership.

(39) To adopt rules to comply with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. part 26 and applicable federal law for the notification and participation of certified businesses.

Section 18. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section 334.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

334.045 Transportation performance and productivity standards; development; measurement; application.—

(1) The Florida Transportation Commission shall develop and adopt measures for evaluating the performance and productivity of the department. The measures may be both quantitative and qualitative and must, to the maximum extent practical, assess those factors that are within the department's control. The measures must, at a minimum, assess performance in the following areas:

(f) ~~Small Disadvantaged business enterprise and minority~~ business programs as established in s. 337.027.

Section 19. Section 334.067, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

334.067 Statewide mapping program using light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology.— Subject to specific appropriation and notwithstanding s. 20.255(9), the department shall conduct a statewide mapping pilot program to house

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geospatial data managed by state agencies. The program shall
utilize light detection and ranging (LiDAR) or similar
geospatial data technology in order to support critical features
for programs across the department and other state and local
agencies. The department shall administer the program and
utilize qualified firms to collect and process statewide mapping
data at a minimum density of 25 points per meter, including
creation of digital elevation models, elevation-derived
hydrography data, and provide for a cloud-based portal for data
management and distribution. The statewide mapping data shall be
collected on a recurring basis with one-third of state lands
collected annually. Any state agency utilizing LiDAR or similar
geospatial data shall participate in the pilot program. The
department is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements
with state agencies, institutions, counties, municipalities, and
their respective agencies and institutions for compensation on a
pro-rata basis for the associated use, storage, and facilitation
of the program.

**Section 20. Subsection (3) is added to section 334.27,
Florida Statutes, to read:**

334.27 Governmental transportation entities; property
acquired for transportation purposes; limitation on soil or
groundwater contamination liability.—

(3) A parking authority established under the laws of this
state or any of its counties, municipalities, or political

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subdivisions may conduct business; operate, manage, and control facilities; and provide services to contiguous geographical boundaries of such counties, municipalities, or political subdivisions that originally chartered such authority. The parking authority may engage in activities outside of its chartering jurisdiction upon entering into an interlocal agreement with the governing body of the affected contiguous county, municipality, or political subdivision, as applicable.

Section 21. Section 334.62, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

334.62 Florida Transportation Academy.—

(1) The Legislature finds that the growth and sustainability of the transportation workforce industry is vital to the continued success and efficiency of this state's supply chain and economic competitiveness. In order to prioritize the continued need for transportation industry workforce development programs, the Florida Transportation Academy is established.

(2) In order to support, promote, and sustain workforce development efforts of the transportation sector, the department may work with state agencies referenced in this chapter, industry organizations, and private sector businesses, as appropriate.

(3) The department may coordinate with all of the following entities:

(a) The Department of Corrections to identify and create

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certification and training opportunities for nonviolent inmates and create a process to allow the Department of Corrections to notify the department when a nonviolent inmate who is seeking employment has received a scheduled release date.

(b) The Department of Juvenile Justice and its educational partners to create certification and training opportunities for eligible youth.

(c) Veterans' organizations to encourage honorably discharged veterans to pursue opportunities within the transportation industry, including, but not limited to, employment as pilots, mechanics, and air traffic controllers.

(d) The Department of Commerce, CareerSource Florida, and regional business communities, within and outside of the transportation industry, to further understand recruitment and retention needs and job-seeker pipelines.

(e) The American Council of Engineering Companies and the Florida Transportation Builders Association to optimize workforce recruitment and retention and assess the future needs of the transportation industry and this state.

Section 22. Subsection (3) of section 335.182, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

335.182 Regulation of connections to roads on State Highway System; definitions.—

(3) As used in this act, the term:

(a) "Connection" means driveways, streets, turnouts, or

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other means of providing for the right of reasonable access to or from the State Highway System.

(b) "Modification of a connection" means relocation, alteration, or closure of a connection.

(c) ~~(b)~~ "Significant change" means:

1. A change in the use of the property, including development of the land, structures, or facilities; or

2. An expansion of the size of the property, structures, or facilities causing an increase in the trip generation of the property exceeding 25 percent more trip generation, either peak hour or daily, and exceeding 100 vehicles per day more than the existing use.

Section 23. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 335.187, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

335.187 Unpermitted connections; existing access permits; nonconforming permits; modification and revocation of permits.—

(3) The department may issue a nonconforming access permit if denying ~~after finding that to deny~~ an access permit would leave the property without a reasonable means of access to the State Highway System. The department may specify limits on the maximum vehicular use of the connection and may impose conditions ~~be conditioned~~ on the availability of future alternative means of access for which access permits can be obtained.

(4) After written notice and the opportunity for a

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990 hearing, as provided for in s. 120.60, the department may modify
991 or revoke an access permit issued after July 1, 1988, by
992 requiring modification ~~relocation, alteration, or closure~~ of an
993 existing connection if:

994 (a) A significant change occurs in the use, design, or
995 traffic flow of the connection; or

996 (b) The connection would jeopardize the safety of the
997 public or have a negative impact on the operational
998 characteristics of the highway.

999 **Section 24. Subsection (3) of section 337.027, Florida**
1000 **Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (4), a new subsection (3)**
1001 **is created, and subsection (2) of section 337.027, Florida**
1002 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

1003 337.027 Authority to implement a business development
1004 program.—

1005 (2) For purposes of this section, the term "small
1006 business" means a business with yearly average gross receipts of
1007 less than \$25 ~~\$15~~ million for road and bridge contracts and less
1008 than \$10 ~~\$6.5~~ million for professional and nonprofessional
1009 services contracts. A business' average gross receipts is
1010 determined by averaging its annual gross receipts over the last
1011 3 years, including the receipts of any affiliate as defined in
1012 s. 337.165.

1013 (3) The program must provide for notification of
1014 opportunities to qualified businesses.

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1015 ~~(4)-(3)~~ The department may adopt rules to implement this
1016 section.

1017 **Section 25. Subsection (6) of section 337.11, Florida**
1018 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

1019 337.11 Contracting authority of department; bids;
1020 emergency repairs, supplemental agreements, and change orders;
1021 combined design and construction contracts; progress payments;
1022 records; requirements of vehicle registration.—

1023 (6) (a) If the secretary determines that an emergency in
1024 regard to the restoration or repair of any state transportation
1025 facility exists such that the delay incident to giving
1026 opportunity for competitive bidding would be detrimental to the
1027 interests of the state, the provisions for competitive bidding
1028 do not apply; and the department may enter into contracts for
1029 restoration or repair without giving opportunity for competitive
1030 bidding on such contracts. Within 30 days after such
1031 determination and contract execution, the head of the department
1032 shall file with the Executive Office of the Governor a written
1033 statement of the conditions and circumstances constituting such
1034 emergency.

1035 (b) If the secretary determines that delays on a contract
1036 for maintenance exist due to administrative challenges, bid
1037 protests, defaults or terminations and the further delay would
1038 reduce safety on the transportation facility or seriously hinder
1039 the department's ability to preserve the state's investment in

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1040 that facility, competitive bidding provisions may be waived and
1041 the department may enter into a contract for maintenance on the
1042 facility. However, contracts for maintenance executed under the
1043 provisions of this paragraph shall be interim in nature and
1044 shall be limited in duration to a period of time not to exceed
1045 the length of the delay necessary to complete the competitive
1046 bidding process and have the contract in place.

1047 (c) When the department determines that it is in the best
1048 interest of the public for reasons of public concern, economy,
1049 improved operations, or safety, and only when circumstances
1050 dictate rapid completion of the work, the department may, up to
1051 the amount of \$500,000, enter into contracts for construction
1052 and maintenance without advertising and receiving competitive
1053 bids. The department may enter into such contracts only upon a
1054 determination that the work is necessary for one of the
1055 following reasons:

1056 1. To ensure timely completion of projects or avoidance of
1057 undue delay for other projects;

1058 2. To accomplish minor repairs or construction and
1059 maintenance activities for which time is of the essence and for
1060 which significant cost savings would occur; or

1061 3. To accomplish nonemergency work necessary to ensure
1062 avoidance of adverse conditions that affect the safe and
1063 efficient flow of traffic.
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1065 The department shall make a good faith effort to obtain two or
1066 more quotes, if available, from qualified contractors before
1067 entering into any contract. The department shall give
1068 consideration to small ~~disadvantaged~~ business ~~enterprise~~
1069 participation. However, when the work exists within the limits
1070 of an existing contract, the department shall make a good faith
1071 effort to negotiate and enter into a contract with the prime
1072 contractor on the existing contract.

1073 **Section 26. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section**
1074 **337.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1075 337.18 Surety bonds for construction or maintenance
1076 contracts; requirement with respect to contract award; bond
1077 requirements; defaults; damage assessments.—

1078 (1)(a) A surety bond shall be required of the successful
1079 bidder in an amount equal to the awarded contract price.
1080 However, the department may choose, in its discretion and
1081 applicable only to multiyear maintenance contracts, to allow for
1082 incremental annual contract bonds that cumulatively total the
1083 full, awarded, multiyear contract price. The department may also
1084 choose, in its discretion and applicable only to phased design-
1085 build contracts under s. 337.11(7)(b), to allow the issuance of
1086 multiple contract performance and payment bonds in succession to
1087 align with each phase of the contract to meet the bonding
1088 requirement in this subsection. Notwithstanding any bonding
1089 requirement under this section, the department may require, at

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1090 the discretion of the secretary, that the amount of the surety
1091 bond or bonds be less than the contract price.

1092 1. The department may waive the requirement for all or a
1093 portion of a surety bond if:

1094 a. The contract price is \$250,000 or less and the
1095 department determines that the project is of a noncritical
1096 nature and that nonperformance will not endanger public health,
1097 safety, or property;

1098 b. The prime contractor is a qualified nonprofit agency
1099 for the blind or for the other severely handicapped under s.
1100 413.036(2); or

1101 c. The prime contractor is using a subcontractor that is a
1102 qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or for the other
1103 severely handicapped under s. 413.036(2). However, the
1104 department may not waive more than the amount of the
1105 subcontract.

1106 2. If the department determines that it is in the best
1107 interests of the department to reduce the bonding requirement
1108 for a project and that to do so will not endanger public health,
1109 safety, or property, the department may waive the requirement of
1110 a surety bond in an amount equal to the awarded contract price
1111 for a project having a contract price of \$250 million or more
1112 and, in its place, may set a surety bond amount that is a
1113 portion of the total contract price and provide an alternate
1114 means of security for the balance of the contract amount that is

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not covered by the surety bond or provide for incremental surety bonding and provide an alternate means of security for the balance of the contract amount that is not covered by the surety bond. Such alternative means of security may include letters of credit, United States bonds and notes, parent company guarantees, and cash collateral. The department may require alternate means of security if a surety bond is waived. The surety on such bond shall be a surety company authorized to do business in the state. All bonds shall be payable to the department and conditioned for the prompt, faithful, and efficient performance of the contract according to plans and specifications and within the time period specified, and for the prompt payment of all persons defined in s. 713.01 furnishing labor, material, equipment, and supplies for work provided in the contract; however, whenever an improvement, demolition, or removal contract price is \$25,000 or less, the security may, in the discretion of the bidder, be in the form of a cashier's check, bank money order of any state or national bank, certified check, or postal money order. The department shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Such rules shall include provisions under which the department shall refuse to accept bonds on contracts when a surety wrongfully fails or refuses to settle or provide a defense for claims or actions arising under a contract for which the surety previously furnished a bond.

Section 27. Subsection (3) of section 337.251, Florida

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Statutes, is amended to read:

337.251 Lease of property for joint public-private development and areas above or below department property.—

(3) A proposal must be selected by the department based on competitive bidding, except that the department may consider other relevant factors specified in the request for proposals. The department may consider such factors as the value of property exchanges, the cost of construction, and other recurring costs for the benefit of the department by the lessee in lieu of direct revenue to the department if such other factors are of equal value including innovative proposals to involve small ~~minority~~ businesses. The department may name a board of advisers which may be composed of accountants, real estate appraisers, design engineers, or other experts experienced in the type of development proposed. The board of advisers shall review the feasibility of the proposals, recommend acceptance or rejection of each proposal, and rank each feasible proposal in the order of technical feasibility and benefit provided to the department. The board of advisers shall be reasonably compensated for the services provided and all department costs for evaluating the proposals shall be reimbursed from a proposal application fee to be set by the department and paid by the applicants. The board of advisers shall not be subject to selection under the provisions of chapter 287.

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Section 28. Subsection (2) of section 337.401, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

337.401 Use of right-of-way for utilities subject to regulation; permit; fees.—

(2)(a) The authority may grant to any person who is a resident of this state, or to any corporation which is organized under the laws of this state or licensed to do business within this state, the use of a right-of-way for the utility in accordance with such rules or regulations as the authority may adopt. A utility may not be installed, located, or relocated unless authorized by a written permit issued by the authority. However, for public roads or publicly owned rail corridors under the jurisdiction of the department, a utility relocation schedule and relocation agreement may be executed in lieu of a written permit. The permit must require the permitholder to be responsible for any damage resulting from the issuance of such permit. The authority may initiate injunctive proceedings as provided in s. 120.69 to enforce ~~provisions of~~ this subsection or any rule or order issued or entered into pursuant to this subsection ~~thereto~~. A permit application required under this subsection by a county or municipality having jurisdiction and control of the right-of-way of any public road must be processed and acted upon in accordance with the timeframes provided in subparagraphs (7)(d)7., 8., and 9.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a county or

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municipality may not adopt a rule or regulation that prohibits or requires a permit for the installation of a public sewer transmission line that is placed and maintained within and under publicly dedicated rights-of-way as part of a septic-to-sewer conversion project in which the department and the Department of Environmental Protection or its designee have issued permits under this chapter or chapter 403, respectively.

Section 29. Subsection (4) of section 337.406, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

337.406 Unlawful use of state transportation facility right-of-way; penalties.—

(4) Camping is prohibited on any portion of the right-of-way of the State Highway System. This subsection does not apply to persons who are actively navigating the federally designated Florida National Scenic Trail as recognized in s. 260.012(6) and have acquired the associated permits ~~that is within 100 feet of a bridge, causeway, overpass, or ramp.~~

Section 30. Subsection (4) of section 338.227, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

338.227 Turnpike revenue bonds.—

(4) The Department of Transportation and the Department of Management Services shall create and implement an outreach program designed to enhance the participation of small ~~minority persons and minority~~ business enterprises in all contracts entered into on or after July 1, 2025, by their respective

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departments for services related to the financing of department projects for the Strategic Intermodal System Plan developed pursuant to s. 339.64. These services shall include, but are not limited to, bond counsel and bond underwriters.

Section 31. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 339.2821, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

339.2821 Economic development transportation projects.—

(3)

(b) The department must ensure that it supports small businesses as defined in s. 337.027(2) ~~small and minority businesses have equal access to participate in transportation projects funded pursuant to this section.~~

(4) A contract between the department and a governmental body for a transportation project must:

(c) Require that the governmental body provide the department with progress reports. Each progress report must contain:

1. A narrative description of the work completed and whether the work is proceeding according to the transportation project schedule.~~†~~

2. A description of each change order executed by the governmental body.~~†~~

3. A budget summary detailing planned expenditures compared to actual expenditures.~~† and~~

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1240 4. The identity of each small ~~or minority~~ business used as
1241 a contractor or subcontractor.

1242 **Section 32. Subsections (3) and (7) of section 339.651,**
1243 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

1244 339.651 Strategic Intermodal System supply chain demands.—

1245 (3) The department may ~~shall~~ make up to \$20 million
1246 available each year ~~for fiscal years 2023-2024 through 2027-~~
1247 ~~2028,~~ from the existing work program ~~revenues,~~ to fund projects
1248 that meet the public purpose of providing increased capacity and
1249 enhanced capabilities to move and store construction aggregate
1250 and transportation infrastructure-related materials. Applicants
1251 eligible for project funding under this section are seaports
1252 listed in s. 311.09 and rail lines and rail facilities.

1253 ~~(7) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2028.~~

1254 **Section 33. Paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section**
1255 **341.051, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1256 341.051 Administration and financing of public transit and
1257 intercity bus service programs and projects.—

1258 (6) ANNUAL APPROPRIATION.—

1259 (b) If funds are allocated to projects that qualify for
1260 the New Starts Transit Program in the current fiscal year and a
1261 project will not be ready for production by June 30, the
1262 department must reallocate such funds for the purpose of the
1263 Strategic Intermodal System within the State Transportation
1264 Trust Fund for the next fiscal year ~~The remaining unallocated~~

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~~New Starts Transit Program funds as of June 30, 2024, shall be
reallocated for the purpose of the Strategic Intermodal System
within the State Transportation Trust Fund. This paragraph
expires June 30, 2026.~~

For purposes of this section, the term "net operating costs"
means all operating costs of a project less any federal funds,
fares, or other sources of income to the project.

**Section 34. Subsection (5) of section 348.754, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:**

348.754 Purposes and powers.—

(5) The authority shall encourage the inclusion of local
~~and small-, small-, minority-, and women-owned~~ businesses in its
procurement and contracting opportunities.

**Section 35. Subsection (2) of section 349.03, Florida
Statutes, is amended, and subsection (4) is added to that
section, to read:**

349.03 Jacksonville Transportation Authority.—

(2) The governing body of the authority shall be composed
~~consist~~ of seven members. Four ~~Three~~ members shall be appointed
by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Of the four members
appointed by the Governor, one member must be a resident of the
City of Jacksonville and the remaining three members must be
residents of Clay County, St. Johns County, or Nassau County.
Three members shall be appointed by the mayor of the City of

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Jacksonville subject to confirmation by the council of the City of Jacksonville. ~~All The seventh member shall be the district secretary of the Department of Transportation serving in the district that contains the City of Jacksonville. Except for the seventh member,~~ members appointed by the mayor of the City of Jacksonville must ~~shall~~ be residents and qualified electors of Duval County.

(4) The authority shall:

(a) Follow the department's small business program as described in s. 337.027.

(b) Establish protocols and systems in accordance with the requirements established in s. 112.061(16) and s. 215.985(6) and (14) and post all related information on its publicly available website.

Section 36. Amending subsection (5) of section 479.106, Florida Statutes, to read:

479.106 Vegetation management.—

(5) The department may only grant a permit pursuant to s. 479.07 for a new sign that requires the removal, cutting, or trimming of existing trees or vegetation on public right-of-way for the sign face to be visible from the highway to which the sign will be permitted if when the sign owner is in compliance with all applicable vegetation management plans or mitigation contribution plans required by the department under subsection (3) and has agreed, as a condition of the permit, to comply with

Amendment No. 1

1315 a vegetation management plan or contribute to a plan of
1316 mitigation approved by department ~~has removed at least two~~
1317 ~~nonconforming signs of approximate comparable size and~~
1318 ~~surrendered the permits for the nonconforming signs to the~~
1319 ~~department for cancellation. For signs originally permitted~~
1320 ~~after July 1, 1996, the first application, or application for a~~
1321 ~~change of view zone, for the removal, cutting, or trimming of~~
1322 ~~trees or vegetation along the highway to which the sign is~~
1323 ~~permitted shall require the removal of two nonconforming signs,~~
1324 ~~in addition to mitigation or contribution to a plan of~~
1325 ~~mitigation.~~ The department may not grant a permit for the
1326 removal, cutting, or trimming of trees for a sign permitted
1327 after July 1, 1996, if the trees are or the vegetation is part
1328 of a beautification project implemented before the date of the
1329 original sign permit application and if the beautification
1330 project is specifically identified in the department's
1331 construction plans, permitted landscape projects, or agreements.

1334 -----

1335 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

1336 Remove lines 31-80 and insert:

1337 specified reports; amending s. 311.10, F.S.; providing
1338 conditions for specified seaports to receive certain
1339 project grants and state funds; requiring express

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COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS/CS/HB 1397 (2025)

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1340 approval from certain entities to use certain land,
1341 facilities, or infrastructure for an alternative
1342 purpose; amending s. 316.003, F.S.; revising the
1343 definition of the term "special mobile equipment";
1344 amending s. 316.0745, F.S.; specifying that state
1345 funds deposited into the State Transportation Trust
1346 Fund may be withheld under certain circumstances;
1347 amending s. 316.550, F.S.; authorizing the department
1348 to issue a specified permit to a mobile crane for
1349 certain purposes; amending s. 330.27, F.S.; revising
1350 and providing definitions; amending s. 330.30, F.S.;
1351 requiring a private airport of public interest to
1352 obtain a specified certificate; providing procedures
1353 for the issuance of, conditions for the renewal of,
1354 and the expiration periods of such certificates;
1355 grandfathering in certain airports, but requiring such
1356 airports to obtain a certificate by a specified date;
1357 amending s. 331.371, F.S.; authorizing the department,
1358 in consultation with other entities, to fund certain
1359 projects and to optimize the use of available funds
1360 for such projects; amending s. 332.003, F.S.; revising
1361 a short title; amending s. 332.005, F.S.; requiring an
1362 airport to provide support to the department, at no
1363 cost, during a declared state of emergency for a
1364 certain time period; requiring a certain written

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COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS/CS/HB 1397 (2025)

Amendment No. 1

1365 agreement if the department continues to use airport
1366 property beyond such time period; amending s. 332.006,
1367 F.S.; revising duties of the department; amending s.
1368 332.007, F.S.; requiring commercial service airports
1369 to establish and maintain a comprehensive airport
1370 infrastructure program for a specified purpose;
1371 defining the term "airport infrastructure"; requiring
1372 each commercial service airport to provide an annual
1373 specified certification to the department beginning on
1374 a specified date; requiring certain documents and
1375 records be available for inspection and maintained for
1376 a specified timeframe; providing program requirements;
1377 requiring the department to provide priority funding
1378 for certain projects and technology; authorizing the
1379 department to fund certain projects at postsecondary
1380 education institutions; authorizing the department to
1381 fund, and match funds provided by the Department of
1382 Commerce for, programs that help transition certain
1383 military personnel to the aviation industry;
1384 authorizing the Department of Transportation to fund
1385 strategic airport investment projects to maximize
1386 tourism opportunities; amending s. 332.0075, F.S.;
1387 revising definitions; requiring certain information to
1388 remain on a governing body's website for 5 years;
1389 requiring certain information to be updated quarterly

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COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS/CS/HB 1397 (2025)

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1390 rather than annually; revising the information that
1391 certain governing bodies must submit to the
1392 department; providing requirements for commercial
1393 service airports; creating s. 332.15, F.S.; providing
1394 requirements for the department relating to advanced
1395 air mobility; amending s. 334.044, F.S.; revising and
1396 providing powers and duties of the department;
1397 amending s. 334.045, F.S.; conforming a provision to
1398 changes made by the act; creating s. 334.067, F.S.;
1399 requiring the department to create a statewide mapping
1400 pilot program for a certain purpose, subject to
1401 appropriation; providing requirements for the pilot
1402 program and the department; requiring a specified
1403 amount of statewide mapping data to be collected
1404 annually; requiring certain state agencies to
1405 participate in the pilot program; authorizing the
1406 department to enter into cooperative agreements with
1407 certain entities for a certain purpose; amending s.
1408 334.27, F.S.; providing that certain parking
1409 authorities may conduct business, take certain
1410 actions, and provide services to certain counties,
1411 municipalities, and political subdivisions; creating
1412 s. 334.62, F.S.; providing legislative findings;
1413 creating the Florida Transportation Academy for a
1414 specified purpose; authorizing the department to work

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with certain entities to support, promote, and sustain
certain workforce development efforts; authorizing the
department to coordinate with specified entities for
certain purposes; amending s. 335.182, F.S.; revising
the definition of the term "significant change";
defining the term "modification of a connection";
amending s. 335.187, F.S.; revising the conditions
under which the department may modify or revoke a
permit; amending s. 337.027, F.S.; revising the
definition of the term "small business"; amending s.
337.11, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by
the act; amending s. 337.18, F.S.; authorizing the
department to require the amount of certain bonds to
be less than a certain price; amending s. 337.251,
F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the
act; amending s. 337.401, F.S.; prohibiting counties
and municipalities from adopting certain rules and
regulations relating to permits for the installation
of a public sewer transmission line under certain
circumstances; amending s. 337.406, F.S.; providing an
exception to the prohibition of camping on any portion
of the right-of-way of the State Highway System;
amending s. 338.227, F.S.; conforming a provision to
changes made by the act; providing applicability;
amending s. 339.2821, F.S.; conforming provisions to

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1440 changes made by the act; amending s. 339.651, F.S.;

1441 authorizing, rather than requiring, the department to

1442 make certain funds available each year for certain

1443 projects; removing a scheduled repeal; amending s.

1444 341.051, F.S.; requiring the department to reallocate

1445 certain funds under certain circumstances; amending s.

1446 348.754, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made

1447 by the act; amending s. 349.03, F.S.; providing

1448 appointment procedures for the governing body of the

1449 Jacksonville Transportation Authority; providing

1450 requirements for the authority; amending s. 479.106,

1451 F.S.; modifying permit requirements for a new sign

1452 that requires the removal, cutting, or trimming of

1453 existing trees or vegetation on public right-of-way;